

Course Information

Course Number: EDFN 101
Title: Exploration of Teaching & Learning
Credits: 1
Academic Year: Fall 2025

Instructor Information

Instructor of Record:
Sara Kraft
Email: sara.kraft@k12.sd.us

Course Meeting Time and Location

DIAL online virtual school, asynchronous online course

August 25, 2025-December 17, 2025

Course Description

Inspiring and Leading through Excellence in Education is the shared vision of the USD School of Education and DIAL Corporation for all of its programs. The underlying intent of the vision requires that students be exposed to learning experiences that will enhance their ability to engage in life-long learning and leadership roles anchored in reflective practice. This first year seminar for high school juniors and seniors is designed to help students prepare for the college experience both academically and personally. The course aids students as they acquire and develop skills necessary to reach their educational objectives. The seminar will encourage students to explore the field of education, identify practices and experiences to help them be successful in their college and professional careers, and to demonstrate proficiency in discussion, reflection, writing, and the use of technology.

DIAL's purpose in developing and offering this course is to increase the understanding of the educational profession and develop future educators for the state of South Dakota.

Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and analyze the roles, responsibilities, and daily experiences of teachers
2. Analyze significant historical developments in education in the United States
3. Observe and reflect on a variety of educational experiences

Instructional Methods

The basic format of this course will involve online, asynchronous and independent learning.

Course Content/Reading

Medina, J. (2009). Brain rules. Pear Press.

Grading Policy

Students will be graded on the University of South Dakota scale.

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = Below 60%

Class Assignments & Schedule

The following schedule is subject to change.

Date	Topic	Delivery Format
Week 1	Introduction to Course	Mix – Online and independent
Week 2	Setting SMART Goals	Mix – Online and independent
Week 3	What Makes a Great Teacher?	Mix – Online and independent
Week 4	The Teaching Profession: Interview a Teacher	Mix – Online and independent
Week 5	History of Education in the U.S.	Mix – Online and independent
Week 6	School Law: The Supreme Court and American Education	Mix – Online and independent
Week 7	Virtual Guest Speaker	Mix – Online and independent
Week 8	College and Teaching Program Exploration	Mix – Online and independent
Week 9	Teacher Code of Ethics	Mix – Online and independent
Week 10	Spring Break	Spring Break
Week 11	Native American Education in South Dakota	Mix – Online and independent
Week 12	Professional Writing: Resumes	Mix – Online and independent
Week 13	In-Class Observation	Mix – Online and independent
Week 14	Research Project: Creating Lesson Plans	Mix – Online and independent
Week 15	Contemporary Views of Education: TED Talks	Mix – Online and independent



Attendance Policies

The attendance policy for this course adheres to the regulations from the South Dakota Department of Education: <https://doe.sd.gov/attendance/>

In general, enrollment in a class implies the responsibility for attending each class session. You are a developing professional disposition in the education field and will be held to a high standard. Therefore, you are expected to attend face-to-face classes, complete assigned readings, and participate in class activities.

Student Success Services and Support

The University of South Dakota provides the following support services:

1. USD Counseling Center: <https://www.usd.edu/About/Departments-Offices-and-Resources/Student-Counseling-Center>
2. USD Academic Support Services: <https://www.usd.edu/About/Departments-Offices-and-Resources/Academic-and-Career-Planning-Center/Academic-Support>
3. School of Education Center for Student & Professional Services: www.usd.edu/csps
4. USD Career Services: <https://www.usd.edu/Student-Life/Career-Services>
5. USD Writing Center:

System BOR Policies

See AAC Guideline 5.3.1 Required BOR Policy Statements:

https://www.sdbor.edu/administrative-offices/academics/academic-affairs-guidelines/Documents/5_Guidelines/5_3A_Guideline.pdf

University of South Dakota Policies

Freedom in Learning

Under Board of Regents and Regental Institutions policy, student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Discussion and debate are critical to education and professional development. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. While the exploration of controversial topics may be an important component of meeting the student learning outcomes in a course, no student will be compelled or directed to personally affirm, adopt, or adhere to any divisive concepts (as defined in SDCL 13-1-67). Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should contact their home institution to initiate a review of the evaluation.

ADA Statement

The University of South Dakota strives to ensure that physical resources, as well as information and communication technologies, are reasonably accessible to users to provide equal access to all. If you encounter any accessibility issues, you are encouraged to immediately contact the instructor



of the course and the Office of Accessibility, which will work to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

Any student who may need academic accommodations or access accommodations should contact and register with the Office of Accessibility during the first week of class or as soon as possible. The Office of Accessibility is the official office to assist students through the process of verification and coordination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Students currently registered with the Office of Accessibility must obtain a new accommodation memo each semester.

Please note: if your home institution is not the institution you are enrolled at for a course (host institution), then you should contact your home institution's accessibility services. The accessibility services at the home and host institution will work together to ensure your request is evaluated and responded.

