

## **STEM 5023: Creativity and Innovation in STEM Education**

**University of Arkansas, College of Education and Health Professions  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction**

**Program Affiliation:** Career and Technical Education: Technology and Engineering Education and Childhood Education STEM Graduate Certificate

**Course Number and Title:** STEM 5023: Creativity and Innovation in STEM Education

**Catalog Description:** This course in technology and engineering education focuses on the development and introduction of technology and engineering-based activities to support science and mathematics instruction in the elementary classroom. Through hands-on, problem based learning challenges, students will develop an understanding of the design process and the integration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) often used to solve real-world problems. STEM 5023 may be taken for undergraduate or graduate credit.

**Prerequisites:** STEM 4033

**Meets:** T/TH 2:00-3:15pm and 4:00-5:15pm - Peabody Hall 317

**Instructor:** Dr. Vinson Carter  
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**Goals:** This course is designed to provide knowledge and methods for solving technological problems and teaching engineering design. Elements of design and theory will be applied through the development of design briefs.

**Technology:** As with all teacher preparation coursework, students are expected to demonstrate technological competence in this course. This technological competence will be demonstrated through the use of the appropriate technological hardware and software as well as other web-based applications. Candidates will utilize technology that enhances the instructional process during the completion on this course.

**Objectives:** Upon the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the historical background and development of the fields of design and engineering;
2. Describe the goals, objectives and organization of the Standards for Technological Literacy (National Standards);
3. Apply technical tools and resources toward solving human and environmental problems;
4. Develop confidence in the use and development of design models and engineering constraints;
5. Develop the ability to work in collaborative design teams to meet given criteria and solve engineering-related problems;
6. Utilize the fundamentals of design and engineering in the development and delivery of curriculum;
7. Utilize the vocabulary, primary concepts, definitions, and models applicable to engineering and design;
8. Demonstrate the ability to communicate engineering and design concepts with colleagues and students using oral, written, artifact-based, and graphic channels of communication;
9. Develop innovative and alternative teaching methods and learning activities that promote the teaching of engineering, design and the national standards for technology; and,
10. Develop and deliver lessons related to the content of this course while paying special attention to standards, behavioral or performance objectives, lesson content, teaching strategies, lesson activities, and assessment strategies.

### **Content Outline**

1. Introduction to engineering and design
  - a. The history of design
  - b. The history of the engineering profession
  - c. The vocabulary of engineering and design

- d. Engineering & design as a tool for teaching technology
  - e. The relationship between adjoining disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics)
2. The Standards for Technological Literacy
    - a. The role of the standards
    - b. The relationship between the standards and engineering
    - c. Delivering the standards through engineering and design
    - d. Using standards to develop curriculum
  3. Solving human and environmental problems
    - a. A search for a more comfortable life
    - b. Technology problem solving
    - c. Unexpected results/unintended consequences
  4. Fundamentals of engineering and design
    - a. Foundational concepts
    - b. Form, function, balance, texture, etc.
    - c. Adhering to design parameters and constraints
    - d. Technological assessment
  5. Tools of engineering and design
    - a. Questioning/clarifying the problem
    - b. Identifying constraints/limitations
    - c. Gathering research
    - d. Quantifying/mental modeling
    - e. Visioning and graphic representation
    - f. Drawing and modeling (including software usage)
    - g. Prototyping and assessment
    - h. Artifact development
    - i. Communicating the results of engineering/design
  6. Fundamental techniques
    - a. Engineering design (innovation)
    - b. Experimentation
    - c. Research and development
    - d. Troubleshooting
    - e. Invention
  7. Teaching with engineering and design
    - a. Teaching with the end in mind
    - b. The role of design and engineering in the classroom
    - c. Curricular assessment procedures, tools, and techniques
    - d. Developing curriculum and activities
    - e. Instructional methods for teaching engineering and design
    - f. Collaboration strategies

**Graduate Certificate in STEM:** This course is a part of a STEM concentration in the Childhood Education (CHED) MAT program. This course will be taken during the senior year of the undergraduate CHED BSE degree prior to entering the CHED MAT--Additionally, the course may be taken as a graduate course by CHED MAT candidates who complete their BSE at other institutions (additional graduate level assignments are included). The course will prepare candidates to implement STEM content and pedagogy in the elementary classroom.

