GRADUATE COURSE SYLLABUS
Topics in Educational Leadership for Superintendents
EAD 970

Course Location: Westminster College OM303

Instructor: Dr. Eugene M. Thomas
thomasem@westminster.edu
740-357-2677

Office Hours: By Appointment

Catalog Description: A study of topics such as special education, elementary education, secondary education, vocational education, community education, declining enrollments, financing schools, local control, and management-employee relations. The impact upon the school administrator is the focal point.

Required Textbooks: OPTIONAL


2. Articles, journal writings, research findings and contemporary literature are utilized to prepare reports on today’s educational topics such as special education, elementary education, secondary education, community education, declining enrollment, school funding, local control, ESSA. Digital learning, assessment of student achievement, budget trends in teacher evaluation, year-round schooling, and superintendent/board relationships.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. Plagiarism, cheating and class disruptiveness is not permitted. Students should be intimately familiar with Westminster College’s Academic Integrity Policy. The Westminster Policy provides a detailed description of what is considered academic integrity, behaviors which are viewed as breaches of the policy, the procedures that will be followed in every case of violation of the policy and the consequences of violating the policy. Students are also required
to follow the Pennsylvania Code for Professional Practice and Conduct. Failure to access and to become familiar with either code is not justifiable excuses. All written work will be electronically submitted to Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection service. Details about this service will be described in class.

Cheating on exams or assignments, plagiarism, or class disruptiveness may result in penalties ranging from an “F” on an assignment or the course to expulsion, depending on the seriousness of the offense. Unless specifically described, all assignments are to be done individually and not in groups.

**Electronic Devices and Class Disruption:** The operation of cell phones, pagers, text messaging, etc., are not permitted unless advanced permission is given by the instructor for emergency situations. The Academic Integrity Policy will serve as a guide for instructor response.

**Disability Policy:** Students who desire some form of accommodation for a diagnosed learning disability or physical problem must inform their instructors at the beginning of each semester (within two weeks) as to the nature of the disability and type of accommodation requested. If the disability or physical problem is diagnosed during the semester, students should inform their instructors immediately of the problem and accommodations needed. Student with disabilities should also inform the Disabilities Coordinator in the Office of Student Affairs, who is available to assist in evaluating the disability and to facilitate communication between the College and the student in considering special accommodations. The type of accommodation provided will depend on the needs of the student, the circumstances of the student’s classes, and the resources of the College.

**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>96-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94-95</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92-93</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-91</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82-83</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-81</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72-73</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-71</td>
<td>Of all possible points= D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 65=</td>
<td>Failure of course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EAD970: Spring 2018 EMT
**Objectives:**

1. To assist graduate students in the superintendency program to prepare succinct research reports on topics related to the superintendent’s position so that when asked to do so later by a school board, the administrator will be better prepared.
2. To identify three topics related to the superintendency from which the candidates could benefit from further study and research. Topics must be selected in consultation with the instructor.
3. To research and report on the selected topics related to the superintendency as a means of further education.
4. To establish the foundation of the portfolio which will be developed throughout the program and assessed in the exit interview.
5. To write and executive summary knowing the components and why this type of summary is important in a superintendent’s position.

**Web Resources:**
APA Format, APA example paper, APA sample paper.

**Written and Other Assignments:**
Students are required to complete three research papers on topics selected by the student and approved by the instructor and must be amenable to concentrated research, investigation, and formal presentation. Emphasis will be given to an effective introduction, clearly defined problem statements, a comprehensive review of the literature with the associated bibliography in APA format, conclusions drawn from the research project. These papers will be a minimum of ten pages. A fifteen minute formal presentation will accompany each project.

**Research**
Topics for superintendent study may be selected from: school finance, local and state authority, state testing and assessment of pupils, employees relations, collective bargaining trends and/or issues, elementary education PK-4, middle school 5-8, high school, special education issues, declining enrollment, NCLB concept for all children. Digital learning-online format, common core standards, equality-equitable schools: possible or myth, charter and/or corporate schools, school and/or district ratings set by the state, class size impact on learning, technology and cyber learning option, changing the face of education, strategic planning, teacher in-service, data-based decision making, and superintendent/board relations.

**Student Evaluation:**
Students will be evaluated on the basis of the three required research reports.
Class Schedule/Meetings:
Class will meet face-to-face and online (BLENDED). Out of class research and presentation preparation on topics will be assigned the first day of class which is **JANUARY 17, 2018.** The remainder of the scheduled dates will be assigned the first day of class.