



Thrifting For Teachers

EDU 50055

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2 Credit Hours

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- **Course Description:** As educators we've all found ourselves playing the comparison game when it comes to setting up our classrooms, creating effective lessons, and using our personal money to purchase classroom items. This course will help teachers reflect on their current positions and prioritize what works best for them and their students. Taking the competitiveness out of classroom decorating and lesson planning will help teachers create classrooms that maximize student success! We will discuss the many different avenues that are available to teachers as they set up (or redecorate) their classrooms, and we'll learn ways to get the most bang for our buck. Whether teachers visit thrift stores, become do-it-yourselfers, or write grants, the end result is having fun with teaching and watching students blossom in our classrooms!

Class Format: On Saturday we'll meet at Retail Rebel (873 S Parker, Olathe, KS) at 8: 15 am and then visit three different thrift stores. (You will need your own transportation to each site. It is not necessary to purchase anything at these stores.)

- They do have an app that you can go on and look at store information.
- Everything in the store is \$11.00 that day.

Then we'll go next door to the Dollar Tree store and the thrift store. Next we'll go to Savers at 13509 S Mur-Len Road, Olathe, KS. We'll end up at the Good Will at 11934 S Strang Line Road, Olathe, KS.

On Sunday we'll be at the Ottawa Kansas City campus to reflect on our experience and learn more about local resources, grant opportunities, and more!



COURSE FORMAT

This course will be offered as a choice of the following formats:

1. In-Person: Attend both Saturday (8:15 am-??) at the places mentioned above and Sunday (9:00-3:00) at the Ottawa Kansas City campus and complete the syllabus assignments by the end of the entire course. (Classtime will be 9:00-11:30. Then we break for lunch. After that it's your choice...stay and work on assignments or do your work elsewhere.)

2. Online Format: Complete the syllabus assignments by the end of the entire course. Complete 2 small attendance assignments and submit by the end of the entire course. A Zoom call can be arranged if requested.

3. Blended: Attend one of the days and complete the syllabus assignments by the end of the entire course. Complete 1 small attendance assignment and submit by the end of the entire course.

* After you enroll, the instructor will email you for your choice.

* If you choose online and want a Zoom call, the instructor will email you the Zoom Link and the extra assignment(s).

Course Role in the Program/Major: This course is being offered as Professional Development for those interested in promoting literacy. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Kansas Education Systems Accreditation Framework Classification for this course is Rigor.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Complete a classroom grant application ready for submission OR Create a list of possible grant opportunities.
2. Create and explore resources to complete a personalized classroom project.
3. Create wishlists of teaching resources and explore ways to secure the items on a "shoestring" budget.
4. Explore social media sites that pertain to thrifting.

Course Materials:

Handouts provided by instructor.

Instructor Bio:

Nancy Smith is a first grade National Board Certified teacher with the Olathe Public Schools and she has worked with teacher candidates at OUKC for 29 years. Her prior experiences include providing home daycare for 17 years and 3 years as an Instructional Resource Teacher with the Olathe Schools. She has a BA in Elementary Education and Special Education and an MS in Curriculum Development with an emphasis on Reading and Language Arts. She is a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching, and she is currently Olathe's Elementary Teacher of the Year. Outside of the classroom, she and her husband, Cliff, have 5 grown sons and 2 daughters-in-law.

Overview of the Course

Participation and Course Format

During the 2 days of in-class meetings, students will be expected to fully participate in class discussions, group work, individual work, and all activities.

Students will also be expected to complete course projects after the 2 days of instruction. These projects will be completed on own time and turned in following the syllabus schedule.



Competency Assessment

1. Attendance/Participation	40 pts.	20 pts. per day
2. Classroom Plan/Project	200 pts.	
3. Grant Application OR Resources	200 pts.	
4. Wishlist/Resources	100 pts.	
5. Course Reflection	10 pts.	
TOTAL POINTS	550 pts	



Course Schedule At-A-Glance

Day 1: Meet at various locations in Olathe, KS.

Day 2: Meet at OUKC to discuss classroom thrifting, grant opportunities, and more!

Grading Scale:

Percentage	Grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
Below 60%	F

IMPORTANT POLICIES

All course-specific policies for this course are spelled out here in this syllabus. However, additional university policies are located in the Ottawa University Student Handbook. You are responsible for reading and understanding all these policies. All of them are important. Failure to understand or abide by them could have negative consequences for your experience in this course

Late Assignments

Due to the timeline of this course, late assignments ARE NOT accepted.



Academic Integrity

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated at any level on any assignment. The reality of cyberspace has made academic dishonesty even more tempting for some, but be advised that technology can and will be used to help uncover those engaging in deception. If you ever have a question about the legitimacy of a source or a procedure you are considering using, ask your instructor. As the University Academic Council approved on May 29, 2003, *“the penalty for plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will be failure in the course in which the academic dishonesty occurred. Students who commit academic dishonesty can be dismissed from the university by the provost/director.”* Please refer to Academic Honesty in the handbook for important information about Ottawa University’s policies regarding plagiarism and cheating, including examples and explanations of these issues. Academic dishonesty also includes turning in work submitted for a grade in another course.

Mission Statement: *Building on its foundation as a Christ-inspired community of grace and open inquiry, Ottawa University prepares professional and liberal arts graduates for lifetimes of personal significance, vocational fulfillment, and service to God and humanity.*

ASSIGNMENTS

Classroom Plan/Personalized Project

Worth 200 pts.

Start designing a new or make-over project that you'd like to complete in your classroom. It could be anything from a new classroom library to technology toys to flexible seating. Use this project as your planning board and include timelines, resources, budget constraints/considerations, items needed, human resources needed, grant opportunities that are connected to the project, etc.

Grant Application or List of Grant Opportunities

Worth 200 pts.

If you have a grant project in mind, fill out the grant application. Print it off and include it here.

OR

If you are looking for grant opportunities, but you're not ready to fill out a form, include a list of at least 10 different resources you've found that offer classroom grants. For each resource, include information like:

- Website address
- Name of company offering the grant
- Dollar amount that can be requested
- What kind of grant is it? What can the funds be used for?
- What is your grant idea that would fit within the parameters of the application?
- What is the timeframe for the application process?
- What grade levels/ages is the grant good for?
- Do you have to match the funds?
- Do you need to have your school's non-profit status and/or tax-exempt information to fill out the application? If so, do you have access to that?
- What kind of data do you need to report at the end of the grant cycle?
- Include any other pertinent information.

Wishlist/Resources

Worth 100 pts.

Make a list of materials, resources, furniture, art supplies, Morning Tub activities, center activities, etc. that you want for your classroom. Think of some new upcoming units that you might be teaching next year or units you want to upgrade or new classroom decorating ideas.

Keeping this list with you can help when you go to garage sales or see an item at a thrift store. It also helps to write the price of the item when purchased new so that you know what a bargain you are getting when you find it thrifting! You can also use when teachers start creating Amazon Wishlists in the fall or use PTO/Principal money in the fall.

There is no set length to this assignment...it's an ongoing list for you!

Course Reflection

Worth 10 pts

At the end of the course, submit a reflection of the course that is about a paragraph in length. This reflection can be on things you learned, things you wished you'd learned, how you'll use this info. in your classroom, etc.