**Evaluation:** Learning assessments (portfolio, assignments, quizzes, etc.) are designed to prepare the student to deliver course related material in the elementary classroom. These assessments will also serve as continuing preparation to teach integrated STEM education as well as serving as a STEM advocate or resource person in the elementary school. Grades for participating students will be calculated based on completion of the following assignments and activities:

**1. Daily and weekly assignments (200 points)**

Candidates will participate in ongoing daily and in-class design and engineering activities, assignments, readings, and discussion.

## 2. Curriculum Development/Presentation and Design Challenges (700 points)

Each candidate will develop and present STEM lessons and/or design activities related to integrated STEM education throughout the course. Additionally, candidates will work in engineering design teams to use tools, techniques, and materials to design within established constraints. Candidates will rotate from design team to design team as they work to solve technical problems/challenges.

## 3. Final Project (100 points)

**Grading Scale:** A=100-93; B=92-85; C=84-78; D=77-70; F=below 69.

**Syllabus Change:** The Instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are made, advance notification will be given to the class.

**Academic Honesty:** As a core part of its mission, the University of Arkansas provides students with the opportunity to further their educational goals through programs of study and research in an environment that promotes freedom of inquiry and academic responsibility. Accomplishing this mission is only possible when intellectual honesty and individual integrity prevail. Each University of Arkansas student/candidate is required to be familiar with and abide by the University's 'Academic Integrity Policy' which may be found at <http://provost.uark.edu/> Candidates with questions about how these policies apply to a particular course or assignment should immediately contact their instructor.

**Attendance Policy:** This course is reserved for candidates preparing to become professional teachers. Subsequently, the ethics and responsibilities of professional teachers will be expected of all participants. Candidates must attend all classes to receive the maximum benefit and to avoid leaving their professional responsibilities in the hands of classmates. Candidates will be allowed two "sick" days regardless if excused or unexcused, if needed. Additional absences will result in the lowering of one letter grade per absence in your final grade. Furthermore, two occasions of coming late to class or leaving early will be counted as one absence. Candidates are expected to arrive early, stay focused and attentive during the class, and submit all required materials prior to the due date. Late work will not be accepted for full-credit.

**Professionalism:** All candidates are to complete their own work during the semester. Although candidates are allowed to share ideas and learn from one another throughout the semester, students are not allowed to copy another person's work. All assignments must be original and completed individually unless working as a team on a given assignment. Candidates are required to maintain professional decorum during class. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off and out of sight during class. Inappropriate and disruptive classroom behavior (including the use of cell phones) will result in the loss of points from daily assignment grades. The only exception to this rule is when using a device to conduct research, take photos, record times, use appropriate software, etc. during a STEM design challenge while working in design teams.

**Syllabus Change:** The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are made, advance notification will be given to the class.

### Textbooks and/or Supplementary Materials:

Whiting, G. & Hickey, M. (2009) *Children's engineering: A handbook for elementary educators*. Richmond, VA: Children's Engineering Educators LLC.

Whiting, G. & Hickey, M. (2010) *Beyond the basics: Highlighting the T & E in STEM education*. Richmond, VA: Children's Engineering Educators LLC.

### Research Base:

International Technology and Engineering Education Association. (2000). *Standards for technological literacy: Content for the study of technology*. Reston, VA: Author.

Hallerman, S., Larmer, J., & Mergendoller, J. R. (2011). *PBL in the elementary grades: Step-by-step guidance, tools and tips for standards-focused K-5 projects*. Novato, CA: Buck Institute for Education.

Britton, E., De Long-Cotty, B., & Levenson, T. (2005). *Bringing technology education into K-8 classrooms: A guide to curricular resources about the designed world*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.