



Midwest Teachers Institute
Teachers Helping Teachers

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MTI 572- Fostering Resilient Learners: Creating a Student Sensitive Classroom

MTI Contact Information:

MTI Email:	info@midwestteachersinstitute.org
Instructor	Mr. Pezzuto has an M.Ed degree in Administrative Leadership from Olivet Nazarene University and a Masters of Arts in Teaching from Calumet College of St. Joseph. Mr. Pezzuto is an Administrator in Illinois currently serving as the Director of a STEM Magnet Academy. He has held numerous positions in education such as adjunct professor, curriculum developer, instructional designer and assisted the Calumet College NCATE accreditation committee in 2009. His graduate level research, vocation and experience focused on motivation, effective classroom management, differentiation, and teacher leadership. Mr. Pezzuto has extensive training in facilitating PLC's, CRISS strategies and Ruby Payne's models for education and poverty.
MTI Grading:	grades@midwestteachersinstitute.org

Course Information

Course Format (distance learning, online, webinar, experiential onsite courses):	<p>Distance Course *This is a 3 credit hour course. Independent study correspondence courses require 15 hours of contact time per graduate credit hour.</p> <p>Once you have registered for this course, your textbook will be sent to the address you used at checkout. The cost for the textbook has been included in your course price, there are no additional fees that apply. The textbook is yours to keep for further reflection at the conclusion of the course.</p> <p>Approximately 45 hours of instructional time is devoted to this course.</p>
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	<p>Please see rubrics below for assessment and grading criteria. MTI Instructor will evaluate, grade, and process your final work within 7-10 business days of receiving it. Grades will be posted within 14 days and a grade report via email will be sent to the student. Directions on how to order an official transcript are available by going to www.midwestteachersinstitute.org and clicking on transcripts.</p> <p>All distance courses allow you to work at your own pace as your schedule permits. All coursework is due within one year of the registration date. If you need more time due to unforeseen circumstances, please contact MTI at the address provided above to request an extension.</p>
<p>Formatting Requirements</p>	<p>All assignments should be included in the same document. Please do not submit separate documents for each portion of the course. The first page of your submission should include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Name ● Home address ● Email address ● School district name, address ● Date of submission <p>All following assignments must be submitted in the same order as they appear on the syllabus. Please name your document with your course number and full name (ex. 500JohnSmith). You may submit a Microsoft Word document or a Google document (if using Google, please make sure to allow the grader to comment on the assignments). Any missing assignment will be treated as a zero.</p> <p>Once you have completed all of your assignments, please submit them to grades@midwestteachersinstitute.org to be graded by your instructor.</p>
<p>Prerequisites and Credit Limits</p>	<p>All MTI courses are designed for educators who have a minimum of a bachelor’s degree and professional educator license. Prior to beginning the course, check with your district office to ensure that credit will be accepted for salary increase and professional development. All courses are for 3 graduate semester hours (credits).</p>
<p>Required Books and Materials</p>	<p>Souers, K. Hall, P. <i>Fostering Resilient Learners: Strategies for Creating a Trauma-Sensitive Classroom</i>. ASCD. ISBN 978-1-4166-2107-2.</p>
<p>Learning Outcomes/Competencies: At the completion of this course, the learner will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Articulate the effect of trauma on school children (physically and chemically); thus, altering their learning styles and preferences. InTASC 1,2,3,5,6 ● Develop a framework for integrating trauma-sensitive strategies into traditional curriculum. InTASC 4,5,6,7,8 ● Analyze pedagogical approaches for teaching students with a history of trauma. InTASC 1,3,5 	

- Identify the signs of trauma and detail the process for developing unit plans that address the traditional curriculum while cultivating strategies for creating a trauma-sensitive classroom. InTASC 1,3,9,10

Course Description: Fostering Resilient Learners: Strategies for Creating a Trauma-Sensitive Classroom will help teachers cultivate a trauma-sensitive learning environment for students across all content areas, grade levels, and educational settings. The authors—a mental health therapist and a veteran principal—provide proven, reliable strategies to help you:

- Understand what trauma is and how it hinders the learning, motivation, and success of all students in the classroom.
- Build strong relationships and create a safe space to enable students to learn at high levels.
- Adopt a strengths-based approach that leads you to recalibrate how you view destructive student behaviors and to perceive what students need to break negative cycles.
- Head off frustration and burnout with essential self-care techniques that will help you and your students flourish.

