

Dillard University
Division of Educational and Psychological Studies
COURSE SYLLABUS
ED 100 and ED 200: Testing Seminar, Fall 2004

Number of Semester Hours:

1 credit hours

Time and Date:

4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. – Thursdays

Classroom Location:

DUICEF Bldg/ Room 101

Tenure of Course:

August 12, 2004 to December 13, 2004

Course Instructor:

Annie J. Daniel, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Education

Office Phone and Email:

(504) 816-4487 – adaniel@dillard.edu

Office Hours:

Wednesdays- 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Thursdays-1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Office Location:

DUICEF Bldg – Room 234

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

-William Butler Yeats

A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every passerby leaves a mark.

-Chinese Proverb

Prerequisite: None for ED 100 and ED 100 for ED 200

Web Address for Syllabus:

<http://ajdaniel.org/TestingSeminar2004.doc>

Course Description:

This course focuses on the Praxis I section of the Praxis series. Students will review and examine the competencies required for successful completion of the Praxis I examination. Additionally, it will provide students with strategies and techniques that will improve their test taking skills.

Goals of the Course:

Upon completion of this course students will be able to demonstrate a mastery of test taking techniques and strategies that will assist them to improve their Praxis I test scores. This course will provide students with hands on activities (using both traditional and computer assisted methods) that will develop their critical thinking skills and test taking abilities.

Course Requirements:

As a requirement of ED 100 & 200, it is mandatory that you register for and take the Praxis I Assessment by November 18, 2004. Your failure to register for and take the Praxis I Exam by December 2, 2004 will result in you receiving an “I” in the course. If this happens, you will have six weeks into the next semester to take the Praxis I Exam or the “I” will automatically convert to an “F” for the course and you will have to retake the course. You may take the Praxis I exam at any point during the course.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course students will be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

1. An understanding of the foundations of Praxis I assessment.
2. Comprehension of the basic concepts of test taking.
3. Knowledge of Praxis I components and testing procedures.
4. Proficiency in applying practical test taking techniques and strategies.
5. Develop knowledge and skills in math, reading and writing, as they apply to Praxis I.
6. Develop critical thinking skills and apply these skills when taking standardized tests.
7. Demonstrate acceptable competence in math, reading and writing, with the use of pre-tests, practice exercises and post-tests.
8. Access information about test taking using electronic tools such as the Internet, world wide web, various databases, the ERIC clearinghouses, on-line university libraries, etc.

Textbook:

Postman, R. (2000). *How to prepare for the Praxis I PPST/CBT*. New York: Barron's Educational Series, Inc. (ISBN: 0-7641-1443-3)

Estrada, R. (2003). *Preparing for the Praxis Exams*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Merrill Prentice Hall (ISBN: 0-13-097315-7)

Required materials:

- (1) A basic calculator.
- (2) A three-ring binder for class packet and practice materials.

Optional supplementary material:



<http://www.ets.org/praxis/prxtest.html>



<ftp://ftp.ets.org/pub/tandl/01361.pdf>

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Praxis I Computer-Based Testing Information

<http://www.ets.org/praxis/prxcbt.html>

Praxis I Test Dates for Paper-based Test

<http://www.ets.org/praxis/prxdates.html>

2004-05 DATES

Register for the Praxis II tests Online at www.ets.org/praxis

ETS must receive registration forms by the dates below:

TEST	TEST DATE	ETS must receive registration forms by the dates below:				Approximate** SCORE REPORT MAILING DATES
		Registration must be received by	Late Registration must be received by (with \$40 late fee)	Centers Outside U.S. or Inside U.S. Territories	Fee Waiver Requests, and Monday Centers in the U.S. or Puerto Rico	
All Tests Offered (except MSAT and Teaching Foundations)	September 11, 2004*	August 10, 2004	August 17, 2004	July 6, 2004	July 21, 2004	October 12, 2004
	November 20, 2004	October 19, 2004	October 26, 2004	September 21, 2004	October 6, 2004	December 21, 2004
All Tests Offered	January 8, 2005*	December 7, 2004	December 14, 2004	November 9, 2004	November 24, 2004	February 8, 2005
	March 5, 2005	February 1, 2005	February 8, 2005	January 4, 2005	January 19, 2005	April 5, 2005
All Tests Offered (except MSAT and Teaching Foundations)	April 16, 2005*	March 15, 2005	March 22, 2005	February 15, 2005	March 3, 2005	May 17, 2005
All Tests Offered	June 11, 2005*	May 10, 2005	May 17, 2005	April 12, 2005	April 27, 2005	July 12, 2005

NOTE: We must receive your registration form by the appropriate date, or you will be charged a \$40 late fee. Not all test centers are open on all test dates. See the Test Center List on *pages 42-55*.

