

ED246E: Elementary Teaching Seminar (Practicum)
“Exploring Teaching for Equity, Educational Freedom, and Racial Justice”
Summer 2022

INSTRUCTORS

Mari Montoy-Wilson
mmontoywilson@stanford.edu
650-603-6518



Ira Lit
iralit@stanford.edu
650-283-8262

COURSE OVERVIEW

The STEP Teaching Seminar sits at the nexus of the clinical and academic elements of the teacher preparation program. Pragmatically, the Teaching Seminar serves as the official Stanford University course for three elements of the STEP Elementary curriculum: (1) the student teaching experience, (2) the supervisory program, and (3) the ‘Seminar’ sessions.

During the summer quarter, we will focus on teaching for justice and equity by considering how factors such as race and identity shape our schools, our classrooms, and us, as teachers. These topics are particularly salient as we center anti-racist and abolitionist teaching practices as we aspire to build engaging, meaningful, and inclusive teaching and learning communities, and build our practices as culturally sustaining educators committed to transformative education and restorative justice. We will also consider ways we will sustain ourselves in this journey this year and beyond, as well as dedicating ourselves to growing and deepening our community.

Weekly readings, discussions, and activities will be orchestrated in conjunction with field experiences in local public schools. We will also integrate your feedback and input along the way, and will remain open and flexible in the scope and sequence of our planned content. We may need to update our focus on timely content in any given week in order to be responsive.

There are several foci for the Summer Seminar:

1. IDENTITY, INTERSECTIONALITY, AND POSITIONALITY

Some essential questions that will guide our exploration are:

- Who am I and how do I show up - with my students, colleagues, and school communities?
- How does my identity intersect with my own biases and my practice?
- How do I currently think about key terms and concepts like antiracism, equity, educational freedom, and racial justice? How can I commit to an ongoing deepening of my understanding of these terms, their meanings, and their impact on my practice as an educator?
- What does it look like to commit to continual and sustainable growth and learning?

2. EXPLORING THE TEACHING PROFESSION IN OUR CURRENT CONTEXT

Embedded in our approach is a priority toward responsiveness to the ongoing changes in our current context, most notably the **social-political climate** and issues of **trauma and healing, health and wellness**. These topics are always relevant to our work in schools, but with some obvious heightened focus presently. **Together, we will explore:**

- Why teach?
- What makes teaching so complex?
- What does it mean to teach for equity, educational freedom and racial justice?
- How do we build equitable classrooms that afford educational liberation and contribute to a flourishing, pluralistic democracy?
- Who are our students and how do I support them?

3. COMMUNITY CARE & SELF-CARE

We will establish a foundation to support our **individual and collective growth and well-being** for the year, and beyond, by considering what it means to authentically and fully engage as individuals in support of our community. We will delve into authentic creation of community agreements. We will draw upon and engage in research-based practices, such as Restorative Justice, wellness, play, and emotional resilience, and make connections to their application to classrooms and schools.

4. STEP: SENSE-MAKING, CONNECTIONS & COHERENCE

The elements of the Teaching Seminar serve as the glue for your experiences in STEP as a whole, and a bridge between educational theory and clinical practice. Through these experiences we will work to develop both conceptual and practical knowledge in service of your preparation as a member of the teaching profession and as an educational leader.



We will devote class time to make space to live out our core values of **love, joy, equity, community, and justice** in the following ways:

- **deliberating** about the connections between educational scholarship and clinical teaching practice
- **discussing** the connections and challenges associated with our varying conceptions and aims related to **equity** and **social and racial justice** in the context of teaching and learning in schools and classrooms
- **exploring and experiencing** essential curricular areas for multiple subject teachers, such as **play, health, wellness, and physical education.**
- **supporting** one another to successfully navigate our individual and collective journeys
- **building, cultivating, and sustaining** our own **STEP Elementary community.**

Course Requirements

1. Student Teaching & Supervisory

To complete this section of the course, you must meet **all** of the expectations related to the field placement, related planning and supervisor meetings, and all seminar meetings. You are expected to develop and maintain professional and collegial relationships with your cooperating teachers and other school faculty and staff, STEP faculty and staff, and your STEP peers. Professional standards for the teaching profession are articulated in the Quarterly Assessment document (Standard 6).

Beginning some time in August, your Supervisor will work with you to design and support your growth and development in your Fall student teaching assignment, based on the STEP design principles as outlined in your Handbook (see Graduated Responsibility, in particular).

All teacher candidates will be student teaching in conjunction with the “Stanford Summer Explorations” at San Miguel Elementary School in the Sunnyvale School District. Regular attendance and active participation at the summer school, including the related planning groups and all Seminar meetings, are expected. You will also be working to develop professional relationships with your peers and colleagues (cooperating teachers, administrators, and staff) at your placement site, as well as the STEP faculty and staff. At the end of the Summer Explorations program, the cooperating teachers will complete an “Assessment of Field Placement Experience and Participation” for the teacher candidates, and you will complete a self-assessment using a similar tool.

2. Active Seminar Participation

Your presence and active participation is an essential component of the success of the course for you and your peers. Please come to class **on time** and **prepared**, and engage thoughtfully and respectfully with your colleagues and the course material. You are expected to attend every session. If something prevents you from attending class or meeting the assignment deadlines, please communicate with us in advance so we can come up with a plan together.

Seminar Assignments

1. Assessment of Field Placement Experience and Participation (due Aug. 1)

Complete a Self-Assessment of Field Placement Experience and Participation (based on the California Standards for the Teaching Profession (CSTPs))

2. Resilience Plan (due Sept. 9)

Assignment details to be published on Canvas.

Letter to self (or other expressive form) noting aspirations, resources, plans, and strategies for developing and sustaining harmony in your professional learning journey.

3. Context of our Students, Families, Schools, and Communities (due Sept. 16)

Assignment details to be published on Canvas.

Part 1: School and Classroom Context

Part 2: Cultural and Community Context and Assets

Part 3: Synthesis and Reflection

Assessment Criteria

To receive full credit for course participation, meet all of the following expectations:

- attendance, promptness, preparation, participation, and professionalism.

To receive full credit on a given assignment, meet all of the following expectations:

- Prompt – Turn your work in on time.
- Complete – Fulfill all stated expectations of an assignment.
- Thoughtful – Take the time and effort to prepare something of meaning and interest.
- Careful – Proofread your work. Follow appropriate rules of grammar, spelling, punctuation, proper citation (APA formatting), etc.

In alignment with the pedagogical impact of reflection and formative feedback on student learning and professional growth, we expect students to revise and resubmit work until it satisfies expectations for the course.

Resources and Expectations

Stanford Standards. All Stanford students are expected to follow the [Stanford Honor Code](#) and [Fundamental Standard](#), as noted in the STEP Handbook and Stanford Student Guide.

Students with Disabilities. Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the OAE as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk; phone: 723-1066; web site <http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/oe>.