Educators face the impact of trauma in the classroom every day. This book is a guide to seeking solutions rather than dwelling on problems, to building relationships that allow students to grow, thrive, and—most assuredly—learn at high levels.

Learning Strategies: Professional literature analysis, personal reflection, project-based learning.

Experiential Learning Opportunities: Students will be reflecting on the assessments and tools that they develop/learn about in class and measuring/estimating the intended impact on student learning in the classroom. Students will learn by doing while completing a variety of activities throughout the course.

Assessments		Approximate contact hours for each assessment
Textbook Reading/Analysis- 205 PAGES	Required	17 hours
Text questions-(Ten questions at 9 points each)	90 points	6 hours
Applications- 2 @ 45 points each	90 points	8 hours
Action research project	100 points	8 hours
Final evaluation essay	100 points	6 hours
Total points possible	380 points	45 hours

Grading Scale: A (90-100%); B (80-89%)

****Anything below a B will not receive graduate credit and receive a failing grade of F.***

If you do not receive a B or higher, your work will be returned to you for further correction and completion. You will be allowed one (1) re-submit to your instructor to achieve a grade of B or higher. If after your

re-submit, you still do not achieve a B or higher you will receive a failing grade of F and therefore forfeit the 3 graduate credits.

Text Question Rubric- 10 questions @ 9 points each

Category	Superior (3 pts)	Sufficient (2 pts)	Minimal (1 pt)
<i>Supporting Evidence in Practice</i> ___/3	Response shows strong evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows some evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.
<i>Accuracy</i> ___/3	All supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Almost all supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Some of the supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.
<i>Grammar and Spelling</i> ___/3	Response includes 0-1 mistakes in grammar or spelling.	Response includes a few grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes several grammar and spelling mistakes.

Application Rubric- 2 applications @ 45 points each

Category	Superior (15-14 pts)	Sufficient (13-12 pts)	Minimal (11-10 pts)	Below Standard (9 to 0)
<i>Supporting Evidence in Practice</i> ___/15	Response shows strong evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows some evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows little evidence of ideas and insights from this course and there is little evidence they are applied to the classroom.
<i>Accuracy</i> ___/15	All supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Almost all supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Some of the supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Many of the supporting facts and statistics are inaccurately represented.
<i>Grammar and Spelling</i> ___/15	Response includes 0-1 mistakes in grammar or spelling.	Response includes a few grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes several grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes numerous grammar and spelling mistakes.

Action Research Rubric- 100 points

Category	Superior (20-18 pts)	Sufficient (17-16 pts)	Minimal (15-14 pts)	Below Standard (13 to 0)
<i>Review of Literature</i> ___/20	Outstanding inclusion of major theories and/or research studies.	Inclusion of major theories and/or research studies.	Limited inclusion of major theories and/or research studies.	No inclusion of major theories and/or research studies.

<i>Appropriate and Accurate Results/ Findings are Described</i> ____/20	Results/Findings appropriately and accurately described in extensive detail in relation to the research questions.	Results/Findings appropriately and accurately described in relation to the research questions.	Results/Findings either not appropriately or not accurately described.	Results/Findings not described.
<i>Grammar and Spelling</i> ____/20	Response includes 0-1 mistakes in grammar or spelling.	Response includes a few grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes several grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes numerous grammar and spelling mistakes.
<i>Methods and Procedures</i> ____/20	Complete and thorough description of data analysis methods.	Complete description of data analysis methods.	Incomplete and/or unclear description of data analysis methods.	No description of data analysis methods.
<i>Conclusions</i> ____/20	Insightful conclusions supported by the data and clearly linked to review of literature.	Accurate conclusions supported by the data and clearly linked to review of literature.	Limited or unsupported conclusions.	No conclusions.

