



**UPPER IOWA**  
UNIVERSITY

# COURSE SYLLABUS

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**EDGD 501 – 7 Differentiated Classroom**  
**Online, Self-Paced**

**Online:** Online classroom located at [uiulearn.uiu.edu](http://uiulearn.uiu.edu)

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## Instructor Information

**Instructor Name:** Allan Nelson, Ed.D

**UIU Faculty Email:** [nelsona448@uiu.edu](mailto:nelsona448@uiu.edu)

**Telephone Number:** Available upon request.

**Availability:** Email or text 24/7. Zoom conferences available upon request.

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## Course Description

**Catalog Course Description:** This is an online course designed to be self-paced. Students will develop strategies to better differentiate classroom instruction. Students will have the opportunity to respond to the text, and other resources by writing essays on each chapter. Students will also research other resources relevant to the topic and their educational responsibilities as they reflect and provide an action plan for implementation of their learning. This course is designed to be practical, relevant, and beneficial to teaching professionals.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Credit Hours:** 1 credit graduate semester course

As a requirement of HLC Accreditation, all UIU courses, regardless of meeting schedule or instructional mode, follow the Federal Credit Hour Definition. As such, each credit hour earned at UIU is equivalent to a minimum of 45 hours of student engagement.

For more information on how specific instructional modes meet this requirement, please see *UIU's Policy Guidelines for Instructional Time Expectations*: [UIU Policies](#).

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## Course Materials

It is the student's responsibility to make sure she/he has access to all required course materials by the start of the session.

### Required Textbooks

Tomlinson, C., A. (2013). *Fulfilling the Promise of the Differentiated Classroom: Strategies and Tools for Responsive Teaching*. ASCD. ISBN: 978-0-87120-812-5

### Recommended Resources:

APA formatting is required for this course. You can find information regarding APA formatting at the [Writing Center website](#).

[Academic Resources](#) for UIU Students

### **Ordering Textbooks**

Purchase your textbook through the online university bookstore, [MBS Direct](#), or by phone at (800) 325-3252.

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## **Course Objectives**

1. Read educational texts to broaden strategies on how to differentiate lessons and curriculum.
2. Research relevant resources to further expand understanding of the variety of student needs in classroom settings.
3. Create a lesson plan or unit that has research-based evidence of quality differentiation.

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## **Program Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will be able to read and evaluate educational research.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate effective leadership decision making and analytical skills.

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## **Course Requirements and Grading Criteria**

### **Participation**

All work is to be completed online. Enrollment starts at the beginning of each month. Students have six months to complete the self-paced work.

### **Course Policies**

The first assignment is due in 45 days from the course start date maintain active enrollment in the course. The instructor must respond with graded feedback of the first assignment within 60 days of the course start date. Failure to meet these requirements will result in Administrative Withdrawal (AW).

### **Assignments/Assessments**

Students are required to read the required textbook and respond to each essay question. Each essay typically is a minimum of 1.5-2 pages in length. Upon completion, the work is submitted to the instructor via [uiulearn.uiu.edu](http://uiulearn.uiu.edu).

**Chapter 1-** The book begins by stating why differentiation in the classroom is important. What parts of the chapter do you agree with? What parts of the chapter do you disagree with? Research and link an article that supports your perspective. Please cite your resources by using APA Guidelines.

**Chapter 2-** Carol Ann Tomlinson details student needs in chapter two. After reading, watch [William Glasser's video on the Five Student Needs](#). Discuss how these perspectives are the

same, and how they differ. What do you believe are the main needs of students? Use the text, video, and other resources to support your beliefs. Please cite your resources by using APA Guidelines.

**Chapter 3-** According to the text, what do learners seek in the classroom? What can a teacher in a differentiated classroom do in a best effort to respond to what a learner seeks? Describe a former student's needs and how you could have better differentiated your instruction for this student. Use evidence from this chapter and other references to support your answer.

