

Elective Courses for Graduate Students

By Kirby Koriath

A list of courses is presented on the following pages—courses that may be of value to graduate students who are contemplating either careers in college or university teaching, or professional work where effective teaching and communication skills are critical to the job. Generally, any graduate student at Ball State, whether or not he or she holds a teaching assistantship or is enrolled in a practicum to develop teaching skills, may sign up for these courses.

These courses will help to prepare graduate students for faculty citizenship, and will provide basic skills for any profession where effectiveness in teaching, communication, research, or presentation is mandatory. Thus, the courses presented here are different from the many others at Ball State that focus on the content of individual disciplines or on strategies for teaching the content of those disciplines.

What skills will tomorrow's professionals need? Increasingly we are persuaded that the skills acquired in learning how to teach will be fundamental to future work. All graduate students, not just those anticipating an academic career, should be prepared to communicate effectively in their fields. To be well-grounded in the content of one's discipline yet to have only marginal skills in writing or speaking about what one knows, to lack the skills to persuade

and excite others about what one believes in—all of this will make for a professional in the 21st century who lacks a critical competitive edge.

Do graduate students have time for electives? Surely graduate students are very busy pursuing the content of their disciplines. However, should there be opportunities for elective study, we hope students will look beyond the boundaries of their own disciplines to find a course that will help them develop skills in teaching, communication, research, and presentation.

Selected by department chairs and graduate advisors, the courses listed on the following pages are designed to meet these goals. The courses are, for the most part, introductory and may be taken by students outside the discipline. The table includes a full course description from the Graduate Catalog, as well as, in many cases, helpful comments from the department. The comments include information about prerequisites, course rotation, and a rationale for selecting the course.

Prior to enrolling in any of these courses, students are advised to check with the office of the department chair or the graduate advisor to determine the suitability of the selected course for meeting the students' needs.

Elective Courses for Graduate Students

Department	Number	Course Title	CrH	Catalog Description	Comments by the department
Center for Information and Communication Sciences	ICS 602	Human Communication: Process and Theory	3	Fundamental principles associated with the ways people process communication. Emphasizes how barriers affect human communication processing and provides an understanding of models of human information processing and their application in “real world” situations.	
Communication, Information, and Media	ICOM 601	Foundations of Digital Storytelling 1	3	Presents the nature of graduate education, including purpose of scholarly activity and the scholarly environment. Explores the storytelling process from concept development to presentation; the history of storytelling; the societal impact and value of storytelling; and the influence of technology on the storytelling process.	Available to students outside area on a space-available basis. Offered only fall semester.
Communication, Information, and Media	ICOM 610	Approaches to Creativity	3	Examines techniques for developing creative ideas. Students will imagine, innovate, and create experiential presentations and mediated works. Students are encouraged to be risk-takers and learn from the failure of their creative endeavors.	Available to students outside area on a space-available basis. Offered only fall semester.
Communication Studies	COMM 635	Interpersonal Communication	3	Contemporary theories, models, and pertinent research related to the communication process in relatively unstructured face-to-face settings. Understanding message exchanges between people and their influence on social interaction. Topics include communication models, perception, symbols, systems, self-concept, attitudes, meaning, and nonverbal messages.	

Elective Courses for Graduate Students

Communication Studies	COMM 650	Communication Training in Organizations	3	Application, research, and theory pertinent to oral communication in business and the professions. Emphasizes the development of effective oral communication skills in business and the professions.	
Computer Science	CS 500	Fundamentals of Computing	3	Develop programming skills in a structured language with emphasis on top-down design and modular structure. Experience with various commercial software packages.	Students learn microcomputer principles and software. Offered during the spring semester and during second summer session.
Counseling Psychology and Guidance Services	CPSY 600	Introduction to School Counseling	3	Counseling and guidance in the schools for counselors, teachers, administrators, and other educational personnel. History and philosophy of school counseling, counselor roles and function, modes of intervention (e.g., direct services, consultation, curriculum), and ethics of school counseling are included.	Designed to provide an overview of the specialty area and to give the non-counseling or non-social psychology major a different perspective on human behavior. Offered fall and summer.
Counseling Psychology and Guidance Services	CPSY 603	Introduction to Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling	3	Introduction and overview of the profession of rehabilitation counseling including history, philosophy, role and function, preparation, practice and ethics of the vocational rehabilitation counselor. Includes areas of legislation, societal trends, and organizational structure affecting rehabilitation counseling.	Designed to provide an overview of the specialty area and to give the non-counseling or non-social psychology major a different perspective on human behavior. Offered fall.
Counseling Psychology and Guidance Services	CPSY 605	Introduction to Community and Mental Health Counseling	3	Principles and problems of counseling in an agency setting. History and philosophy of psychological counseling, role and training of the counselor, modes of intervention (e.g., direct service, consultation), and ethics of counseling are included.	Designed to provide an overview of the specialty area and to give the non-counseling or non-social psychology major a different perspective on human behavior. Offered fall and summer.