Evaluation Rubric- 100 points				
Category	Superior (20-18 pts)	Sufficient (17-16 pts)	Minimal (15-14 pts)	Below Standard (13 to 0)
<i>Supporting Evidence in Practice</i> ____/20	Response shows strong evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows some evidence of ideas and insights from this course and how they are applied to the classroom.	Response shows little evidence of ideas and insights from this course and there is little evidence they are applied to the classroom.
<i>Accuracy</i> ____/20	All supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Almost all supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Some of the supporting facts and statistics are accurately represented.	Many of the supporting facts and statistics are inaccurately represented.
<i>Grammar and Spelling</i> ____/20	Response includes 0-1 mistakes in grammar or spelling.	Response includes a few grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes several grammar and spelling mistakes.	Response includes numerous grammar and spelling mistakes.
<i>Sequencing</i> ____/20	Response is written in a clear, concise, and well organized manner. Thoughts are presented in a coherent and logical manner.	Response is mostly clear, concise, and well organized. Thoughts are presented in a coherent and logical manner.	Response is somewhat unclear and/or disorganized. Some thoughts are presented in a coherent and logical manner.	Response is mostly unclear and/or disorganized. Many thoughts are presented in an incoherent and illogical manner.
<i>Reflection</i> ____/20	Response demonstrates an in-depth reflection on, and personalization of, the theories, concepts, and /or strategies presented in this course.	Response demonstrates some reflection on, and personalization of, the theories, concepts, and /or strategies presented in this course.	Response demonstrates a minimal reflection on, and personalization of, the theories, concepts, and /or strategies presented in this course.	Response demonstrates no reflection on, and personalization of, the theories, concepts, and /or strategies presented in this course.

Course Assignments

Text Questions: Read and Reflect- (90 points)

Each text question is designed to get you thinking about the concepts provided by the author. As you read the text, use the questions to help you reflect and how the information can be related to your current work. Each response is expected to be one paragraph or more.

1. Exploration of trauma sometimes launches a “nature versus nurture” debate. Why do you suppose some children are more strongly affected by certain events than others are? What does this suggest for us as professionals?
2. Think about some of the student behaviors you observe in your role. Examine them in context of the flight, fight, freeze framework. How does this change your thinking, if at all?
3. Consider a student you know who tends to create chaos. Think carefully about when and where this happens. Now try to determine the motive behind it.
4. What rituals have you developed to “set the table” with your students, your teams, your classes, and your daily routines? What might your students say about these?
5. Think of a student who is struggling in your class right now. What approaches have you taken to encourage his or her success? Brainstorm some ways you might expand your options.
6. What attributes do you think a person must have to “soldier on” and overcome the negative effects of trauma?
7. How can we teach resilience to our students to help them manage their not-OK?
8. Do you have students who you continually expect will misbehave? Do you find yourself waiting for them to misbehave? Do you sometimes avoid holding them accountable just to avoid a meltdown?
9. Do you find it difficult to identify the redeeming qualities in some people? When you have a negative impression of someone, can you identify his or her strengths?
10. What are some ways you can have a “cookie jar” accessible for yourself and your students? How might you use such a tool?

Application #1- (45 points)

With the knowledge you have acquired about “cement shoes” in chapter 3, create your own mission statement—a statement that encapsulates what drives you—based on your answers to the questions located on page 50. The paper should be 2-3 pages long, double spaced following APA format.

Application #2- (45 points)

Envision your student’s perspective: based on the content discussed in chapter 9, develop your answers

to the Reflective Questions (1, 2, and 3) into a 2-3 page paper, double spaced following APA format.

Action Research- (100 points)

Research **two** articles on childhood trauma and its effects on school children. Compare the thoughts of Kristin Souers and Pete Hall (from your textbook) and those of your researched articles. Then, compare them to your own school district. In what ways are they similar? In what ways do they differ? You may complete your assignment in a 3 to 5 page research paper following APA format. Please include your article when submitting your work.

