

Curriculum Design: Planning for Understanding

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Enduring understandings, performance assessments, learning activities, rubrics and assessment task lists, are all foci of this four day intensive seminar in Cleveland, Ohio. Using the powerful “backwards design” model developed by Wiggins and McTighe (*Understanding by Design*, ASCD) teams of participants will outline a unit of study. This summer course is designed for experienced educational leaders -- directors, department heads, family educators, informal educators, central agency personnel, experienced teachers, etc. -- who especially enjoy thinking conceptually about curriculum. Teams from the same school or community are encouraged to attend together.

Nachama Skolnik Moskowitz (MAHE, HUC-JIR), is the Director of Curriculum Resources for the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland and a nationally recognized expert in Jewish education, specifically, curriculum development. She is the author of numerous books, articles and curricular materials, as well as a popular and engaging educator. This is her eighth summer teaching a UbD seminar for her national and local colleagues.

SCHEDULE

- Sunday, June 28
12:30pm-6:30pm
- Monday, June 29
9:00am-5:30pm
- Tuesday, June 30
9:00am-5:30pm
- Wednesday, July 1
9:00am-3:00pm

LOCATION

Jewish Education Center
of Cleveland
2030 S. Taylor Rd.
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118
Phone 216-371-0446
Fax 216-371-2523
www.jecc.org

Sponsored by:
The Jewish Education Center of Cleveland
The Laura and Alvin Siegal College of Judaic Studies



COURSE INFORMATION

THE COURSE

The JECC's popular summer seminar is an introduction to the curricular model, Understanding by Design, with a focus on its application in Jewish settings. Participants will learn how to plan with the results in mind by crafting good Enduring Understandings and writing engaging Essential Questions. Time will be spent developing strong assessments, as well as focusing on the process of creating learning activities that are coherent to the rest of the curriculum.

Those who attend in teams will be able to create a unit specific to their settings. Those who attend as individuals will join with others to create a curricular unit of common interest. In previous years there has been a fair amount of good-natured negotiating, both to create teams and to choose a topic for the week's work. It's important to note that in the end, not everyone can leave with exactly the unit s/he had thought about creating. Sometimes this is because the desired unit's focus does not mesh well with the Understanding by Design process; in this case, the JECC staff helps team members reconceptualize their focus, while still creating a curriculum for the desired subject area. Sometimes, this is because only one idea can be developed by a group during our time together; in this case, those who don't have their exact idea chosen by their team, will still walk away with valuable process-skills. In addition, everyone takes home a copy of the work done by the other teams. In every year of the seminar, participants have the opportunity to work with those in similar settings, grade level groupings and/or subject areas. In every year, participants leave pretty happy with the results!

FEES

Course fee payable to the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland - \$550

- The fee includes tuition, meals (kosher breakfasts, lunches, and snacks), as well as transportation between the JECC-reserved hotel and the JECC, if needed. Two optional dinners are also offered at no extra charge.
- Educators in JECC-affiliated schools receive an automatic \$350 Conference Grant in lieu of the JECC course stipend; total cost is therefore \$200.

Optional College Credit is available through the Siegal College of Judaic Studies and payable to Siegal College. Contact Ruth Kronick rkronick@siegalcollege.edu for details.)

- Three graduate-level credit supplementary fee for EDU 491Z - \$1,025
(*This amount is beyond the \$550 JECC course fee.*)
- Participants from JECC-affiliate schools should check with Ruth Kronick at Siegal College for the local three-credit tuition costs.

MATERIALS

The JECC provides participants with a notebook of materials; the cost included in the tuition. Optional this year are two books which, if desired, should be purchased in advance: *Understanding By Design Professional Development Workbook*, by McTighe and Wiggins (ASCD, 2004). It offers a large number of templates helpful in developing UbD curriculum.