Elective Courses for Graduate Students

Counseling Psychology and Guidance Services	SOPSY 610	Social Psychology	3	Introduction to theories, findings, and methodology of social psychology.	Designed to provide an overview of the specialty area and to give the non-counseling or non-social psychology major a different perspective on human behavior. Offered fall.
Educational Psychology	EDPSY 600	Advanced Educational Psychology	3	Advanced survey of the concepts related to learning and motivation. Theories, research, and applications are explored with an emphasis on effective learning approaches and implications for instruction.	
Educational Psychology	EDPSY 603	Psychology of Human Development	3	Advanced lifespan human development. Covers biological, cognitive, and social development from conception to death, emphasizing theories, research, and applications to educational and psychological practice.	
Educational Psychology	EDPSY 611	Development of Creative Thinking	3	Theories and strategies for fostering the creative self and developing creative thinking. Analyzes the effects of personality characteristics and of various biological, cognitive, and motivational conditions on the development of creative behavior.	
Educational Psychology	EDPSY 641	Statistical Methods in Educational and Psychological Research	3	A basic statistical course for graduate students in education. Problems are taken from the fields of education and psychology and include the computation, interpretation, and application of such statistical techniques as measures of central tendency, measures of variability, correlation techniques, validity and reliability, standard scoring techniques, probability, tests of significance, chi square, and analysis of variance.	

Elective Courses for Graduate Students

Educational Psychology	EDPSY 642	Intermediate Statistics	3	An extension of elementary descriptive and inferential statistics through basic statistical research designs, including analysis of variance and covariance.	Prerequisite: successful completion of course in statistics
Educational Psychology	EDPSY 646	Tests and Measurements	3	Educational and vocational tests and measurements used for measuring proficiency, aptitudes, interests, and personality traits and their use in the complete educational program.	
Educational Psychology	EDPSY 785	Survey Research Methods	3	The methodology of survey research as applied to sociological and educational studies, with particular emphasis on the techniques of sample selection, questionnaire and attitude scale construction and validation, and the mechanics of data collection.	
Educational Studies	EDAC 631	Adult and Community Education	3	Overview of adult and community education including the concepts, histories, philosophies, processes, and trends in both public and private programs at the local, state, national, and international levels. Provides a basis for further study in the adult and community education graduate program.	A good introductory course to help students understand the role of higher education in the larger scope of adult education.
Educational Studies	EDAC 634	The Adult as a Learner	3	An overview of adult learning. Theories, approaches to learning, and current research for the effective education of adults.	A good introduction to learning theory.
Educational Studies	EDAC 635	Strategies for Teaching Adults	3	Focuses on teaching strategies, techniques, and methods suitable for adult learners that are supported by research and tested in practice, including preparation of model teaching units, lesson plans or activities, testing and evaluation procedures; and learner-assessment techniques.	A practical course for learning the process of teaching.

Elective Courses for Graduate Students

Educational Studies	EDAC 697	The Grant Process and Research	3	A background for reading and writing research and related grant proposals and final reports of the type encountered by practitioners in adult education, community education, curriculum, executive development, gerontology, and related subjects.	A course with practical application and experience in the grant process.
Educational Studies	EDCUR 660	Ethnographic Research in Education	3	Principles and techniques of collecting important and accurate data using methods that are systematic, intelligent, and dependable when the data or group composition do not meet the assumptions on which statistics are based.	
Educational Studies	EDCUR 661	Introduction to Qualitative Research	3	Overview of qualitative research methods from ethnography to hermeneutics.	
Educational Studies	EDFON 610	Women, Gender, and Education	3	Explores some of the major themes in the study of women and education and samples a variety of the methodologies used by historians, sociologists, philosophers, psychologists, anthropologists, and others conducting research in the area.	An examination of the role of women in American education from sociological, philosophical, and historical perspectives. The course will focus on a specific inter-related topic each year. No prerequisites. Offered once a year in the spring semester.
Educational Studies	EDFON 631	Philosophy of Education	3	School practices and educational ideas as they have been described and analyzed by philosophers of education.	Emphasizes the necessity for understanding the underlying “why” questions with regard to pedagogical practice.

