**Introduction to the Teaching Profession**

**Course Outline**

Unit 1: Historical Roots of the American Education System 4-6 weeks

1. Development of the American Education System
   1. *Interpret how the diversity of the original colonies shaped our educational system and analyze the role of religion in colonial schools.*
   2. *Critique how the early national period influenced education in this country.*
2. Historical Background of American Education
   1. *Analyze the impact of the common school movement on education today.*
   2. *Assess the historical roots of contemporary secondary schools.*
3. Cultural Themes in American Education
   1. *Compare and contrast the similarities and differences in minority groups' struggles for educational equality.*
4. Teaching in an Era of Reform
   1. *Assess and analyze how schools became instruments for national purpose during the modern era.*

Unit 2: Learning to Teach & Develop an Educational Philosophy 10-12 weeks

1. Characteristics of Beginning Teachers
   1. *Identify the characteristics beginning teachers need to develop.*
2. Learning to Teach
   1. *Summarize the theoretical foundations necessary to teach.*
3. The Complexity of Teaching & the Many Hats of Teachers
   1. *Analyze the major rewards and challenges in teaching.*
   2. *Critique the essential characteristics of professionalism and how they relate to teaching.*
4. The Development of Educational Philosophy
   1. *Differentiate the major educational philosophies of education and identify examples of each.*
   2. *Investigate why a personal philosophy of education is important and construct the steps involved in developing one.*

Unit 3: The Art & Science of Teaching 12 weeks

1. What Drives Student Motivation
   1. *Identify the instructional factors that increase students' motivation.*
2. How to Plan for Effective Teaching
   1. *Describe the basic steps in planning for instruction.*
3. The Characteristics of Effective Teachers
   1. *Develop essential teaching skills and interpret how they are implemented in the classroom.*
   2. *Assess instructional strategies and formulate their application in learning activities.*
4. What is Classroom Management and the Relationship to Discipline
   1. *Illustrate the characteristics of a productive learning environment and investigate the impact on learning.*
   2. *Analyze the processes involved in creating a productive learning environment.*
   3. *Relate the role of discipline in classroom management.*
5. What is Curriculum and the Relationship to Standards
   1. *Distinguish the relationship between curriculum, instruction and standards.*
   2. *Formulate the different forces that influence curriculum.*
   3. *Critique prominent controversial issues in curriculum.*

Unit 4: Diversity in Education and the Evolution of Schools 12 weeks

1. Impact of Cultural Diversity in the Classroom
   1. *Assess the influences of cultural diversity on learning.*
2. How to Address Gender, Sexual Orientation, and Religion in Instruction
   1. *Investigate how gender differences, sexual orientation and religious differences influence school success.*
3. How to Plan for Differences in Ability and Learning Styles
   1. *Critique how schools have changed the ways they help students with exceptionalities.*
4. The Impact of Changes in Family Structure and Society on Teaching and Learning
   1. *Distinguish key societal changes and the implications of these changes on education.*
   2. *Analyze the different socioeconomic patterns and how they influence school success.*
   3. *Evaluate how the American family has changed over the last 50 years and the implications for teaching and learning.*
5. The Law, Tenure, Freedoms and Responsibilities of Teachers
   1. *Interpret the requirements of a teaching certification in NJ.*
   2. *Apply the specifics of school law, Title IX, tenure, academic freedom, teacher liability, and religion in schools, with an emphasis on NJ.*