The Office of Accessibility is located in North Complex Commons 116 and can be contacted at 605-658-3745 or accessibility@usd.edu.

Academic Integrity

Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty and misconduct run contrary to the purposes of higher education and will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, copying answers or work done by another student (either on an exam or an assignment), allowing another student to copy from you, and using unauthorized materials during an exam. The governing Board of Regents policies can be found in [BOR Policy 2:33](#) and [BOR Policy 3:4](#).

No credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. A student found to have engaged in any form of academic dishonesty may, at the discretion of the instructor, be:

- a. Given a zero for that assignment.
- b. Allowed to rewrite and resubmit the assignment for credit.
- c. Assigned a reduced grade for the course.
- d. Dropped from the course.
- e. Failed in the course.

Acceptable Use of Technology

Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources: While Regental Institutions strive to provide access to computer labs and other technology, it is the student's responsibility to ensure adequate access to the technology required for a course. This may include access to a computer (not Chromebooks, iPads, etc.), webcam, internet, adequate bandwidth, etc. While utilizing any of the information technology systems students, faculty and staff should observe all relevant laws, regulations, [BOR Policy 7.1](#), and any institutional procedural requirements.

Emergency Alert Communication



In the event of an emergency arising on campus under [BOR Policy 7:3](#), USD will notify the campus community via the Everbridge emergency alert system. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that their information is updated in the emergency alert system. The student's cell phone will be automatically inserted if available and if not, their email address is loaded. Students can at any time update their information in the student alert system.

Grade Appeal Policy

Under Board of Regents ([Student Appeals for Academic Affairs Policy 2:9](#)) and University policy ([Student Academic Appeals](#)), students have the right to appeal such matters as course grades and dismissal from a program. Students wishing to appeal an academic decision must use the appropriate [appeal form](#). The form should be used only if informal discussion with the academic decision-maker does not produce a satisfactory resolution and the student wishes to pursue the matter further. Appeals must be initiated by the student through discussion with the individual responsible for the decision (i.e., the academic decision-maker/instructor) to question the decision and explain the basis for doing so. The student must have this discussion within 30 calendar days of being notified of the decision that is being appealed. If notification occurs within 15 calendar days before the end of a term, the discussion must occur at the latest within 15 calendar days of the start of the next term. If a student wishes to pursue the appeal following the discussion with the academic decision-maker, they should complete Step 2 of the [appeal form](#) and submit within 5 working days of the discussion a signed copy to the mediator designated on the form.

Statement on Recording of Lectures by Students

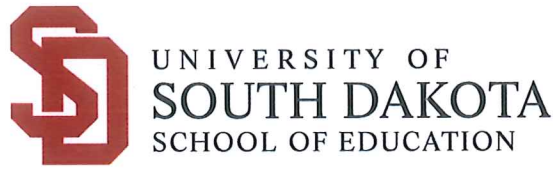
Lectures, presentations, and other course materials are protected intellectual property under South Dakota Board of Regents Policy. Accordingly, recording and disseminating lectures, presentations or course materials is strictly prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member or as the result of an approved disability accommodation through Disability Services. Violation of this prohibition may result in the student being subject to Student Conduct proceedings under [SDBOR Policy 3:4](#).

Student Success Services and Supports

The USD Opportunity Center (<https://www.usd.edu/About/Departments-Offices-and-Resources/Opportunity-Center>) offers a central connection point for campus resources that are designed specifically for student success. The Opportunity Center staff is located in MUC 204 and can work with USD students in any location or online to guide you to any of the many student support services you need to navigate life at USD. To find resources on your own, Coyote One Stop (<https://www.usd.edu/About/Departments-Offices-and-Resources/Coyote-One-Stop>) lets you ask questions and browse a comprehensive service catalog for your informational and support needs.

Concern/Complaint Resolution Process

To resolve any concerns, complaints, or questions regarding a course experience, the student should initially attempt addressing issues of concern directly to the instructor or the appropriate decision maker as defined by the chart appended to the university's [academic appeal form](#). Together the student and the instructor should establish a timetable for resolving the issues of



concern. If a student feels the conflict has not been resolved, the student should communicate this concern to the chair of the department offering the course. If questions or concerns remain, or if the instructor is the department chair, the student may contact the dean's office for the college or school in which the course is offered.

Contact information for questions or concerns:

Associate Dean: Robin Wiebers, Ed.D. – Robin.Wiebers@usd.edu

Zoom Usage and Classroom Attendance

Classroom participation and in-person interaction are integral components of the education process for face-to-face and hybrid courses, and the university expects students enrolled in those courses to be physically present for scheduled in-person class sessions. The use of video delivery technology (Zoom) to supplement classroom instruction is at the discretion of the instructor, but students should not assume that it is universally available. Students should also not assume that participation via Zoom meets attendance requirements.

Students with a disability who wish to request an accommodation related to the classroom attendance requirement(s) must contact Disability Services to engage in the accommodation process.