

Combating Problem Behaviors

Supporting Students Who Challenge Us

Online Graduate Course

Course Description

This course provides busy educators with practical, easy-to use strategies for preventing and responding to misbehavior in ways that will build respectful, responsible and cooperative classroom communities. Participants will learn how to shift from a "behavior management" mindset, that punishes students for "bad" behavior or rewards students for "good" behavior, to an approach that supports all students- even the most challenging ones- with kindness, creativity, acceptance and love.

This course will focus on creating a classroom of exceptional learners who are committed to the learning process when dealing with diverse learners, including those with special needs. We will learn to promote democratic values, appreciate diversity, and create classroom communities with high expectations for all students. We will examine the causes of misbehavior, classroom disruptions and oppositional behaviors that affect student learning.

You will learn many practical ways to satisfy the needs that often drive students to misbehave without sacrificing precious instructional time.

Objectives

- Examine the importance of relationship building in the teaching process.
- Create artifacts that support relationship building teaching strategies.
- Develop strategies to predict and prevent disruptive behavior.
- Design strategies that will increase student work completion.
- Assess the root cause of student misbehavior.
- Differentiate between being fair and treating everyone the same way.
- Determine when differentiated instruction and discipline is necessary.
- Explore and practice creative teaching and testing strategies.
- Assess how, why, where and when to use cooperative learning to maximize group work.
- Decide how to use rules, consequences and punishments.
- Structure and define values for rules, consequences and punishments.
- Apply strategies to diffuse a power struggle.
- Implement strategies to help students make responsible decisions.
- Recognize and correct specific ways teachers inadvertently cause bullying.
- Determine how to effectively use awards without bribing.
- Implement core concepts, strategies and ideals from first nine modules.
- Explain aspects of classroom management.

Curriculum Design

This is a 60 hour, three credit graduate level course completed over thirteen weeks. Modules One through Nine will be completed one per week. Module Ten will be completed over a two week period so students will have time to revise and complete the final integrative assignment.

Hardware & Computer Skills Requirements

Students may use either a Macintosh computer or a PC with Windows 2000 or higher. Students should possess basic word processing skills and have Internet access as well as an active email account. Students also are expected to have a basic knowledge of how to use a Web browser, such as Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, etc.

Course Materials

The required textbook for this course is *From Behaving to Belonging, The Inclusive Art of Supporting Students Who Challenge Us* by Julie Causton and Kate Macleod.

Student Requirements

1. Participation: Actively participate in all Talking Point activities
2. Reading assignments: Complete all readings and reflection assignments
3. Students are required to put the classroom management strategies and concepts into action and will be required to construct a portfolio during the course that will serve as a toolkit of specific ideas and protocols for their classrooms as a part of their final project due by the end of Module 10.

Grading Criteria

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>	
Talking Points	25	95-88	A
Assignments	45	87-81	B
Final Project	25	80-73	C
Total Points	95		

Student Academic Integrity

Participants guarantee that all academic work is original. Any academic dishonesty or plagiarism (to take ideas, writings, etc. from another and offer them as one's own), is a violation of student academic behavior standards as outlined by our partnering colleges and universities and is subject to academic disciplinary actions.