Elective Courses for Graduate Students

Educational Studies	EDHI 602	The American College Student	3	Characteristics and activities of contemporary college students, patterns of interaction between students and other segments of the campus and the larger society, and the effects of the college experience upon students.	Introduces the historical, sociological and anthropological study of college students and the implications of this research for teaching and administrative practices in American higher education. Focuses on developing research competencies, teaching skills and administrative proficiencies for graduate students preparing for careers in higher education settings.
Educational Studies	EDHI 609	Preparing for the Professoriate: Teaching in Higher Education	3	Designed for graduate students, junior faculty, adjunct and part time faculty in pursuit of the knowledge and skills necessary for quality undergraduate teaching. In addition, students will explore the relationship between teaching, research and service responsibilities inherent in the professoriate.	
Educational Studies	EDHI 610	Issues in Higher Education	3	A critical examination of the American system of higher education including such topics as diversity of purpose, clientele served, nature of institutions, contemporary problems of financing, organization, governance, and administration of colleges, universities, and other institutions.	Investigates current issues in higher education by using historical, sociological, philosophical, political, anthropological, economic, and legal frameworks. Also includes a critical analysis of how race, gender and class issues are played out in higher education environments. Students preparing to become faculty and/or administrators in college and university settings will focus on the ways that students, faculty, administrators, and educational reformers have located themselves historically, culturally, and politically to institutions of higher education. Offered twice a year, fall and first summer session.

Elective Courses for Graduate Students

Educational Studies	EDHI 611	Teaching and Curriculum Issues in Higher Education	3	Principles, issues, and rationales of curricula in higher education including relationships among general, specialized, and professional programs. A study of the varied responsibilities of faculty members in colleges with particular emphasis on the instructional role including teaching skills and strategies.	Investigates current issues in higher education regarding the design and implementation of the curriculum, including a focus on the relationship between teaching practices and curricular reform. Offered once a year.
Educational Studies	EDHI 613	Administration and Finance in Higher Education	3	Study of the theories and practices in administration, governance, and finance of colleges and universities in the United States.	Students preparing for careers in higher education settings will be provided with an overview of various administrative structures and functions, leadership theories, economic strategies, and management techniques that are employed by institutions of higher education. Offered once a year.
Educational Studies	EDHI 640	The Community College	3	Study of the characteristics and functions of community and junior colleges in American higher education emphasizing role, governance, faculty, curriculum, students, and finance in two-year colleges.	Students learn about the history, mission and administration of these institutions as well as the role of the faculty, student affairs, continuing education, and community services in community colleges. The course is offered once a year and is taken by students from many disciplines.
Educational Studies	EDLIB 533	Information Resources in Libraries	3	An examination of the most essential information sources in libraries, such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, periodical indexes, CD-ROM's, Internet reference sites, and special reference works in subject areas. Guiding theories for effective dissemination of information are examined. Open to all students.	

Elective Courses for Graduate Students

Educational Studies	EDMUL 660	Multi-cultural and Multi-ethnic Education in American Schools	3	Analyzes cultural and ethnic influences on the total operation of American schools. Emphasizes learning and classroom environment and planning, including cultural and ethnic considerations. Teacher attitudes, administrative concerns, student perceptions, and behaviors of all school-related personnel are studied in terms of the effect of prejudicial attitudes on the learning environment.	While this course is required for teacher certification, it has come to be taken by students from across campus. They have stated that it has been most valuable to them in the many different fields which they have entered. It is especially applicable to the teaching setting, but it also addresses issues of diversity in our society in general.
Educational Studies	EDTEC 550	Curriculum Integration of Learning Technology	3	Emphasizes the theory, design, and integration of digital media and educational computing into K-12 curricula. Students develop an instructional unit that integrates national and state educational technology and curriculum standards.	
Educational Studies	EDTEC 585	School Information Infrastructures	3	Explores the core technologies and models for school information infrastructures and networks for K-12 and teacher education contexts. Examines hardware and software solutions for designing computing labs and digital media studios for K-12 teachers and students. Introduces basic local area network technologies and web-based models relevant to educational contexts.	
Fisher Institute for Wellness and Gerontology	GERON 605	Aging Well: A Systems Approach	3	An application of the Fisher Institute Wellness Model to the processes of aging well. Seven dimensions of wellness will be examined, highlighting the potential for successful aging. Emphasis upon mid-life to late life challenges and how the principles of systems theory deepens understanding of wellness and aging.	Students learn about the potential for positive aging and how to work with older adults to help them achieve their maximum potential.

Elective Courses for Graduate Students

Fisher Institute for Wellness and Gerontology	GERON 610	Public Policy and Aging	3	Emphasis on the governmental infrastructure that facilitates the development and implementation of policy that impacts aging Americans and the public and private response to policy initiatives.	
Geography	GEOG 615	Research Methods in Geography	3	Examination of research-related topics relevant to first-year graduate study in geography. Focuses on use of the scientific method in solving geographic problems, although topics such as ethics, integrity, professionalism, philosophy, research project designs and professional presentations are covered.	Topics include but not limited to journal articles, professional presentations, and proposals.
Geography	GEOG 620	Seminar in Geography	3	Small group discussion of geographic problems selected by instructional staff and depending on students' interest.	Some topics may be applicable to other disciplines.
Geography	GEOG 635	Special Topics in Remote Sensing	3	Research in remote sensing using advanced techniques applied to a field of study such as land use, vegetation, climatology, agriculture, or environmental problems.	Some topics may be applicable to other disciplines.
Geography	GEOG 640	Special Topics in Atmospheric Science	3	The study of a topic in atmospheric science within the expertise of the instructor. Examples include such areas as land-surface-atmosphere interactions, meso-scale meteorology, hydroclimatology, climate change, and tropical weather and climate.	Some topics may be applicable to other disciplines.

