

**The TEFL University PHD Course**

**Module 1**

**Module Notes:**

Make sure that you save your course-work as you go along!

You must also add your full name to the end of the file name of this document before you start. For example; with this module which is currently saved as:

phd-module1-TEFL-700-yourname

To change the file name, simply go to the top left of your screen, and click on **File**, **Save As**, then change the name of the file by simply adding your name to the end of the existing file name and save the module to a folder on your computer (‘My Documents’ for example). As an example; if your name were **Jane Mortimer**, you would save the file as:

phd-module1-TEFL-700-Jane-Mortimer

**Submitting your completed modules**

Once you have completed a module, you may use the link below to re-visit the course download/upload area, where you will find the **drop-box** to send your completed work back to us. Please note that grading will not commence until all modules are fully completed:

<http://www.thetefluniversity.com/phd-course-download.html>

**TEFL 700—** **Issues in Language Teaching, Language Testing, Curriculum Development and Materials Preparation**



**Course Description**

This course is designed to examine current issues and concerns in TEFL education that could affect teaching, curriculum, motivation, families, students, teachers, administration, school policy, and school law. Through research efforts, writings and PowerPoint presentations teachers will expand their implicit and explicit knowledge of education and educational practice. Emphasis will be placed on exploring, interpreting, and evaluating educational experiences. Insight and analysis will be used to design, explore, and conduct research into the issues and concerns of TEFL education today. Thus, students will create new learning experiences and a knowledge base that will enable them to resolve educational issues now and in the future.

**Course Module Goals**

By the end of this module, students will be able to:

1. Learn, analyze, internalize, and clarify the educational beliefs, values, and notions that guide their instructional practices;
2. set goals and, in collaboration with other class members, design a plan for meeting that goal by collectively engaging in issue discovery and problem solving;
3. utilize multiple sources and resources when researching current educational issues;
4. interpret, analyze, critique, and synthesize research related to current educational issues;
5. assess the implications of research relative to their educational practice;
6. develop a plan for improving the student learning process;
7. examine the role of technology as related to effective educational practices.

**Required reading:**

None.

**Academic Integrity**

All work submitted must be your own or must be properly documented. Collaborative work and work previously submitted in another class must be approved in advance.

**Assignment Descriptions**

Students will be assessed based on the four assignments below. The four assignments are building blocks with the final essay intended as a synthesis of everything you’ve discovered from your research. Students are expected to complete all requirements of this course with a high level of research, reflection, and internalization. The class requirements and associated percentage associated with earning the grade are listed below.

**1. Current Issue Topic Essay**

Students are to write an essay on a topic relevant to TEFL education. This topic will be further developed through the remaining assignments below.

There is no prescribed word limit, but topics shall be thoroughly researched and at least five scholarly research sources shall be cited. Define the topic. Discuss important aspects of the topic, both favorable and unfavorable to your point of view. Provide a background as to why this topic is important for education. The purpose of this essay is to inform others about the topic and present pros and cons of the issue.

**You may start your essay below**

**2. Topic Reflections**

Write a reflection arguing AGAINST the concept you presented in assignment one. In this paper, you are to present TWO (2) or THREE (3) points supporting your argument. You will be required to use a MINIMUM of THREE (3) scholarly sources for this assignment. Please make sure you include an introductory paragraph that addresses the thesis of your paper as well as previews the main points that you are going to cover. Address your main points and include a summary paragraph.

**You may start your essay below**

**3. Interview**

This purpose of this assignment is to further investigate the topic you have selected for your Current Issues Topic Presentation. As you are conducting the research for your Current Issues Topic Presentation, I would like you to create FIVE questions that would further enhance your knowledge on your selected topic. You are then going to interview four individuals with these questions. It is hoped that by further studying this topic, you will discover the relevance your topic has in your school and/or community.

Step 1: Create FIVE interview questions regarding your chosen topic. When you turn in your questions, you will:

1. List the question
2. Describe your reasoning for selecting this question (3-4 sentences)
3. List the scholarly source that attributed to the creation of the question

Step 2: Interview FOUR individuals to better understand your topic. Please interview four of the following individuals depending on the focus of your research:

1. A building or district level administrator
2. A community member interested in education
3. A parent whose child or children currently attend school
4. An experienced teacher
5. A student

You may conduct a focus group interview where all members sit down together or you may interview them separately. Please take detailed notes and make sure you are LISTENING and providing direction for the interviews. Don’t share your thoughts—you are there to hear your participants!!

Write an overall summary of the four interviewees’ answers to the set of interview questions and reflect on similarities or differences, as well as overall perceptions or findings. Identify how the answers have helped you better understand your selected topic and how it is or is not a part of your school/community. This assignment will need to include the following:

1. A summary of each of the participants’ responses to all questions. Please be as detailed as possible. Include transcripts from recorded interviews and written responses from interviews via email. (You may conduct a minimum of TWO interviews via email)
2. Address the similarities and differences for each question. I would suggest discussing each interview question individually.
3. Write an analysis of your findings. You are asked to analyze the information you gained from your participants and identify what they mean in regards to your research, your topic presentation, and the situation at hand. Draw conclusions, make predictions, make sense of the information that you gathered from your interviews.

**You may start your interview report below**

**4. Personal Goal**

Formulate a personal, problem-related goal to facilitate your improvement as an educator and person. This goal should relate to the topic you have selected for the Current Issues Project. Form a goal statement, rationale for selecting this goal, action plan and time-line for goal achievement, and an assessment strategy/data collection method to indicate success of that goal.

Write a **1000 word essay** detailing your goal, rationale, action plan, timeline, and assessment strategy.

**You may start your essay below**

**Evaluation**

Assignment # 1 - 25%

Assignment # 2 - 25%

Assignment # 3 – 25%

Assignment # 4 - 25%

Total 100%