



ArmchairEd Course Syllabus  
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**Overview:**

ArmchairEd.com currently provides continuing education to educators, using Educational Leadership magazine and premiere published books on cutting-edge educational themes and topics. The program has been operating since Fall, 2000, and has provided continuing education to hundreds of educators.

**Course Goals and Objectives:**

As a result of these courses, the student will be able to:

1. Stay current on educational themes and topics pertinent to teaching and education
2. Identify current research in education
3. Apply this knowledge to the student's current educational position

Course Name: The Differentiated School: 5 graduate quarter credits/3.3 semester credits

The following published book is currently being used as a text for the ArmchairEd course:

The Differentiated School (Tomlinson, C., Brimijoin, K., & Narvaez, L., 2008). ASCD, 236 pages.

This course assists administrators and teachers to implement differentiated instruction throughout their school. It also guides schools to make faculty-wide changes to this dynamic form of teaching and learning. Specific elementary and high school examples show how the school changes occurred and their sweeping positive effects for staff and students. The course focuses on schools' specific culture, how to support educators' to encourage each others' strengths, expand flexibility of instructional approaches, and foster growth and skill development with differentiation in the classroom.

**Credit Options:**

The course will be offered for five credits, based on the length and substance of the book. The five -credit course will include 50 multiple-choice questions and three required essays.

**Grading Rubric:**

Pass/Fail: Coursework must be passed with 70% criterion.

Letter Grade: 90%: A grade  
80% B grade  
70% C grade

Multiple Choice Test: 50% of overall grade

Essays: 50% of overall grade

**Three Essays Required**

Choose three essays from the following essay choices:

Essay 1: Each chapter, one through five, in the text begins with an introduction and a number of questions.

Consider the questions and use those to formulate an essay, answering from your understandings after reading the text.

Essay 2: Which of the schools profiled in the text (Conway or Colchester) is most like your school? In your essay, tell why and how and then discuss how your own building might be moved closer to becoming a differentiated school. Talk about the benefits and barriers to such a change.



Essay 3: For personal reflection on differentiation practices, copy p. 122 and 123 in the text. Circle the responses that fit your teaching in your classroom. What steps have you taken to differentiate instruction in your room? What else might you try? Talk about your feelings about differentiation after completing the text

Essay 4: Create your own demonstration of the learning you take from this text. Identify your topic and describe it in an introductory paragraph. You may choose from the list below or develop your own.

Action Research

Extended learning, including research and developed activities

Compare/contrast your current education practice to that of the text

Create forms or systems for use in your classroom including assessment tools

Plan an 'event', meeting or other pertinent program and report/reflect on it

You may combine any of these or develop your own. You may e-mail [info@armchaired.com](mailto:info@armchaired.com) if you desire specific permission for your topic. The essay must demonstrate knowledge of the course and text, and direct application to your own educational position.

Essay scoring rubric:

Essay information available on coursework download once course is ordered

Single spaced, 10 to 12 size font

Use of introduction and summary statement (even when a unit is developed)

Demonstration of grammar, spelling and writing skill

Demonstration of applied knowledge

**All essays must be fully completed and the rubric followed to receive a grade. Essays not completed to required length will not be processed and revisions will be required.**