

## Wild About Science & Writing

**EDU 50000-KA**

**October 7-28, 2023**

**2 Credit Hours**

**Nancy Smith**

**913-424-5889**

[nancy.smith@ottawa.edu](mailto:nancy.smith@ottawa.edu)

**Course Description:** Incorporating writing within the content areas is becoming more and more important as we learn about how kids learn to read (Science of Reading research) and try to fit everything in during a school day. The worlds of science, writing, and reading can be paired together to intrigue young learners. This course explores writing research reports, using informational text, science learning activities, and experiment demonstrations. Topics also include examining lessons and ways to implement ideas across grade levels and identifying projects that would showcase science activities at district science fairs.

**Course Role in the Program/Major:** This course is being offered as Professional Development for those interested in promoting literacy.

**Course Prerequisite:** No prerequisites for this course.



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

- Explore the internet for valid websites that can assist in developing science lessons
- Navigate the Next Generation Science Standards website and know where to get information for your grade level
- Explore ideas about communicating with parents how science is taught in your classroom and how you incorporate Next Gen Standards
- Develop a compilation of lesson ideas about how to incorporate writing into your science curriculum (interactive journals, scientific method, engineering design)
- Develop a week-long unit covering a science topic and incorporating engineering, writing, and other curricular areas within it

### **Course Materials:**

Handouts provided by instructor.



### **Instructor Bio:**

Nancy Smith is a National Board Certified first-grade teacher with the Olathe District Schools and she has worked with teacher candidates at OUKC for 28 years. Her prior experiences include providing home daycare for 16 years and 3 years as an Instructional Resource Teacher with the Olathe Schools. She has a BA in Elementary Education and Special Education and a MS in Curriculum Development with an emphasis on Reading and Language Arts. She is a winner 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 (ages 21-30) and two new daughters-in-law.

## **COURSE FORMAT**

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

1. **In-Person:** Attend both Saturday and Sunday (9:00-3:00) at the Ottawa KC Campus and complete the syllabus assignments by the end of the entire course. We have class time from 9:00-11:30 am and then it's your choice to stay and eat/work or work elsewhere for the afternoon. Please bring a laptop to class.
2. **Online Format:** Attend a Zoom call (optional) on Saturday at 8:00 am to answer any questions you have. Complete the syllabus assignments by the end of the entire course PLUS complete 2 small attendance assignments and submit by the end of the entire course.
3. **Blended:** Attend one of the days and complete the syllabus assignments by the end of the entire course. ALSO 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, the instructor will email you the Zoom Link if you're interested (totally optional) and the extra assignment(s).



## 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

TOTAL POINTS

330 pts

In Class:	1. Attendance/Participation	40 pts	20 pts. per day
	2. Pre and Post Papers	20 pts	10 pts per paper
Projects:	1. Website Bibliography	10 pts	
	2. Parent Newsletter	20 pts	
	3. 5 specific writing/science ideas	20 pts	
	4. Next Generation Science paper	20 pts	
	5. Week-long Science Unit	200 pts	

### Course Schedule At-A-Glance

<u>Day One Topics:</u>	Introduction	Computer Research
	Next Gen Science Standards	Parent Communication
	Experiments	Science Fair Ideas
	Pre-Paper completed in class	
<u>Day Two Topics:</u>	Interactive Journals	Engineering Ideas
	Computer Research	Science Units (based on Next Gen.)

**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 of these policies. All of them are important. Failure to understand or abide by them could have negative consequences for your experience in this course.

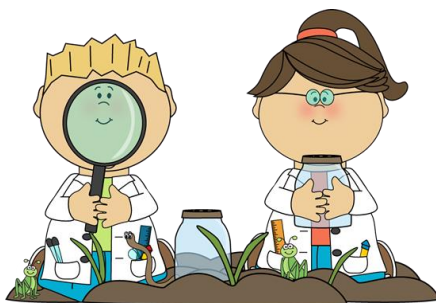
**Late Assignments**

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

### Pre and Post Papers

**Each paper is worth 10 pts.**

The Pre-Paper will be completed in class. If you are taking the course online, You will write a paragraph about what science education currently looks like in your classroom. Include information about resources that are available to you and your feelings about incorporating writing within science.

The Post Paper will be submitted through Blackboard by the end of the course. This paper (1 page, double-spaced) should reflect your learning from the course and what changes it inspired in your future teaching. Reflect on the content of the course and give feedback as to its usefulness for your position.

**Website Bibliography**                      **Worth 10 pts.**

This is submitted through Blackboard by the end of the course.

This bibliography should include 10 sources:

Website address and name

What kind of information is found on this website

How will you use this info. in your classroom



**Parent Newsletter**                      **Worth 20 pts.**

This should be submitted through Blackboard by the end of the course.

- Be professional looking (include clipart, graphics, borders, etc.)
- Not be a page full of print! Use a newsletter format.
- Can Include: The name of your current science series or program

Give a list of the topics/themes that will be covered for the year

What does a typical science lesson look like?

How will you incorporate reading, writing, math within science

List a couple of science websites parents/kids can use

List a couple of ideas about how parents can promote science learning at home

## **Writing/Science Ideas**

**Worth 20 pts.**

This should be submitted through Blackboard by the end of the course.

List 5 ideas that incorporate science/writing together that you can use in your classroom. Describe the activity and how you see yourself using it. What resources/materials do you need? Include a paragraph about each idea.

le: Interactive Journals

Animal research report

Science Lab Logs

## **Next Generation Science Paper**

**Worth 20 pts.**

This should be submitted through Blackboard by the end of the course.

Write a 1-page (approximately) double-spaced paper revealing your knowledge of the Next Generation Standards and how they apply to your grade level. Discuss what changes you might need to make in your current curriculum. What topics are new to your grade level? What resources do you need? What in-service or professional development do you need? What are cross-cutting concepts and why are they a big part of the standards? How does having engineering as a key component in every science practice change your teaching?

## **Week-Long Science Unit**

**Worth 200 pts.**

This should be submitted through Blackboard by the end of the course.

Write a 5 Day set of lesson plans centered on a topic from the Next Generation Science Standards. You can use whatever lesson plan format you are comfortable with. Make sure plans can be replicated by a sub. Please scan and include any supplemental worksheets, recording sheets or anything else relevant to your lesson. Include literature, videos, songs, centers, etc.