Elective Courses for Graduate Students

Journalism	JOURN 674	College Journalism	3	Development of college journalism curricula, teaching methodology, course relations to other disciplines, and effective use and production of student publications as communicative and instructional laboratory media. Special attention will be given to problems of the junior college, the nonaccredited and limited program college, and the major journalism school.	Focuses on an understanding of collegiate journalism programs and academic issues.
Management	MGT 500	Managing Organizational Behavior	3	Examines theoretical and practical foundations of managing organizational behavior. Discusses functions of management, principles of individual and group behavior, human resource management, special issues of managing behavior in organizations including quality of work life, and ethical and social responsibility.	
Philosophy	PHIL 510	Introduction to Theory of Knowledge	3	A critical discussion of leading theories and problems of knowledge. The condition of knowledge and rational belief, the different kinds of knowledge, the nature of truth, and the challenge of skepticism.	Rotation every two years. No prerequisites.
Philosophy	PHIL 513	Philosophy of Science	3	Central philosophical problems in the sciences such as the nature of scientific explanation, the testing of hypotheses, and ethical issues arising from science; for example, the use of human subjects in experimentation and prolonging life.	Rotation every two years. No prerequisites.
Physiology and Health Science	PHYSL 515	Physiology of Aging	3	Study of how physiological systems change with age and the mechanism that are thought to cause these changes. Disorders and diseases of aging will be covered.	A good overview of human physiology. Previous coursework in inorganic chemistry and physiology is helpful. Usually taught first summer session in the evening.

Elective Courses for Graduate Students

Physiology and Health Science	HSC 687	Applications of Quantitative Methods in Health Science	3	Uses various approaches to identify, evaluate, compare, and report data used to describe health-promotion programs.	There are no prerequisites. The course is very similar to EDPSY 641 (Statistical Methods).
Political Science	POLS 650	Public Administration	3	Organization, personnel, and functions of the various agencies of administration—national, state, and local.	Covers such topics as organizational development and communication. Each Fall.
Psychological Science	PSYSC 613	Developmental Psychology	3	Concepts, principles, theories, and research concerning the biological and environmental influences on behavioral and psychological development. Emphasizes issues and topics related to the normal human life span.	Designed primarily for students without undergraduate work in human growth and development.
Psychological Science	PSYSC 615	Learning and Motivation	3	Analysis of research and theories of basic conditioning, learning processes, and motivation. Biological bases of motivation will also be considered. The major concentration will be on animal learning and motivation, but parallels to human behavior will be drawn.	
Psychological Science	PSYSC 616	Perception and Cognition	3	Analysis of research and theories of perception, cognition, and language. Covers information processing, attention, verbal learning and memory, problems solving, concept formation, and psycholinguistics.	
Psychological Science	PSYSC 619	Psychology of Language	3	A review of research on the psychological processes involved in the comprehension and production of language. Topics include sentence and discourse processing, pragmatics, conversation structure, representation and meaning, language and thought, and language acquisition.	Open only to graduate students in Psychological Science, English, Communication Studies, or Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Elective Courses for Graduate Students

Psychological Science	PSYSC 623	Theories of Personality	3	Review and comparison of theories of the structure, development, dynamics, and assessment of normal personality, with emphasis on empirical data presented by proponents of various theoretical positions.	
Psychological Science	PSYSC 696	Seminar on Diversity	3	Introduces the application of diversity perspectives to psychological research and practice. Race, ethnicity, economic status, national origin, disability, gender, sexual identity, age, and religious beliefs will be considered. Emphasizes why all psychological subdisciplines need to understand diversity issues.	
Special Education	SPCED 600	Education of Exceptional Children	3	The basic course in the graduate sequence for teachers who wish to specialize in any one of the branches of special education. Stresses findings concerning the unique psychological and educational problems of exceptional children.	Provides an overview of special learning needs through the college level; sensitivity to needed adaptations and accommodations. Available every semester and as a TV course. No prerequisites.
Urban Planning	PLAN 605	Design and Presentation Techniques	3	Introduction to graphic techniques and design processes. Lecture and studio exercises on problem solving and public presentation of findings.	Emphasis on presentation using graphics, slides, etc. Also graphics on paper to convey organization of material. NO prerequisites, no assumption about graphic ability. Offered every fall.