

SYLLABUS FORM

Workshop Title: (limit to 4 words)

Innovator's Mindset book study

Instructor(s)

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Workshop Description (Proofread carefully. For courses offered to the general public, this will appear on the USF Web Site):

Kids walk into schools full of wonder and questions. How you, as an educator, respond to students' natural curiosity can help further their own exploration and shape the way they learn today and in the future. The traditional system of education requires students to hold their questions and compliantly stick to the scheduled curriculum. But our job as educators is to provide new and better opportunities for our students. It's time to recognize that compliance doesn't foster innovation, encourage critical thinking, or inspire creativity - and those are the skills our students need to succeed. In The Innovator's Mindset, George Couros encourages teachers and administrators to empower their learners to wonder, to explore - and to become forward-thinking leaders. If we want innovative students, we need innovative educators. In other words, innovation begins with you. Ultimately, innovation is not about a skill set; it is about mindset.

Workshop Objectives:

By the end of the book study, participants will be able to...

*define innovation as it pertains to teaching and learning.

*identify and describe the 8 characteristics of an innovator's mindset.

*describe what learning and leading looks like in a school where an innovator's mindset is embraced and embodied.

*identify what makes relationships and relevance fundamental to teaching and learning.

*compare and contrast engagement and empowerment.

*list the characteristics of strength-based leadership.

*recognize the importance of the 4 Cs for Future-Ready schools: Critical thinking, Creativity, Communication & Collaboration

*define your own vision for new learning and plan the implementation of one thing to help move closer to making this vision a reality.

Evaluation Criteria: (Include brief description of required assignments and evaluation methodology.)

To earn credit for this course, participants will...

*complete 5 quizzes (online, using Quia). Quizzes will count for 50% of the final grade in the course.

Quiz 1: Part 1, Chapters 1-3; Quiz 2: Part 2, Chapters 4-7; Quiz 3: Part 3, Chapters 8-9 ; Quiz 4: Part 3, Chapters 10-12 ; Quiz 5: Part 4

*respond to 10 blog posts (online, using Blogger) that correspond to the text and the TED talks. Blog Posts will count for the other 50% of the final grade.

Blog Post 1: What is the biggest change you've made in your classroom? Was it easy or hard? Were you willing or resistant? Are you glad you did? If you haven't made a major change in your classroom recently, what change would you like to make in the near future? Why?

Blog Post 2: George Couros, in his TED Talk "#Our Voice", shares his favorite quote, the one he says "drives him". What does this quote mean to you? In what area of your life or what ways are you maybe heading towards irrelevance? In what area of your life or what ways do you need to change? How do you feel about change? Name a time in your life when you first feared change, but on the other side of it, found things better because of it.

Blog Post 3: Are you a school teacher or a classroom teacher? Explain which aspects you embody well and which areas need improvement. How would teaching in a school filled with "school teachers" make your job easier?

Blog Post 4: Jim McKenzie, in his TED talk "Future Ready Schools", indicates today's students are well-schooled, but poorly educated. How does this statement make you feel? What does it inspire you to do? Choose one of the 4 Cs from this video. How do you ensure this "C" is a part of your students' education.

Blog Post 5: How do you model and explore new opportunities for learning in your own practice? How do you model and explore new opportunities for learning in your own life? (hobbies, organizations, etc.) Do you give your students opportunities to see you acting as a life-long learner. If so, how? If not, why not or how could you?

Blog Post 6: Barry Schwartz, in his TED talk "The Paradox of Choice" tells us what he believes to be the secret to happiness. Do you agree or disagree? What would you say is the secret to being a happy teacher? What would you say is the secret to being a happy person in general?

Blog Post 7: How do you use the concept of "competitive collaboration" to accelerate the growth of your students? (If you currently don't, how could you?) How would you like to see "competitive collaboration" used among teachers in your school? How could this benefit the professional development of all teachers?

Blog Post 8: Sterling Hawkins, in his TED talk "Discomfort is Necessary for Innovation" references MacGyver and the concept of "innovate or die". How does this concept apply to teaching and learning? Have you ever locked yourself in that metaphorical freezer? Describe the last time you did something out of your comfort zone? If you can't think of one, what could you do in the next weeks or months that is out of your comfort zone?

Blog Post 9: After reading this book, what is your new vision for learning?

What is one thing that you are going to implement immediately to help move closer to make this new vision for learning a reality for your students?

Blog Post 10: Feedback: Share your thoughts about his course with us.