Course Objectives
The purpose of this course is to enable students to examine current issues and trends affecting mathematics education in grades K-12. These trends will be studied in the context of professional and public debates about curriculum, learning, and assessment as reflected in current national and regional standards as well as in mathematics education research. It is the goal of this course to have what you learn serve to inform your teaching, provide you with some ideas for developing your own classroom research projects, and to empower you as potential agents of curricular change in your schools and districts.

Course Requirements
Assigned readings for this course will be posted as PDF or Word files or as links to PDF files in the Course Documents area of Blackboard (bb.wpunj.edu). Important resource materials, such as state and national standards for mathematics, will also be posted as websites you can access through the External Links area of Blackboard.

Readings from current literature in the field will be assigned by the course instructor. Some additional literature within particular “issues” will be selected by the students from a list provided by the course instructor and from articles collected by students. All readings will form the basis of our online class discussions. Students are required to do all readings in advance of the discussion sessions during which they will be discussed.

Course grades will be based on the following components:
- Individual contributions to online discussions and activities – individual grade
- Small group selection of articles and preparation of questions for leading online or in-person discussion regarding the selected articles pertaining to your group’s specific current issue in mathematics education - group grade
- Individual responses to all questions posted and presented in class by small groups other than your own –individual grades
- Two-part paper on a classroom project for increasing equity in opportunities for learning standards-based mathematics content for all students – individual grades

Small Group Procedures
- Each group must select 4 topic readings from among those presented to the group by Dr. Kaplan. These readings will be posted in Course Documents by Dr. Kaplan must be available to all students by the time of your group’s discussion session. CHOICE OF READINGS WILL BE GIVEN A GROUP GRADE.

- Each group must generate a minimum of 5 discussion questions that should be posted in your small group area. Dr. Kaplan will review these questions and then post them in a Discussion Board Forum for all students to respond to during your group’s discussion session. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WILL BE GIVEN A GROUP GRADE.
Following the posting of questions by each group, all students outside of the presenting group will post individual responses to the questions on Bb. Students’ responses to the small group’s 5 questions will be responded to by the presenting group. The presenting group will be divided so that each person is responsible for responding to 2 or 3 students apiece. **ALL INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES WILL BE GIVEN INDIVIDUAL GRADES.**

**Topics, Readings, and Assignments**

**Online Session 1: Course introduction including orientation to Blackboard (Bb), clarification of performance expectations for students, and generation of topics for small group online discussions. (December 26-27)**

**Readings Posted on Bb for Session 1**
- Syllabus
- Lecture Notes 1
- Url link for CCSSM practice and content grade level standards
- NCTM position statements on CCSSM
- NCTM Principles for School Mathematics

**Session 1 Online Assignment**

*Open a new thread in THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FORUM and discuss some of the issue and problems that you feel teachers of mathematics face today. Consider topics in terms of professional expectations or pressures, student successes or failures, classroom management concerns, or anything else that you are worried about or angry about or excited about in relation to the teaching, learning, and assessment of mathematics.*

**Online Session 2: Issues Raised by CCSSM and Assessment of CCSSM**

**Readings:** (See Blackboard for posting for Session 2) (December 28-30)
- Lecture Notes 2
- NCTM Principles for School Mathematics
- NCTM articles on CCSSM
- Additional readings TBD

**Session 2 Online Assignment**

*Respond to discussion questions in Bb Discussion Board.*

**Assignment of groups and topics**

**Online Session 3: Honing in on the Big Issues for This Course**

**(December 31-January 2)**

**Readings:**
- Lecture Notes 3
- Additional readings TBD

**Session 3 Online Assignment:**

*Respond to discussion questions as presented in Lecture Notes 3 and in Bb Discussion Board. Select and post readings on your group topic in Bb small group discussion board. Follow instructions in Lecture Notes 3 on how to do this.*
Online Session 4. Issues of Equity and Inequity in Mathematics Expectations, Curriculum, and Assessments (January 3-5)

Readings
1) Lecture Notes 4
2) NCTM 2008 Position Statement on Equity
3) NCTM Position Statement on Reducing the Achievement Gap
4) NAEP Math Achievement Report (most recent)
5) Best Practices in New Jersey - Report Summary
6) Reflecting on Equity in School Mathematics (Rousseau & Tate)
7) Mathematics for All and How do We Get There? (Allexsaht-Snider & Hart)
8) Achievement Gap - Myths and Realities

Online Assignments:
Respond to questions about Equity Issues as presented in Lecture Notes 4 and posted in Bb Discussion Board area.

Online Session 5. All groups to review readings for their own topics and post suggested questions for the class. Work to be done in Small Discussion Group area with feedback from Kaplan. (January 6-8)

Assignment Due:
Part 1 Equity Classroom Project Plan posted in Bb Forum

Online Session 6. Respond to Questions from Group 1 & 2 (January 9-11)

Readings
All readings posted for Small Group Issue 1 & 2 - TBD

Online Assignments
Respond to questions on Small Group 1 Issue – Group-Led Discussion
Respond to questions on Small Group 2 Issue – Group-Led Discussion

Online Session 7. Respond to Questions from Group 3 & 4 (January 12-14)

Readings
All readings posted for Small Group Issue 3 & 4 - TBD

Online Assignments
Respond to questions on Small Group 3 Issue – Group-Led Discussion
Respond to questions on Small Group 4 Issue – Group-Led Discussion

Assignment Due:
Part 2 Equity Classroom Project Implementation Report posted in Bb Forum