**Chapter 4-** The author explains how classroom operations translate into teacher response to learner needs. Compare and contrast the text with the article [Setting the Stage for Differentiation](#). What strategies in the texts, or other resources, can you implement that'll allow for better differentiation in your classroom? Please cite your resources by using APA Guidelines.

**Chapter 5-** According to the text, describe each the five key characteristics of effective curriculum and instruction. Provide at least one example from your teaching to support each characteristic. The author welcomes readers to modify the list of characteristics as you wish. What changes would you make? Support your answer with other resources. Please cite your resources by using APA Guidelines.

**Chapter 6-** Chapter Six shares a variety of strategies for important, focused, engaging curriculum and instruction. Explain which strategies will you choose to implement? How will your classroom look different after this implementation?

Research and include at least one additional research-based strategy. Please cite your resources by using APA Guidelines.

**Chapter 7-** Teaching is hard. Carol Ann Tomlinson shares why she thinks this profession is so difficult. What are your biggest challenges? How might this book help you with some of these challenges? Find at least one other resource that gives you strategies to help with this challenge. Please cite your resources by using APA Guidelines.

**Reflection and Research-** Analyze a certain subject, unit, or lesson that has been difficult for you to differentiate. Research effective strategies to help you better differentiate your instruction. How would you use these strategies in your differentiated lesson? Link an article that supports your response. Please cite your resources by using APA Guidelines.

**Action Plan-** Create a lesson plan that addresses individual needs of all students in your classroom. Link a resource that supports this lesson as research-based, and use what you learned in this text to explain how you are fulfilling the promise of differentiated instruction. Please cite your resources by using APA Guidelines.

### Grading Criteria

The course letter grade will be based on the following grading criteria:

Activity Assignments	Points
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Chapter 1 Essay	10
Chapter 2 Essay	10
Chapter 3 Essay	10
Chapter 4 Essay	10
Chapter 5 Essay	10
Chapter 6 Essay	10
Chapter 7 Essay	10
Reflection and Research Essay	15
Action Plan Essay	15
Total Points:	100

## Grading Scale

This course will use the following scale:

Letter Grade	Points
A	93-100
A- (minus)	90-92
B+	88-89
B	82-87
B- (minus)	80-81
C+	78-79
C	72-77
C- (minus)	70-71
F	0-69

## Grades and Feedback

The instructor will typically send grades with feedback via email within 3-4 days of the completed work being turned in. The instructor will typically rely to all emails within 24 hours.

## Turnitin

Turnitin is a tool for both teachers and students to ensure academic integrity by checking originality of submitted papers to avoid issues of plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Students should be aware that Turnitin scans submitted work and compares it to ALL other sources on file.

## Incompletes

Occasionally it becomes necessary for an instructor to award a student a grade of incomplete ("I"). An incomplete grade is exceptional and given only to students whose complete coursework has been qualitatively satisfactory but who have been unable to complete all course requirements because of documented cases of injury, illness, death in family, personal crisis, military deployments, or other circumstances beyond their control. This grade should not

be awarded in cases where the student “fell behind” due to absences without explanation, other class commitments, and/or work obligations.

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## Course Schedule

This self-paced course must be completed within six months from the start date.

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## Course Expectations

### Email

Upper Iowa University employees and students are issued an UIU email account ([doej@uiu.edu](mailto:doej@uiu.edu)). University email communications will only be sent to UIU email address. Faculty and staff are not obligated to respond to students using non-UIU email accounts.

### Technology Requirements

Students and faculty should have access to a reliable up-to-date computer, updated virus protection, and an Internet connection to access course materials and complete course activities.

### Professional Writing and Speaking Guidelines

Communications in class and online should follow the Student Conduct and Discipline, Respect for the University Environment, and Code of Student Responsibility in the [Student Handbook](#) (pg. 20 and 21). Respect the opinions of others using appropriate language and communications.

