University Mission and Guiding Principles:
Teaching and learning constitute the central mission of Western Carolina University. The University seeks to create a community of scholarship in which the activities of its members are consistent with the highest standards of knowledge and practice in their disciplines. The guiding principle for instruction in the College of Education and Allied Professions is the belief in the educator as an inviting, reflective, decision-maker.

Multicultural Focus:
The disproportionate representation of culturally diverse students in special education programs is addressed throughout the text and discussions of this course. Differentiated instruction lesson plans and projects are assigned to address diversity in the classroom.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:
Western Carolina University is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for students with documented disabilities. Students who require disability services or reasonable accommodations must identify themselves as having a disability and provide current diagnostic documentation to Disability Services. All information is confidential. Please contact Kimberly Marcus for more information. Phone: (828) 227-7234; E-mail: kmarcus@email.wcu.edu.

Rationale/Purpose: The course is designed to facilitate personal and professional growth in teachers through readings, discussions, goal setting, and independent projects.

Student Responsibilities:

I. Professional Growth: Students will identify and independent project in the area of professional growth that will directly impact their teaching and classroom. This project, to a great extent, will utilize Hunter Curriculum Library resources. The project will initially be vetted by a peer group of 4-5 individuals, with final authorization granted by the instructor. Suggested activities might include
• Reviewing/redesigning curricula – curriculum mapping
• Or because the curriculum in many cases in set…identifying different activities and teaching methods based on the perceived needs in those courses taught…and identifying specifically when/how these new strategies will be implemented
• Classroom management plans, focusing on student ownership, involvement
• Differentiating instruction

II. Personal growth: to identify personal goals that will improve who you are as an individual and then identify readings and articles in that area.
• Identify specific areas of personal growth (patience, tolerance, understanding, etc). Write out as goals.
• Write out your philosophy of teaching, how it has evolved over the course of your studies and how it relates to your philosophy of life (5 pages, approximately)
• Identify readings (books and articles) that relate to your area of research (minimum of 10)
• Write out a synopsis of what was gained from each of the readings and how it relates to your areas of personal growth
• What is the product of your endeavors? Paper? Play? Plan of action?

III. Reflective Movies: attend and participate in activities related to selected movies presented in seminar