* PLNE test dates.

** Please allow at least ten days for mail delivery.

The Praxis Series

Teaching and Learning Division Online

www.teachingandlearning.org

John Venn -Study Aids and Test Tips Sites

www.johnvenn.com

Boyd, R. T. (1988). Improving your test-taking skills. ERIC Digests: ERIC Document
Reproduction Service. Available online: <http://ericae.net/db/edo/ed302558.htm>

**Additional materials will be provided throughout the semester by the professor.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK:

The Division of Educational and Psychological Studies infuses all curricula with the understanding that honor, respect and develop the gifts and rich heritage each person brings to the program. The unit identifies five concepts-values, spirituality, culture, knowledge and skills-and four integral processes - reflection, relationally, inquiry and interaction - that under gird all curricula and instruction. These concepts and processes empower students to PASS ON the unit's vision by being that witness and communicate unity and community.

The Division of Educational and Psychological Studies seeks to build on its heritage to prepare graduates who are critical thinkers and problem solvers, who are culturally competent, and who possess a high level of social responsibility. To achieve this purpose, the Division of Educational and Psychological Studies strives to prepare students who are adept at aligning principles of learning with culturally relevant pedagogy.

<i>COURSE OBJECTIVES AND CORRESPONDING DIVISIONAL OBJECTIVES</i>	
DIVISIONAL OBJECTIVES	COURSE OBJECTIVES
1A. Students will be able to think broadly and critically, i.e. possess a familiarity with a broad range of concepts and identify fallacies.	4 & 6
1B. Students will engage in problem-solving activities...to demonstrate the ability to analyze, draw inferences, and utilize effective thinking processes and problem solving techniques.	2, 4, 5, 6 and 7
5A. Students will demonstrate proficiency in using technology, i.e., identify technology integration strategies for making the most of scarce technology resources.	8

GENERAL METHODOLOGY USED IN TEACHING THIS COURSE:

It is hoped that the students and professor will create a community of learning as we explore the different test-taking strategies and methods, in which students will willingly share information. Students will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning. The value of this course is directly related to your willingness and abilities to construct your own knowledge bases from what is presented in this course and from what we all present to each other in this course. Student preparation and participation is essential to your progress.

Independent reading, study and reflection of class assignments and supplementary materials are fundamental to our progress. Students will be expected to be on time to class, bring course binder and other materials to class daily, have read all assigned materials and be ready for discussions on the assigned topics.

EVALUATION:

DIVISION OF POINTS FOR FINAL GRADE

Your final grade for this course will be based on a system of **600 possible points** following the divisions below.

A. Tests (Mid-term and Final)	200 pts. = 34%
B. Weekly Assignments	100 pts. = 17%
C. Class Participation , Attendance and Punctuality	300 pts. = 50%
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TOTAL	600 pts = 100%

Tests:

To encourage student preparation and to provide one form of assessment feedback, tests and quizzes based on the text, class lectures, discussion and related assignments will be given weekly, at mid-term and at the end of the semester. The two major tests (mid-term and final at 100 points each) will be multiple-choice. The last test will be comprehensive, covering the key objectives of the course and other materials, e.g. readings, lectures, discussions, practice tests, pre and post-tests and testing strategies and techniques.

Group Work:

To encourage collaborative work among students, to provide student choice in course content, and to provide the opportunity for you to construct knowledge with your peers, group work will provide one form of assessment. All students in each group will receive the same number of points for each assignment.

Weekly Assignments:

To encourage active student participation in class, there will be weekly assignments. These will relate to the test taking strategies and other sources such as journal articles, books and current testing issues. Lectures, class discussions, teaching aids and readings will aid in helping the student develop his/her test-taking skills.

Attendance and Punctuality:

In the culture of pre - K-12 schools, regular attendance and being punctual are very important. To illustrate this importance, you will earn two points for every day you are on time to class and earn eighteen points for every day you attend class and have your binder and related materials and participate in class activities. These points cannot be made-up.

