

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Instructor: Dr. David Kagan Office: PhSc 106C Physics Department Office: PhSc 106A

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Office Hours: most times by appointment.

Prerequisites: 200B and faculty permission. Requires CAVE Clearance. Visit www.aschico.com/cave prior to the beginning of classes for instructions.

Summary of the Course: The instructor will arrange for you to spend 45 hours in a physics class with a local high school teacher and will communicate on a regular basis with this teacher. This course can satisfy the “Early Field Experience” requirement for entrance into the CSU Chico Credential Program. The high school teacher, guided by their professional expertise, will give you as much responsibility as they feel you can handle. You, at minimum, should observe the class and assist students with activities and laboratory work. I would encourage you to ask for the opportunity to grade papers, give presentations, prepare activities or experiments and perform other duties that will give you a greater sense of the career you are considering. You should also be sure to visit some of the teacher’s other classes to get a full sense of the professional demands on a high school physics teacher since they rarely have a full day of physics classes.

You will be expected to turn in a written journal of your activities, a portfolio of any materials you prepared for the class and present a talk back at the department describing your experience. In addition, you must request a letter of recommendation from the teacher verifying the forty-five hours. See Credential Program Issues below.

The instructor will meet with you individually at least four times, in addition to your 45 hours in the high school classroom. Once before you begin, once after completing 10-15 hours, after completing 20-25 hours, and after completing 30-35 hours. At each meeting we will discuss what you should be looking for in the classroom and, in the later meetings, what you have observed. During each meeting you will be assigned appropriate Observation Prompts, which are posted on the course web site to help focus your observations. We will discuss your responses to the prompts at the following meeting before assigning the next prompts. The Observation Prompts we decide to use depend upon the depth of your involvement in the classroom.

Grading: CR/NC only

The Rules: Remember that you are a guest in another teacher’s classroom as well as a representative of the university and our department. Conduct yourself in a manner appropriate to these responsibilities. It is especially important that you make yourself helpful to the teacher. This professional earns no reward for taking you on. Be certain that you are making the teacher’s workload lighter and not adding an additional burden to their already full slate of responsibilities.

Credential Program Issues: The credential program requires a letter verifying the following information:

- amount of hours worked in the classroom
- grade level
- classroom demographics must include English Learners, ethnic minority, low socioeconomic and/or special populations pupils in the classroom
- university course that required the field experience hours (489T)

NOTE: Credential programs generally require two letters of recommendation. At least one letter must be from a credentialed teacher or school administrator who has seen you work with children in a school setting. This letter could serve both purposes if it also includes commentary on your performance.

All these issues can be addressed with the Candidate Disposition Form, which is posted on the course web site along with a rubric for the form.