

San José State University
Science Education
Science Education 174, Learning Assistant Pedagogy Course, Fall 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Gina Quan (<i>pronouns: she/her/hers</i>)
Office Location:	Science 264
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Email:	gina.quan@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	TBD or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Thursdays 4:30-7:00pm
Classroom:	Online (see Canvas for Zoom information)

Course Format

SCED 174 is a seminar course. The seminar meets every Thursday for 2.5 hours.

Course Web Page and Online Material

Course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions can be found on Canvas at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through Canvas. Course announcements will be posted on Canvas.

Course Description

This course helps Learning Assistants (LAs) integrate educational theory, pedagogy, content, and practice by focusing on practical concerns and associated theoretical models. You are responsible for weekly readings, in-class discussions, out-of-class data collection, reflections, projects, and presentations based on your experience as an LA.

Course Goals

In this course, you will:

- Reflect on your own teaching and learning,
- Develop your own ideas and perspectives on teaching in discussion with peers,
- Connection your experiences to education theory and literature,
- Try out a variety of teaching strategies, and judge the utility of these strategies,
- Listen to your students, generate interpretations about students' ideas and experiences, and act on those interpretations (formative assessment),
- Develop an understanding of the intellectual, social, cultural diversity of students, and
- Envision and influence future changes to university instruction.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand claims and key concepts from science education literature and judge the utility of these claims in relation to your experiences as learners and educators.
2. Document teaching episodes comprehensively for the purpose of generating interpretations and analyses.
3. Analyze classroom events in a critical and scholarly way by building claims about students learning, using evidence from classroom events or student work, drawing on relevant key concepts, and constructing multiple interpretations of events.
4. Imagine future or alternative educational practices, through considering how educational settings could be improved and critiquing the current educational system.
5. Collaborate and communicate effectively with others in order to support the classroom community's learning and growth.

Required Text

There is no required textbook. All class readings will be posted on our Canvas website. A tentative schedule is listed below, but readings and deadlines are subject to change.

Course Assignments

There are four types of assignments: Weekly assignments (class readings, weekly meetings); Periodic assignments (Field Notes); an Ongoing Project (Interview Project); and Single-Event Assignments (Peer Observations, Student Evaluations, Final Poster). The personal relevance of this class experience depends on the active participation of all members. Our primary activity will be in-depth discussions of course topics and readings. A detailed description of all course assignments is posted on Canvas.

Submitting Your Work

All graded work will be uploaded to Canvas. Assignments can easily be uploaded by using a browser on the computer or the Canvas app on your smartphone to photograph your work and submit it. There will be a discussion thread on Canvas about dealing with technical issues that you may encounter, and the tech support staff at Instructure, the company behind Canvas, is available via the “help” button in Canvas. Please submit your work early enough that if you have technical issues, you have time to take advantage of these resources to resolve them as extensions will not be given.

Grading Information

All assignments in this course are graded on a 4-point scale (A+ corresponds to 4.3). If you have any questions about the course assignments, due dates, or the grading scheme, please contact me right away.

As such, the final course grades will correspond to the following average point ranges:

- >4.0: A+
- >3.7 to 4.0: A
- >3.3 to 3.7: A-
- >3.0 to 3.3: B+
- >2.7 to 3.0: B
- >2.3 to 2.7: B-
- >2.0 to 2.3: C+
- >1.7 to 2.0: C
- >1.3 to 1.7: C-
- >1.0 to 1.3: D+
- >0.7 to 1.0: D
- >0.3 to 0.7: D-
- Below 0.3: F

The course grade will be calculated as follows:

Assignment	%	Criteria	Additional Notes
Weekly Class Readings, Discussion, and Participation (N=15)	30%	Active participation in # of classes: 15 = 4 ~12 = 3 ~8 = 2 <8 = 1 (max)	In the case of an excused absence, you can make up missed participation by writing a 500-700 word description of the article and how you would use the main ideas with your students (due within one week of the missed class).
Field Notes (N=5)	15%	Submitted on time: 5 = 4 4 = 3 3 = 2 <3 = 1 (max)	On-time reflections will be evaluated according to course learning goals. Reflections submitted late will receive an additional half-point deduction for every day late.
Peer Observation	20%	Discuss results from LA observations with your partner in class in Week 8	You will need to write up your observations and submit them on Canvas. During class in Week 8, you will discuss your observations with your partner.
Interview Project	15%	See requirements on Canvas	Incomplete documentation will result in a grade reduction to be determined by instructors.
Student Evaluations	5%	Completed and documented on time = 4	Graphs, tables, findings are due in Week 10 in class. We will discuss them in our group.
Final Poster Presentation	15%	See requirements for this assignment above	This poster will be presented in the final poster session. Faculty in the College of Science will be invited, and this poster is intended for a general audience, not just this class.

Classroom Protocol

All assignments are to be turned in on time. Please let the instructor know no later than 12 hours before the due date if you won't be able to meet the deadline for an assignment (except reading assignments). Unannounced late assignments may not be accepted or may not be eligible for full credit.

Active participation in class is expected. Please be punctual! If you know you will not be able to attend a class session, please notify the instructor no later than 1 hour before class starts.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Course Schedule

The course schedule is available on Canvas.