

## **INTERNATIONAL FIELD EXPERIENCE BELIZE**

### **EDN 455: International Education Field Experience Spring, 2014**

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### **STUDENT ANECDOTE**

*“As a budding teacher, this chance to experience school systems and students that are out of my realm of familiarity would show how other countries and cultures conduct themselves in academic environments; this type of opportunity doesn’t come along often. The traditional internship gives me an opportunity to work with a local fellow teacher but the trip to Belize will take this one step further and give me the chance to interact with attending peers as well as teachers from Belize. I have the philosophy that people should travel and with the growing population of students that come from Central America and Hispanic backgrounds, everyone should be culturally aware. Travelling to Belize will forge new friendships and provides the opportunity for globally connected classrooms.”*

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

From the UNCW Catalogue: **EDN 455 - International Education Field Experience.**

Prerequisites: Admission to Watson School of Education, permission of instructor. This course is designed to provide experiences in a selected educational setting as part of a study abroad program.  
3 credit hours

### **OVERVIEW**

This International Field Experience (EDN 455) will provide 5 weeks of daily experiences in selected primary or secondary schools in San Pedro, Belize. Students will observe Belizean teachers in schools, provide instructional support, keep electronic journals of their experience, record and analyze similarities and differences of the Belizean educational system studied with their traditional internship experience, and develop curricula and support materials based upon this international experience. Students will also engage in a service project in Belize that is student focused and serves the needs of the school-based community. This international field experience will focus on the following: current field experience experiences in global education; the development, implementation, and assessment of curricular materials; and the evaluation and integration of relevant pedagogy and technology in the international classroom.

“In the age of globalization, an intimate understanding of a foreign culture is both a valuable academic asset and an enriching personal experience. As a leader in education, the Watson School of Education is dedicated to providing education students with the opportunity to work and study in schools throughout the world.” (From <http://www.uncw.edu/ed/international/>)

“At UNCW, passionate and engaged teaching, learning and research matter. Students consistently praise the quality of their interactions with faculty and express satisfaction with their overall educational experience. The faculty culture emphasizes teaching and mentoring, incorporating research as an important component of the undergraduate learning experience and a service to the state. **International experiences** are encouraged through study abroad programs and language and culture studies on campus.” (<http://www.uncw.edu/facts/>)

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this course is to provide teacher candidates with: 1) active participation in a five week field experience in a Belize using an indigenous curriculum; 2) the opportunity to teach lessons during an international field experience, thereby giving students an opportunity to collaborate with Belizean teachers and provide instruction to Belizean children, merging US teaching methodologies with Belizean strategies; 3) and negotiating understanding of each participant’s conceptual framework with an international educational framework.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Students will record and reflect on daily observational experiences in a selected school in an international setting.
2. Students will compare and contrast a Belizean school setting with their American internship setting using electronic journaling through reflective practice.
3. Present and defend a philosophy for teaching children at your assigned grade level.
4. Students will demonstrate acquired knowledge, skills, and dispositions while applying a variety of instructional strategies to a novel setting.
5. Students will provide observable evidence of mastery of the North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards.
6. Students will create a video documentary highlighting an educational, societal and/or cultural factor in Belize.

7. Students will engage in a service-orientated project and demonstrate evidence of having completed the effort.
8. Students will prepare a thoughtful and reflective analysis comparing and contrasting the teaching experience.

## **MEETING TIMES**

### Fall Semester, 2013

- Students are expected to attend three organizational meetings during their methods semester.
  - Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>: 3-5 PM
  - Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>: 3-5 PM
  - Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>: 3-5 PM

### Spring Semester, 2014

- Students are expected to attend three in-service meetings during their student teaching semester.
  - Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>: 4-6 PM
  - Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>: 4-6 PM
  - Friday, March 7<sup>st</sup>: 4-6 PM
- Students are required to attend a full day departure meeting on campus
  - Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>: 9 AM-1 PM

**Depart for IFE to Belize – Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Arrive back from International Field Experience in North Carolina – Saturday or Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>**

## **SUPERVISION**

Instructor Availability: Supervisors “on site” for five weeks in San Pedro, Belize.

## **ASSESSMENT**

### 1. Educational Identity and Philosophy (50pts)

#### **A. Philosophy of Education paper (25pts).**

- Submit your pre IFE ‘Phil of Ed’ prior to leaving Wilmington, NC
  - **Due Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> by midnight**
- Submit your post IFE ‘Phil of Ed’ upon returning to Wilmington, NC
  - **Due Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> by midnight**
- Each product should be 1-2 pages in length

#### **B. Teacher Identity Paper (25pts)**

- Submit your teacher identity paper
- Reflect on your **current** identity as an educator based upon the international field experience; include comments on what you learned in relationship to the time invested.

- Apply international opportunities to **past** internship teaching experiences and contexts in the United States: What have you learned? How have you changed? What will you remember?
- Prepare a thoughtful and reflective analysis on your overall experience and articulate what you can apply to your **future** teaching experiences.
- Product should be 3-5 pages in length.
  - **Due Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> by midnight**

## 2. Field Experience and Practice (75pts)

### A. Notebook (15pts)

- You will be expected to **observe, document, and reflect on 5 lessons** in Belize.
- Where possible, **teach 3 lessons** at a selected primary or secondary school.
  - Reflective comments on the positive and constructively critical aspects of each of the 5 lessons you observe and 3 lessons you teach. **These comments must be thoughtful and incorporate your past student teaching internship.** Your analysis should incorporate the new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Standards. (1 page per lesson taught)
- Extensive discussion will take place in a **bi-weekly recitation class** at a site to be determined.
- Please see WSE field experience student evaluation form to be provided.
  - **Due Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> by midnight**

### B. Blog (30pts)

- Using Google's BLOG space at <https://www.blogger.com/>, each student is to post and keep an electronic blog of your experiences in Belize
  - Post to the electronic blog bi-weekly (one post prior to leaving and one post upon return, 2 posts x 5 weeks = 12 posts overall)
  - This BLOG is intended to be viewed by the Watson College of Education faculty, your family, friends, peers, internship students and partnership teacher.
    - **Due Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> by midnight**

### C. Video Journal (30pts)

- Using FLIP cameras, video cameras, smart phones, tablets, etc..., students are required to plan, capture, edit and prepare a 10-minute video documentary that addresses one educational or societal issue in Belize.
- Students can work together in groups of 2 or 3 (Be aware: **one grade will apply** to the entire group).
- All topics choices must be cleared with your professors.
  - **Due Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> by noon**

## 3. Service Project (25pts)

- A. Students can either **engage in a group effort or act individually** to return something to San Pedro Town's schools and children
  - Examples can include (but are not limited to): Create and facilitate competitive academic events (i.e. Science Olympiad Science Fair, Math Counts), volunteer at the library, volunteer at the humane society, after-school tutoring programs,

volunteering in literacy projects, theatre productions, environmental literacy programs, meet and greets, Habitat for Humanity type of work, etc.

B. Students will submit a **log book and group report** based upon the following criteria:

- Prepare a **short description** of the service you've undertaken...this can be the same for students engaged in group projects.
  - The description should be **one page in length**
  - The service projects will be posted on the website for public consumption, so choose your words wisely!
- Each student should invest **20 hours into the project**
  - Document your time invested using an excel spreadsheet or a word document
  - Be sure to enter **time devoted to service and activity undertaken.**
  - **Due Wednesday, May 7th by midnight**