

**Ed 2121 Introduction to Education  
Mini-Unit Assignment**

Teaching units vary in scope and depth. Throughout a school year teachers prepare units which cover major concepts with multiple lessons, activities and assignments. These units generally run two to three weeks in length. Teachers also prepare smaller mini-units which normally cover one major concept or focus on a theme. A mini-unit often asks an essential question that students need to understand. A mini-unit is usually completed within three to five days.

You will create a mini-unit of 3-5 days in length for a particular subject area and grade level. If possible, prepare the unit for the class you are currently observing or assisting in your practicum. Select one major concept or essential question that will be the focus around which you prepare your daily lessons. Prepare a lesson plan for each day using the format for lesson planning as instructed in class.

Follow the template to organize your unit.

Mini-Unit Grading Rubric

	Below 1 Requirement	Meets 2 Requirement	Excellent 3	Score x Weighting
Major Concept	Not well defined	Clearly stated	-----	____ x 1 = ____
Unit Goals	Not well defined	Clearly stated	-----	____ x 1 = ____
Essential Vocabulary	Vocabulary choices are appropriate in terms of content but there are too many or too few terms	Vocabulary choices and quantity are appropriate to mini-unit	-----	____ x 1 = ____
Prerequisite Knowledge	One or more prerequisite knowledge, skills, or preassessment sections is missing or is inappropriate to unit goals	Prerequisite knowledge and skills are clearly related to unit goals, preassessment is inappropriate or is not discussed in adequate detail	Prerequisite knowledge and skills are clearly related to the unit goals, preassessment appropriate to goals and discussed in detail	____ x 1 = ____
Overview/ Rationale	Discussions are too brief or are missing an area (students, rationale, significance); or relationship between rationale, students, significance, cannot be determined.	Discussions are adequate but would benefit from greater detail OR discussions are detailed but the relationships between the students, rationale, and significance do not seem appropriate	Discussions of students, rationale, and significance are thorough and detailed. All elements relate to each other appropriately	____ x 1 = ____
Calendar	Calendar is present but does not contain the three elements discussed in the template	Calendar contains all three elements listed in template, adequate detail without being cumbersome	-----	____ x 1 = ____
Lesson Plans: Objectives	The format of the objectives does not follow the prescribed cognitive behavioral objective style and the objective uses procedures or activity verbs rather than cognition and learning verbs	One aspect of the objective (format, learning and cognition verbs) is usually appropriate or strong while the other consistently needs improvement	The format of the objectives is consistently correct and the verbs and language used in the objectives apply to cognition and learning behaviors, not procedures	____ x 1 = ____

Lesson Plans: Procedures	Lesson plan procedures are very brief and sketchy and do not provide an adequate basis from which to teach lessons	Lesson plan procedures can be followed with some effort on the part of the reader but would benefit from more detail	Lesson plan procedures are thorough and detailed, easily followed by a substitute teacher or other outside reader	_____ x 2 = _____
Lesson Plans: Instructional Flow and Content	Students (and outside readers) may have difficulty seeing how lessons relate to each other; students are expected to teach themselves in the unit		Lessons lead into each other logically and instructional activities relate to each other; content of instruction is appropriate and teacher is engaged in delivering content, not just monitoring student tasks	_____ x 2 = _____
Lesson Plans: Supplemental Materials	Few supplemental materials needed to teach the lessons are included with the lesson plans	Most supplemental materials needed to teach the lessons are included but not all	All supplemental materials needed to teach the lessons (powerpoints, images, worksheets, test, etc.) are included	_____ x 1 = _____
Assessment	Consistently the assessments lack a connection to the unit and lesson plans or the format of the assessment is not appropriate for what is being assessed.	Occasionally the connection between lesson content and some of the assessments are not clear or assessment type is repetitive or inappropriate.	All assessments are appropriate to what students are learning; formative and/or performance assessment are emphasized.	_____ x 2 = _____
Reflection	Reflection is extremely brief and lacking in detail.	Reflection needs more depth but author has made a good effort to address most areas.	Reflection is thorough and detailed and addresses all guiding questions as well as other areas of concern to author.	_____ x 1 = _____
Grading: 41-37 A; 36-33 B; 32-29 C; 28-25 D; 24-0 F			Total	