- Article must be recent, having been published within the last 5 to 7 years
- Cited, you must provide the web address or other identification for the research you conducted. Include the date that it was published/retrieved, as well as the author(s).

Evaluation Essay

Summarizing what you have learned, write a persuasive paper for your colleagues and district to use the principles/strategies from this course. *How would you persuade your district to consider making changes to the traditional curriculum based on what you learned?* Write 3-5 pages APA format.

End of Course Survey

Now that you are finished with this class, please take the time to help us improve our product. In order to make sure that we are providing the best possible service, please take our [survey](#). We appreciate your help and your commitment to the profession.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is any form of cheating which results in students giving or receiving unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise or receiving credit for work which is not their own. Any academic dishonesty is grounds for dismissal. Any student judged to be engaged in cheating may receive a failing grade for the course, or any other penalty, which the instructor finds appropriate. Academic dishonesty is a behavioral issue, not an issue of academic performance. As such, it is considered an act of misconduct and is also subject to the University disciplinary process as defined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Acts of Dishonesty Include:

- Cheating—intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours.
- Fabrication—intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of information or citation in an academic exercise.
- Facilitating Academic Dishonesty—intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate a provision of the institutional code of academic integrity.
- Plagiarism—the deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, or statements of another person as one’s own without acknowledgement.

Unauthorized Collaboration—intentionally sharing information or working together in an academic exercise when the course instructor does not approve such actions.

ADA Statement

The University abides by the Americans with Disability Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no student shall be denied the benefits of an education “solely by reason of a handicap.” If you have a documented disability that may affect your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Coordinator as soon as possible to arrange accommodations. In order to receive accommodations, you must be registered with and provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Resource Office.

The Disability Resource office will provide Extended Studies with documentation of the disability and any accommodations that are needed.

InTASC Principles

The ten INTASC standards are listed below. Specific standards for knowledge, dispositions, and performances accompany each principle, but space does not permit listing them below. For a complete copy of the INTASC standards, contact Jean Miller, Director of INTASC, Suite 700, One Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC 20001-1431.

The InTASC Model Core Teaching Standards (April 2011)

The Learner and Learning

Standard #1: Learner Development

The teacher understands how learners grow and develop, recognizing that patterns of learning and development vary individually within and across the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical areas, and designs and implements developmentally appropriate and challenging learning experiences.

Standard #2: Learning Differences

The teacher uses understanding of individual differences and diverse cultures and communities to ensure inclusive learning environments that enable each learner to meet high standards.

Standard #3: Learning Environments

The teacher works with others to create environments that support individual and collaborative learning, and that encourage positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation.

Content Knowledge

Standard #4: Content Knowledge

The teacher understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) he or she teaches and creates learning experiences that make these aspects of the discipline accessible and meaningful for learners to assure mastery of the content.

Standard #5: Application of Content

The teacher understands how to connect concepts and use differing perspectives to engage learners in critical thinking, creativity, and collaborative problem solving related to authentic local and global issues.

Instructional Practice

Standard #6: Assessment

The teacher understands and uses multiple methods of assessment to engage learners in their own growth, to monitor learner progress, and to guide the teacher's and learner's decision making.

Standard #7: Planning for Instruction

The teacher plans instruction that supports every student in meeting rigorous learning goals by drawing upon knowledge of content areas, curriculum, cross- disciplinary skills, and pedagogy, as well as knowledge of learners and the community context.

Standard #8: Instructional Strategies

The teacher understands and uses a variety of instructional strategies to encourage learners to develop deep understanding of content areas and their connections, and to build skills to apply knowledge in meaningful ways.

Professional Responsibility

Standard #9: Professional Learning and Ethical Practice

The teacher engages in ongoing professional learning and uses evidence to continually evaluate his/her practice, particularly the effects of his/her choices and actions on others (learners, families, other professionals, and the community), and adapts practice to meet the needs of each learner.

Standard #10: Leadership and Collaboration

The teacher seeks appropriate leadership roles and opportunities to take responsibility for student learning, to collaborate with learners, families, colleagues, other school professionals, and community members to ensure learner growth, and to advance the profession.