CORE PEER MENTOR SEMINAR

DsnS 302

COLLEGE OF DESIGN
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Instructor: Samantha Krukowski
Students who are appointed as peer mentors in DsnS 102 are simultaneously enrolled in the Core Peer Mentor Seminar. The seminar is focused on design pedagogy, specifically as it relates to foundations design and to DsnS 102, and is a primarily discussion and exercise-based course. It is meant to serve as ideological and practical support for those interested in learning how to teach, and learning how to learn.

COMPONENTS AND REQUIREMENTS

The first component of the seminar actually takes place in DsnS 102. This is where you will have experiences with teaching that can serve as points of discussion in seminar. Keep notes of your observations throughout the semester.

The second component is a collaborative assignment. In small teams, you will research projects assigned in foundations courses at other institutions with competitive programs. After identifying one that you all feel is compelling, you will 1) write up the assignment, altering it if desired, and 2) actually complete the assignment yourselves (each team member will complete their own version of their assignment). You will present the project and your completed versions of it in seminar. We will have one such presentation each Monday. Make sure to send the official description of your assignment to all seminar participants in advance of your presentation as others may want to try it as well. The assignment should be substantial enough to be considered for inclusion in future DsnS 102 courses – consider the kinds of exercises in this semester’s handout. Make sure to note the original source of the assignment you engage.

The third component is a teaching statement, generated in the context of two books of your choice. Educators applying for positions very often are asked to provide a teaching statement – or a teaching philosophy – that describes their approach and methods. You will choose two texts that inspire you and will develop your own carefully considered and succinct two page teaching statement based on your readings and your experiences as a student and a student-teacher.

Here are some websites with titles about education you can choose from – let me know which two books you will be reading. Very strange that John Holt, the founder of the home-schooling movement, is not mentioned in any of them, so take a look at his books too, especially How Children Learn and How Children Fail.

http://grantwiggins.wordpress.com/2012/12/01/the-31-most-influential-classic-books-in-education-a-crowd-sourced-list/
ATTENDANCE AND EVALUATION

Your must attend your DsnS 102 section at least for the required two hours per week, and receive a favorable end-of-semester evaluation from the instructor to whom you are assigned. This evaluation is due to me on December 8 - please make sure to remind your instructor about it as the semester draws to a close.

You must attend seminar weekly, and are required to complete, at a passing level, all seminar assignments. If you fail any seminar assignment, you fail the seminar.

One excused absence is permitted in DsnS 102 and one is permitted in DsnS 302. Unexcused or repeated absences and poor performance in either DsnS 102 or DsnS 302 may result in DsnS 302 course failure and/or removal from your assigned DsnS 102 section.