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## University Policies

### Validation of Enrollment/Non-Attendance

Registration for each course must be validated by attending at least one of the first three class sessions. For classes meeting twice per week, you must attend the first, second or third session. For classes meeting once per week, you must attend either the first week or the second week. Failure to validate enrollment when courses begin will result in a grade of NA (never attended) and removal from the course.

### Withdrawal (W)

**8-Week Course:** To withdraw from an active course, notify your academic advisor prior to the last day to drop a class, which is the last day of the fifth week of the session. A grade of **W** will be recorded on the transcript. Informing the course instructor is not sufficient notice for a drop or withdrawal.

### Administrative Withdrawal (AW)

**Online:** At least one complete assignment must be received and verified by the instructor within the first 60 days of enrollment. Therefore, students should turn in at least one assignment within 45 days from the start of the course. If this is not met, the instructor will request to have a grade of AW recorded on the student’s permanent record.

### Academic Accommodations

It is the policy of Upper Iowa University to ensure equal access to educational and co-curricular activities to students with disabilities as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A student seeking accommodations should contact the Director of Disability Services (DDS) as early in the session as possible. In order to receive accommodations, students must disclose their disability to the DDS by completing a *Voluntary Disclosure Form*, as well as providing appropriate documentation. The *Voluntary Disclosure Form* is available in the DDS office or online at [Disability Services](#). Students will be given a *Request for Accommodations Contract* during their initial appointment with the DDS. **This appointment will be in person for Fayette campus students and over the phone for center, online, and self-paced students.** It is the student's responsibility to provide the instructors with a copy of the *Request for Accommodations Contract* (for Center or online students, these contracts are emailed out to instructors by the DDS for the student). Additionally, students should work cooperatively with their instructors throughout the session to make sure that appropriate accommodations are being made. You can contact the DDS at (563) 425-5949, [disabilityservices@uiu.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@uiu.edu), or stop by the office in the Student Center, Office of Student Life, Room 229.

### **Academic Misconduct Policy**

Cheating, academic dishonesty, and plagiarism constitute a violation of the offender's own integrity, as well as the integrity of the entire University; they will not be tolerated. Violators will receive sanctions based on the level of academic misconduct.

**Cheating** includes, but is not limited to:

- The use of unauthorized books notes or other sources in the giving or securing of help in an examination or other course assignments.
- The copying of other students' work or allowing others to copy your work. The submission of work that is not your own or allowing others to submit your work as theirs.
- The submission of the same work for two or more classes without the approval of instructors involved.

**Academic dishonesty** includes, but is not limited to:

- Sharing academic materials knowing they will be used inappropriately.
- Accessing another person's work without permission.
- Providing false or incomplete information on an academic document.
- Changing student records without approval.
- Obtaining and using texts or other materials intended for instructor use only.

**Plagiarism** includes, but is not limited to:

- The presentation of another's published or unpublished work as one's own.
- Taking words or ideas of another and either copying them or paraphrasing them without proper citation of the source.
- Using charts, graphs, statistics or tables without proper citation.

### **Levels of Academic Misconduct and Sanctions**

The faculty member teaching the course has the primary responsibility for resolving allegations of academic dishonesty, though egregious violations will be resolved by the School administration, the Academic Misconduct Board, or some combination thereof. The final decision on the level of a violation rests with the Academic Misconduct Board. Options for

resolving an alleged case of academic dishonesty range from dismissing the allegation with no negative sanction to being expelled from the university ([Academic Misconduct Policy: Table 1](#)). A negative sanction is defined as an action taken by the faculty member that affects the student's grade for the assignment or his or her cumulative grade for the course. Anytime academic misconduct is detected, the procedures outlined in [Academic Misconduct Policy: Table 1](#) should be followed. The incident will be maintained in a searchable database maintained by the Office of Academic Affairs.

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## Copyright Statement

In recognition of the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code), Upper Iowa University reminds both faculty members and learners that a willful infringement of the law may result in disciplinary action. The University library has available materials discussing the "fair use" concept, along with criteria and guidelines for reproduction and use of copyrighted materials.

This syllabus is subject to change.

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