The Strategic Teacher: Selecting the Right Research-Based Strategy for Every Lesson by Silver, Strong and Perini (ASCD, 2007). This latter book offers great supports for developing learning activities that mesh with strong UbD curriculum; it's a great reference and guide. If only one book is affordable, choose this one.

ACCOMODATIONS

The JECC has reserved a block of rooms at the Fairfield Inn and Suites in Beachwood, an approximate 25 minute drive from the airport. <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/lebh-fairfield-inn-and-suites-cleveland-beachwood/> Single or double rooms are \$99 + tax; our group name is “The Jewish Education Center of Cleveland.” This rate includes a hot breakfast buffet, though there will be a kosher breakfast daily at the JECC. The JECC will attempt to make matches between those coming alone and others who would like a double room. The JECC will provide transportation between the Fairfield Inn and the course location in the morning and evening, only. Of course, those with local contacts may opt to stay with a Clevelander, but must make their own daily transportation arrangements to and from the seminar.

DESTINATION . . . CLEVELAND!

Cleveland in the summer is a wonderful family travel destination with fun activities like: Geauga Lake & Wildwater Kingdom, Indians Baseball, Cedar Point (incredible roller coasters), Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Hale Farm and Village, Great Lakes Science Center, and the renowned Cleveland Museum of Art. The particular week of this seminar, the Cleveland Indians have a Monday and Tuesday evening game. Theater and/or dinner out provide other alternatives to evening entertainment. The JECC helps participants make connections with each other and our city. However, those who wish to go to the Rock Hall should note that its only open evenings are Saturday and Wednesday – come early or stay late if this is on your “must see” list.

THE PARTICIPANTS IN PREVIOUS YEARS SAID THE FOLLOWING THINGS MADE THIS FOUR-DAY SEMINAR GREAT:

- Working with a group of peers in a new, unknown subject and feeling safe and then successful. Also being taught by professionals who really were expert in their field was outstanding.
- The hands-on experience of creating a UbD curriculum
- The friendships and collegiality of the group. Learning this incredible process!
- The opportunity to engage in each element of the UbD process, rather than simply relying on listening or reading about it. Working with colleagues from other schools was tremendous.
- The sense of community that built within the group. Small group time (even with the frustrating moments!).
- Nachama’s sharing and teaching and patience! The people in the class were wonderful and knowledgeable with great ideas.
- The resources available at the JECC were incredible and the fact that everything was available to us was so helpful!
- Working with and learning from other people fully committed to Jewish education.

Please note:

- ❑ Annual response to this course is often greater than the JECC can accommodate; early applications are encouraged.
- ❑ Those who seem to do really well with the intensive four days are those who have completed at least a BA, have at least 3 years experience as a Jewish educational leader (the more years, the better!), who enjoy thinking about curriculum, and enjoy conceptual work.
- ❑ Teams from one school or community are especially welcome!

REGISTRATION

Return this form, with a check for JECC/Siegal College fees to:
Curriculum Design Summer Course
Jewish Education Center of Cleveland
2030 S. Taylor Road, Cleveland, OH 44118

Name (Last, First) _____ Title _____

Institution _____

Address _____

Work phone _____ Home phone _____ Cell Phone _____

mail address _____ Fax _____

Preferred mailing address (if not the institution)

What are your current curricular responsibilities?

Why would this course be helpful to you?

What is your experience with *Understanding by Design*, if any?

Check all that apply:

- JECC fees (non-Clevelanders)
 - Enclosed is a check payable to the JECC for the course fee (\$550)
 - Please bill my institution for the JECC fee (\$550)
- JECC fees (educators in JECC-affiliate schools)
 - Enclosed is a check payable to the JECC for the course fee (\$200)
 - Please bill my institution for the JECC fee (\$200)
- I will be taking this course for graduate credit
 - Enclosed is a check payable to Siegal College (\$1025)
 - Please bill my institution for the fees due Siegal College (\$1025)
 - I'm a JECC-affiliate teacher and need the local fee schedule

PAYMENT IN FULL IS DUE BY MAY 29, 2009