



ED 106 – Praxis Preparation

Course Number: ED 106, Section 1

Course Credit: 1 (Pass/Fail)

Classroom Number: M (LRC 018F); W (LRC 316)

Class Time: M/W 2:00 – 2:50 p.m.

Class Dates: 10/31/2016 – 12/14/16 w/ final on 12/16/16 from 2:45-4:45

Name: Trisha Lamers

E-mail: tlamers@uwsp.edu

Office: 018H LRC

Telephone: 715-346-2150

Course Goals and Description:

This course is designed for future educators who are pursuing a Wisconsin Department of Education License and are planning to take the Praxis Core exam in its entirety. Alternatively, this course is for future educators who have taken the Praxis Core exam, but need to repeat all three subtests. In this course you will be introduced to the Praxis Core Exam for Educators which includes Writing (5722), Reading (5712), and Math (5732). The lecture portion of the class will cover basic test structure and expectations and will review common challenging areas of each subtest. The lecture portion of the class will be supplemented with a computer lab portion where each student will work on individual skills and identified areas of need. The goal of this course is to adequately prepare the student, both emotionally and academically for the Praxis Core exam.

Prerequisites: N/A

Textbook:

You will be required to get one of the following (your choice). We will talk about this in our first class, so feel free to wait.

1. learn.dummies.com – online access purchase (\$9.99)

OR

2. Kirkland, C., & Cleveland, C. (2014). *Praxis Core for Dummies*. Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (approximately \$27 – includes online access to learn.dummies.com)

Supplies:

Recommended: a pack of 4 X 6 index cards (for making flash cards).

Core Abilities:

- Understand the Purpose and Structure of the Praxis Core Exam
- Solve Problems
- Analyze Passages and Problems
- Communicate a Message
- Apply Mathematics Content Knowledge
- Apply Reading Content Knowledge
- Apply Writing Content Knowledge



Competencies: Students will aim to be able to...

- Achieve a Passing Score of 150 on the Praxis Core Math Exam by Exercising Core Abilities
- Achieve a Passing Score of 156 on the Praxis Core Reading Exam by Exercising Core Abilities
- Achieve a Passing Score of 162 on the Praxis Core Writing Exam by Exercising Core Abilities
- NOTE: The SOE does has an exception policy for those who have taken the test twice and have scored within 10 points of the passing score. Please see your handbook for details.

Assessment/Grading System:

Attendance

- Students are expected to attend all 16 sessions*.
- **Excused absences** require a phone call/email/visit and instructor approval. All missed work will need to be made up.
- **Unexcused absences are limited to one.** Please note that this one unexcused absences will affect a student’s grade by -2%. All missed work will need to be made up.
- If a student has more than one unexcused absence = fail.
- The following grading system is used to determine the pass/fail status. Pass > 85 points

Marking Period Grades:

1. Attendance..... 32 points (2 points/class)(16 classes)
2. Effort/Participation..... 16 points (1 point/class) (16 classes)
3. Weekly Presentations.....21 points (3 points/presentation)(6 presentations + 3 “gimme” points)
4. Notes or notecards..... 4 points
5. Argumentative Practice Essay.....9 points
6. Informative Practice Essay.....9 points (2 points extra credit points available, see #6 below)
7. Online Practice Outside of Class..... 9 points
8. FINAL – While not graded, you will pass only if it is complete.

1. Attendance Grade (32 points)

- Students are expected to attend all 16 sessions.
- **Excused absences** require a phone call/email/visit and a very good explanation. All missed work will need to be made up.
- **Unexcused absences are limited to one.** Please note that this one unexcused absence will affect a student’s grade by -2%. All missed work will need to be made up.
- If a student has more than one unexcused absence = fail.

2. Effort/Participation Grade (16 points)

- Stay on task
- Come to class prepared
- Participate in in-class activities
- Keep a good attitude
- Keep mobile phones off of desks/tables. Keep them on silent and out of sight.

3. Weekly Presentations (21 points)



- a. Students will present in each Monday class.
 - b. Presentations will be on a problem/question encountered in the previous week's online practice.
 - c. The presentation question and the answer should be submitted to drop-box BEFORE class on Mondays.
- 4. Notes or notecards (4 points)**
- Students are expected to make practice notes or notecards for questions/concepts that need review
 - Notes/notecards should be well-kept, organized and should be utilized.
 - Notes/notecards should be brought to each class.
- 5. Argumentative Practice Essay (9 points)**
- Students will write an in-class 30-minute, timed argumentative essay (2 **points**).
 - The student will schedule and meet with a Writing Lab tutor to discuss the essay and to **submit an edited/improved essay (4 points)**.
 - This revised essay will receive feedback from the instructor.
 - The student will revise the essay and resubmit (3 **points**).
- 6. Informative Practice Essay (9 points)**
- Students will write an in-class 30-minute, timed informative essay (2 **points**).
 - The student will schedule and meet with a Writing Lab tutor to discuss the essay and to **submit an edited/improved essay (4 points)**.
 - This revised essay will receive feedback from the instructor.
 - The student will revise the essay and resubmit (3 **points**).
- 7. Online Praxis Practice (9 points)**
- Students will each have their own online account for Praxis practice.
 - The account will measure "course progress."
 - In order to receive full points, you must display an average usage of at least 75 min/week and an acceptable percentile rank.
- 8. Final Exam (Needs to be completed to pass)**
- The final exam does not affect the course grade. However, in order to pass this course, you must complete the final exam session.
 - The score on the final is to help give you a picture of how prepared you are.