ALL PAGERS and CELL PHONES *MUST* BE TURNED OFF WHEN IN CLASS!

Dependability and Punctuality:

To further encourage dependability and punctuality, all work/activities/assignments are expected to be completed on time. In an emergency or in case of illness, it is your responsibility to contact the professor prior to class, whenever possible. You may be asked to provide medical documentation for absence due to emergencies or illness.

Assignments/tests turned in late may be subject to the following point deductions:

- 5 points per day (24 hours) per individual, with medical documentation
- 20 points per day (24 hours) per individual, without medical documentation

Other Requirements for Written Assignments:

All work must be legible, using approximately 12 point font (1" margins and double spaced), & prepared on a word processor (or typed).

Academic Honesty:

Cheating, plagiarism, using someone else's work as your own, or knowingly allowing someone else to use your work as their own, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. In such cases, the student may fail the course and the incident may be reported to the Dean of Students.

<i>FINAL GRADE SCHEME</i>		
Point Range	Percentage Range	Final Grade
552-600	92-100	A
528-551	88-91	A-
510-527	85-87	B+
492-509	82-84	B
474-491	79-81	B-
456-473	76-78	C+
438-455	73-75	C
420-437	70-72	C-
402-419	67-69	D+
378-401	63-65	D
360-377	60-62	D-
359 and Below	<60	Fail

Test Schedule:

Test material focuses on the activities listed and will be cumulative to include all reading assignments, course materials related class assignments/activities.

Test Dates: Mid-Term: TBA Final Exam: TBA

Evaluation:

Designated learning activities, course binder with class assignments and activities; and this *will* include participation in cooperative learning groups, periodic pre and post-tests, and two examinations. Students *will* be expected to maintain a Testing Seminar Binder with all class work and assignments completed in the course.

As a requirement of ED 100 & 200, it is mandatory that you register for and take the Praxis I Assessment by November 18, 2004. Your failure to register for and take the Praxis I Exam and report your score by December 2, 2004 will result in you receiving an “F” in the course. *Your are responsible for keeping your instructor informed about your test scores and updating your final grade in the course.*

Louisiana testing dates and sites for the PRAXIS 2004-05 testing year:**2004-2005**

TEST DATE	Registration Must be received by	Late Registration Must be received by	Centers Outside U.S. or in U.S. Territories	Monday Centers in the U.S. or Puerto Rico	Approximate Score Report Mailing Dates
09/11/04*	08/10/04	08/17/04	07/06/04	07/21/04	10/12/04
11/20/04	10/19/04	10/26/04	09/21/04	10/06/04	12/21/04
01/08/05*	12/07/04	12/14/04	11/09/04	11/24/04	02/08/05
03/05/05	02/01/05	02/08/05	01/04/05	01/19/05	04/05/05
04/16/05*	03/15/05	03/22/05	02/15/05	03/03/05	05/17/05
06/11/05*	05/10/05	05/17/05	04/12/05	04/27/05	07/12/05

Testing Sites

Alexandria--LSUA

Baton Rouge--Baton Rouge High School

Hammond--Southeastern LA University
 Lake Charles--McNeese University
 Monroe--University LA Monroe
 New Orleans--University of New Orleans
 Ruston--Louisiana Tech
 Shreveport--Centenary College
 Thibodaux--Nicholls State University

Major Study Units:

A unit may take more than one week or class meeting to complete in a thorough way; a few may require less time.

WEEK 1 & 2 August 26 & September 2, 2004	Overview of course and introduction to online resources.
WEEK 3 September 9, 2004	Overview of Praxis Exam and Pre-test for Math
WEEK 4 <i>Unit 1: Mathematics Review</i> September 16, 2004	Review Results of Math Pre-Test Discuss and Practice Strategies to improve Math scores. Mathematics Review
WEEK 5 September 23, 2004	Whole Number Computation Basic Algebraic Concepts Statistics
WEEK 6 September 30, 2004	Mathematics Review Cont. Probability and Statistics Basic Geometry and Measurement Problem Solving
WEEK 7 October 7, 2004	Post-Test for Mathematics - Discuss results Review for Mid-Term
WEEK 8 October 14, 2004	Mid-Term Exam
WEEK 8 October 21, 2004	Discuss the Writing Component of Praxis I · Part I - Sentence Correction · Part II - Essay Writing Pre-Test - Discuss results

