

# ***DIFFERENTIATING THEMATIC UNITS FOR THE DIVERSIFIED NEEDS OF YOUR STUDENTS***

**INSTRUCTOR:** Susan Cook

**DATE:** TBD

**CONTACT: E-MAIL** [L2TSEC3@optonline.net](mailto:L2TSEC3@optonline.net)

**OFFICE HOURS:** 4pm-11pm

**AUDIENCE:** K-6 General elementary and inclusion teachers

**ROADMAP:** Detailed in the course documents

**DESCRIPTION:** This course will have participants discuss ways of teaching the same content at many different levels (breaking down the task to allow all students to participate at their academic level and learning modality). They will decide on a topic/theme to explore and develop a unit which will include activities in a variety of curriculum areas (science, SS, math, Technology, L.A.,...). They will incorporate heterogeneous activities (cooperative groups, leveled materials) as well as homogeneous activities utilizing a variety of learning modalities. Team activities and discussions will be utilized to fully develop ideas and perspectives on content presented.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

Participants will;

- develop an understanding of differentiated instruction and evaluate it's usefulness in an elementary classroom
- become familiar with the technique and demonstrate an understanding of the task analysis approach to teaching
- synthesize and make connections with the task analysis approach and how it is a useful tool for developing differentiated instruction
- create a thematic unit of instruction utilizing a multi/cross-curricular approach
- develop lessons for each of the outlined objectives for their unit

-investigate the use of assessments as an evaluation tool and develop assessments to use with their thematic unit

## **STANDARDS ADDRESSED:**

-The specific NYS standards addressed will vary. It will depend upon the individual units developed by the participants; *MST*: *SS*: *Arts*: *ELA*:

- ISTE NETS for Teachers: V

## **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Microsoft Office (Mac or Windows) for assignments [knowledge of; MS Word, internet and e-mail; participation in blackboard tutorial]
2. Participation in Synchronous Activities

## **POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATION FOR IN-SERVICE:**

**The following criteria must be met to be recommended to receive in-service credit:**

1. Participants must log into the class at least three times a week.
2. Participants must observe appropriate on-line netiquette and professional dialogue.
3. All assignments are to be submitted by 11:59:59 p.m. of the due date. Late assignments will be posted in the 'Late Assignment' thread and must be submitted within one week of the due date.
4. All assignments must be completed according to the guidelines in the rubric for each particular assignment.
5. Any participant who plagiarizes will not be recommended for in-service credit
6. In group assignments and activities (synchronous activities), participation is essential and will be evaluated according to the guidelines on the rubric.
7. Participants should address technical problems immediately.

