SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

SAULT STE. MARIE, ON

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE: THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

CODE NO: ED 253   SEMESTER: THREE

PROGRAM: TEACHER ASSISTANT

INSTRUCTOR: LORNA CONNOLLY BEATTIE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 1995

NEW_____   REVISED X__

APPROVED: ___*K. DeRosario*___   _June 20/95_
          K. DeRosario, Dean   Date
          School of Human Sciences
          and Teacher Education

**NOTE: Do not discard this outline. It will be required by other educational institutions if you are attempting to obtain credit for this course

The Learning Environment   ED 253

Total Credits: 3

I.   PHILOSOPHY/GOALS

This course focuses on providing students with the opportunity to
develop creative and innovative ways of learning by examining the
interaction of space, time, materials and people. The concept of
learning through play will be emphasized and students will be
encouraged to develop their own creative initiative in providing
situations to stimulate learning. Students will learn to use
learning activity centres and resources such as the library,
television, and tapes as aids to creative learning.

II. STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES (OUTCOMES):

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

1.   describe the essential components of an integrated learning
     environment.
2.   analyze and plan for a stimulating physical learning
     environment.
3.   outline and apply the techniques/strategies involved in
     cooperative learning.
4.   outline the values of play and creative thinking.
5.   design learning activities using various media, eg. music,
     movement, drama, poetry and literature.
6.   explain the process of the whole language program.
7.   explore the use of manipulatives in teaching mathematics.
8.   explore the discovery approach to science.
9.   examine health and guidance programs.

III. TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

1.   Positive Learning Environments
2.   Elements of Cooperative Learning and other learning
     strategies
3.   Components of the Physical Learning Environment
4.   Play and Creativity
5.   Group Presentations on Current Educational Topics

IV. LEARNING ACTIVITIES/REQUIRED RESOURCES

Facilitation of the course material will be conducted through
sessions on theory, practical applications of the material
presented, cooperative learning groups, student projects and
presentations. Attendance and participation are an essential
element in this process.

The Learning Environment   ED 253

Topic/Unit 1:   Introduction to the Learning Environment

Learning Activities:
1.   review course outlines
2.   review course requirements
3.   What is a Positive Learning Environment?
4.   Features of the Classroom Setting

Topic/Unit 2:   Elements of Cooperative Learning and other
                Learning Strategies

Learning Activities:
1.   Comparisons of Competitive, Individualistic and Cooperative
     Learning
2.   Elements of Cooperative Learning Groups
3.   Behavioural Styles - determining your behavioural style
4.   Forming Cooperative Learning Groups for group assignment

Topic/Unit 3:   Components of the Physical Learning Environment

Learning Activities:
1.   Essential Components of the Physical Learning Environment
2.   Designing and Analyzing Physical Learning Environments
3.   Assignment - Evaluation of Classroom Physical Environment

Topic/Unit 4:   Play and Creativity

Learning Activities:
1.   The Dimensions and Values of Play
2.   What is Creativity?
3.   Developing a Creative Learning Environment
4.   Creative Problem Solving Techniques and Activities

Topic/Unit 5: Group Presentations on Current Educational Topics

Learning Activities:
1.   Each cooperative learning group will present on the topic
     that they have been developing over the semester

V.   EVALUATION METHODS:

1.   Evaluation of Classroom Physical Environment   10%
     Each student will evaluate the physical
     classroom environment at his/her placement

2.   Three Hands-on Learning Activities   30%
     (10 marks each)
     Each student will present to the class
     three activities, chosen from Art, Math, Science,
     Language, Music, Health or Guidance

The Learning Environment   ED 253

3.   Group Presentation   35%
     Each group will present to the class information
     on a current educational topic that they have
     researched. Topic choice to be cleared with
     instructor

4.   Test   25%

COLLEGE GRADING POLICY

90 - 100% =   A+
80 - 89% =   A
70 - 79% =   B
60 - 69% =   C
BELOW 60% =   R

VI.   REQUIRED STUDENT RESOURCES

Students will be expected to access information from their
placement schools, the College Library and Public Libraries

VII. ADDITIONAL RESOURCE MATERIALS AVAILABLE IN COLLEGE LIBRARY

Instructor Magazines
Teaching PreK-8, The Professional Magazine for Teachers
Education Today
Educational Leadership

VIII.SPECIAL NOTES

Students with special needs (eg. physical limitations, visual
impairments, hearing impairments, learning disabilities) are
encouraged to discuss required accommodations confidentially with
the instructor.

Your instructor reserves the right to modify the course as he/she
deems necessary to meet the needs of students.