	Discuss Strategies for Writing Test
WEEK 9 October 28, 2004	Begin English Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Nouns and Verbs · Pronouns · Subject-Verb Agreement · Comma Splices and Run-on Sentences
WEEK 10 November 4, 2004	Continue English Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Sentence Fragments · Parallelism · Diction · Punctuation Discuss Strategies for Taking the Multiple-Choice Test and Essay Writing Test
WEEK 11 November 11, 2004	Post-Test for Writing Discuss results and review strategies Discuss the Reading Component of Praxis I Reading Pre-Test - Discuss results Discuss Strategies for Reading Test
WEEK 12 November 18, 2004	Vocabulary Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Context Clues · Roots · Prefixes · The Vocabulary List Review Strategies for Reading Test Post-Test for Reading Discuss results and review strategies
WEEK 13 December 2, 2004	Complete Praxis I Practice Test (Math, Writing and Reading) Discuss results, strategies and testing techniques Review of Test-taking strategies for Math, Writing and Reading Review General Guidelines for Praxis I Exam Review for Final Exam
WEEK 14	Final Exam--TBA

NOTICE:

The contents of this document maybe changed and/or updated by the instructor, when this happens you will be notified in class.

Praxis I Resources

Louisiana Praxis Registration Bulletin

A special registration bulletin was prepared for test-takers in Louisiana. Pick up your copy at teacher preparation colleges and universities throughout the state.

<http://www.ets.org/praxis/prxla.html>



Test Prep Review - Online Practice tests

Your Source for Online Practice Tests

http://www.testprepreview.com/praxis_practice.htm



General assistance with Praxis and testing.

<http://www.teachertests.com/>



Reading and Writing assistance.

http://register.uncfsu.edu/f_jackson/praxis.htm



<http://www.drmath.com/library/>



Ask Dr. Math™

<http://www.drmath.com/dr.math/>

Regents Exam Prep Center

Visit the following websites to obtain additional help with Mathematics

<http://regentsprep.org/Regents/math/math-a.cfm>

<http://regentsprep.org/Regents/mathb/mathb.cfm>

<http://regentsprep.org>

Standard Deviant - Online Video Clips and Interactive Quizzes

Standard Deviant Website

<http://standarddeviants.com/pls/brain/cerebellum.home>

This website is great for immediate assistance with learning how to do and understanding a particular math problem and there is assistance for English Grammar and Writing.

Just click on your subject area to the left of the website. Click "Watch video clip" to see a video clip or try out the quizzes and tests. A few are listed below.

Basic Math Video Clip

http://standarddeviants.com/pls/brain/cerebellum.show_subject?p_subject_id=26

Basic Math Interactive Quizzes

http://standarddeviants.com/pls/brain/cerebellum.show_quiz?p_subject_id=26

Pre-Algebra Video Clip

http://standarddeviants.com/pls/brain/cerebellum.show_video_resource?p_subj_id=30

Algebra Interactive Quizzes

http://standarddeviants.com/pls/brain/cerebellum.show_video_resource?p_subj_id=26

English Composition

http://standarddeviants.com/pls/brain/cerebellum.show_subject?p_subject_id=19

Writing Guide

Information on writing and English

<http://oswego.org/staff/tcaswell/wg/index.htm>

StudyZone

<http://studyzone.org>

Postman, R. D. (2001). Barron's How To Prepare for the PRAXIS I: PPST/CBT Pre-Professional Skills Test and Computer-Based Test. ISBN: 0-7641-1443-3 Barron's Educational Series, Inc.; 250 Wireless Boulevard; Hauppauge, NY 11788; Phone: 631-434-3311; Fax: 631-434-3723

Bobrow, J. (1996). Cliffs Praxis I Pre-Professional Skills Tests Guide : Preparation Guide Paperback - 301 pages 2nd edition. Cliffs Notes; ISBN: 0822020521

Learning Express (1998). Ppst: Praxis I : Pre-Professional Skills Test Paperback - 272 pages Book & Cd edition. Learning Express; ISBN: 1576851362

Postman, R. D. (1999). Barron's How to Prepare for the PRAXIS: with Audio Compact Disc, 2nd Edition. Paperback - 700 pages 2nd Bk & Cd edition. Barrons Educational Series; ISBN: 0764171402 Barron's Educational Series, Inc. 250 Wireless Boulevard Hauppauge, NY 11788 Phone: 631-434-3311