**Gifted & Talented Seminar I**

**Course Syllabus**

**Tracey Palmer**

**Course Overview**

GT Seminar I is a comprehensive course design for students entering into the Gifted & Talented Program at Eastern. This course includes interactive activities and multicultural projects representing a wide variety of learning styles. This course is designed to enrich the lives of its participants through discovery and creative problem solving. The course was designed around the following Autonomous Learner Model. A careful examination of this model will give students a better understanding of the ways in which they can develop a life-long love of learning.

**Course Objectives**

1. Explore simulation as a tool in the classroom
2. Create speeches to inform/persuade and deliver them to an audience
3. Debate contemporary issues
4. Identify different types of critical/creative thinking
5. Develop problem solving strategies
6. Independently accomplish an advanced research project on a topic that is student activated
7. Discuss characteristics of eminence
8. Identify learning styles through the use of various instruments

**Course Materials**

Betts, George T. and Jolene K. Kercher.  *Autonomous Learner Model Optimizing Ability.* Np. 1999. Print

DeBono, Edward. *Cort Thinking Breadth.* New York: Pergamon Press, 2009. Print

Goertzel, Ted George and Ariel M.W. Hansen. *Cradles of Eminence.* 2nd ed*.* Scottsdale: Great Potential Press, 2004. Print.

Markham, Thom. *A Guide to Standards-Focused Project Based Learning for Middle and High School Teachers.*  Buck Institute for Education. 2003. Print.

**Unit 1 – Autonomous Learner**

* Learning Styles Inventory & Multiple Intelligences
* Introduction to Databases
* Instruction on Writing Position Papers
* Instruction on Developing Annotated Bibliography using MLA format

**Unit 2 – Global Issues/Simulations**

* Introduction to United Nations
* DeBono’s 6 Hats Strategy

**Unit 3 – Critical Thinking Strategies**

* Bloom’s Taxonomy
* DeBono’s Cort Thinking
* Introduction of Presentation Skills using Fairy Tales

**Unit 4 – Independent Study**

* Developing Research Questions according to Bloom’s
* In-depth research on topic to include paper, bibliography and presentation

**Unit 5 – Examining Eminence**

* Compare traits and factors common among the lives of the eminent
* Conclusion of Multiple Intelligences

**Assignments**

* Position and Core Papers
* Multi-Sensory Projects
* Annotated Bibliography per unit
* Individual and Group Presentations