Note: Please note that taking this course does not ensure a passing score on the Praxis Core exam. Also note that passing scores on the Praxis are approximately equivalent to the following ACT measures in Wisconsin.

- Overall ACT of 23
- Math ACT sub-score of 20-23
- Reading/Writing ACT sub-score of 20-23



Course Schedule: October 31 – December 14, 2016

Week	Date	Topic (s) and Reference Sources	Lab	Notes & HW
1	Oct. 31, Nov. 2	Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Introductions • Course Introduction and Syllabus • Resources Introduction** (must pick up or sign up online before Wednesday's class) • Praxis Discussion • Tutoring discussion and sign up 	<u>Accessing the Online Practice Account</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set-up Account • Guided Navigation including how to "mark" questions for review • Practice • Instructor will rotate and work with students. • 1st Weekly Presentation Walk-through 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will need your book or online login before Wednesday's lab. • Ensure that you complete an average of 75 minutes/wk online. • Prep and Submit Weekly Presentation before M class
2	Nov. 7,9	Writing Focus Week 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Presentations • Writing Section Discussion • Writing Section Pretest 	<u>Praxis Practice with Assistance Available:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access Online Account – Praxis Practice • Ask questions when stuck • Prepare notes or notecards for concepts needing review • Instructor will rotate and work with students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75 minutes/wk online.. • Prep and Submit Weekly Presentation before M class
3	Nov. 14,16	Writing Focus Week 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Presentations • Writing Concepts for Argumentative Essays • Grammar Discussion 	<u>Praxis Practice with Assistance Available:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access Online Account – Praxis Practice for 10 min. • Ask questions when stuck • Prepare notes or notecards for concepts needing review • Prepare Word (File→ Options → Proofing → turn spell check and grammar check off) • Last 30 minutes – Argumentative Essay Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75 minutes/wk online practice • Prep and Submit Weekly Presentation before M class • WL appointment; Get essay feedback; DUE: Argumentative re-write by 11/23 to D2L Dropbox.
4	Nov. 21,23*	Writing Focus Week 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Presentations • Return Argumentative Essay with Comments – Discuss • Writing Concepts for Informative Essays 	<u>Praxis Practice with Assistance Available:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access Online Account – Praxis Practice for 10 min. • Ask questions when stuck • Prepare notes or notecards for concepts needing review • Last 30 minutes – Source-Based Essay Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75 minutes/wk online practice • Prep and Submit Weekly Presentation before M class • WL appt; Get essay feedback; DUE: source-based essay re-write by 11/30 to D2L Dropbox.
5	Nov. 28,30	Math Focus Week 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Presentations • Math Section Discussion • Math Section Pretest 	<u>Praxis Practice with Assistance Available:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access Online Account – Praxis Practice • Ask questions when stuck • Prepare notes or notecards for concepts needing review • Instructor will rotate and work with students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75 minutes/wk online practice • Prep and Submit Weekly Presentation before M class • FINAL Argumentative Essay Due 12/7



Week	Date	Topic (s) and Reference Sources	Lab	Notes
6	Dec. 5,7	Math Focus Week 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Weekly PresentationsImportant Math Concepts for:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Numbers and quantityAlgebra and functionsGeometryStatistics and Probability	<u>Praxis Practice with Assistance Available:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Access Online Account – Praxis PracticeAsk questions when stuckPrepare notes or notecards for concepts needing reviewInstructor will rotate and work with students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">75 minutes/wk online practicePrep and Submit Weekly Presentation before M classFINAL Source-Based Essay Due 12/14
7	Dec. 12,14	Reading Focus Week 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Weekly PresentationsTalk about “final” *take a mini-Praxis *alternative times possibleReading Section Pre-TestGo through reading pre-test	<u>Praxis Practice with Assistance Available:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Access Online Account – Praxis PracticeAsk questions when stuckPrepare notes or notecards for concepts needing reviewNotecard/Notes checkDisplay progress in online accountFinal words/advice/questionsCourse Feedback Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none">75 minutes/wk online practiceNote/Notecard Check on 12/14Outside class practice check (goal = 600 minutes since) on 12/14
Final Exam	Dec. 16 (2:45-4:45) or by appt.	Final Exam Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">Final SurveyTake an abbreviated practice examDiscuss resultsFinal Exam is NOT graded, but must be taken in order to pass this course.		