



A Story of Creation

Once upon a time, a new faculty at MSU-Mankato was assigned to teach a course known as ESSP 610 or Special Education Research Methods



ESSP 610 follows ESSP 600, an introduction to research course in which Master's Degree students were to:

1. learn all about educational research
2. fully design a capstone research project
3. complete the capstone proposal
4. complete the introductory chapter of capstone project

ESSP 600 was taught differently by different faculty without any set curriculum

Each ESSP 600 faculty explained The Capstone Project and expectations for what would follow in ESSP 610 differently

Furthermore, the department faculty had no unified outcome expectations for ESSP 600, 610 or the Capstone Project

The new faculty member was faced not only with the typical challenges of course construction, but of ameliorating a major problem with the Master's Degree Capstone for the department.

But, accepting the challenge, the new faculty member grabbed the seat of her pants, took what she learned in the CETL teacher certificate program and created...

The New & Improved ESSP 610

CETL Teaching Certificate
Program Capstone Project

By: Beth Handler

The new faculty member's experience in
ESSP 610 this semester is best
summarized by the Hopi term
Koyaanisquatsi

In terms of both the current instructional
activities of the course and the future
changes required

The Koyaanisquatsi of ESSP 610

From the Hopi
Language meaning
crazy life
life in turmoil
life disintegrating
life out of balance
a state of life that
calls for another
way of living

ESSP 610
Students had various
preparation, skill
levels, expectations,
content foci
Course outcome (i.e.,
a completed 2nd
chapter of capstone)
was unreasonable &
unattainable

The Koyaanisqatsi of 610 caused students to be confused about they were supposed to be writing



The
Koyaanisqatsi of
610 caused the
new faculty
member great
frustration and
anxiety until...

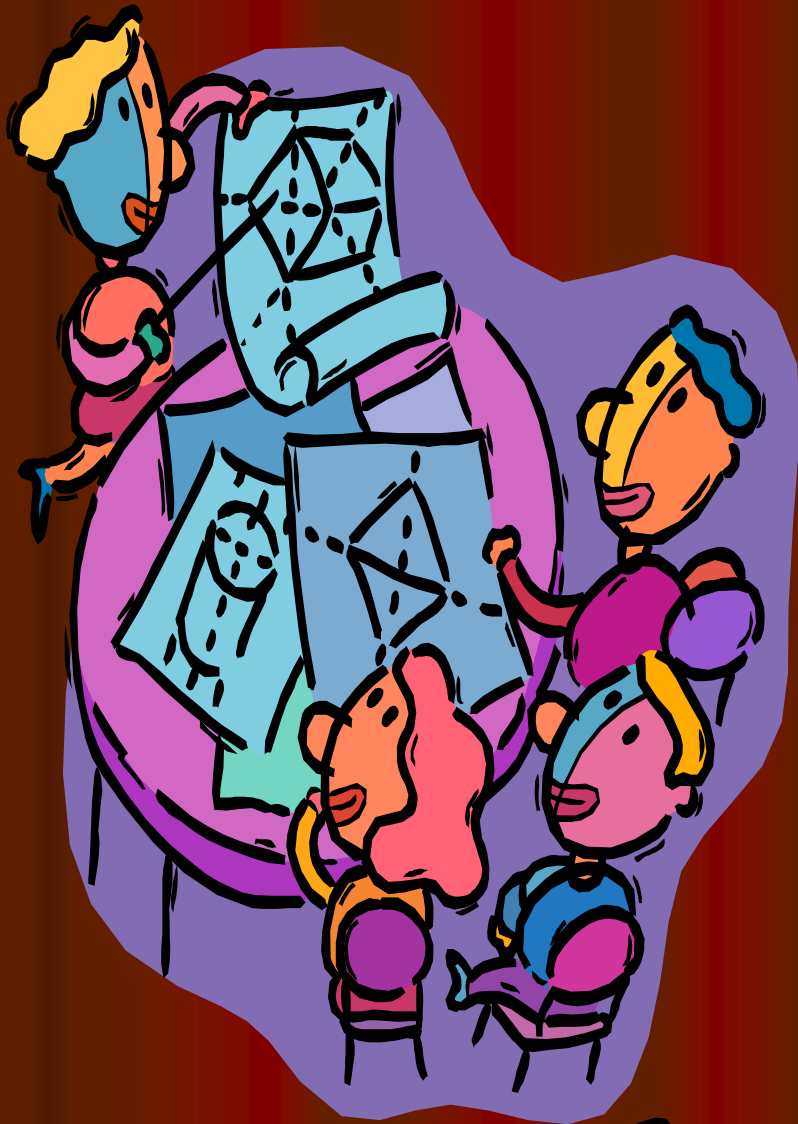


she could take it no
more.



The new faculty member racked her brain and decided that departmental action was called for.

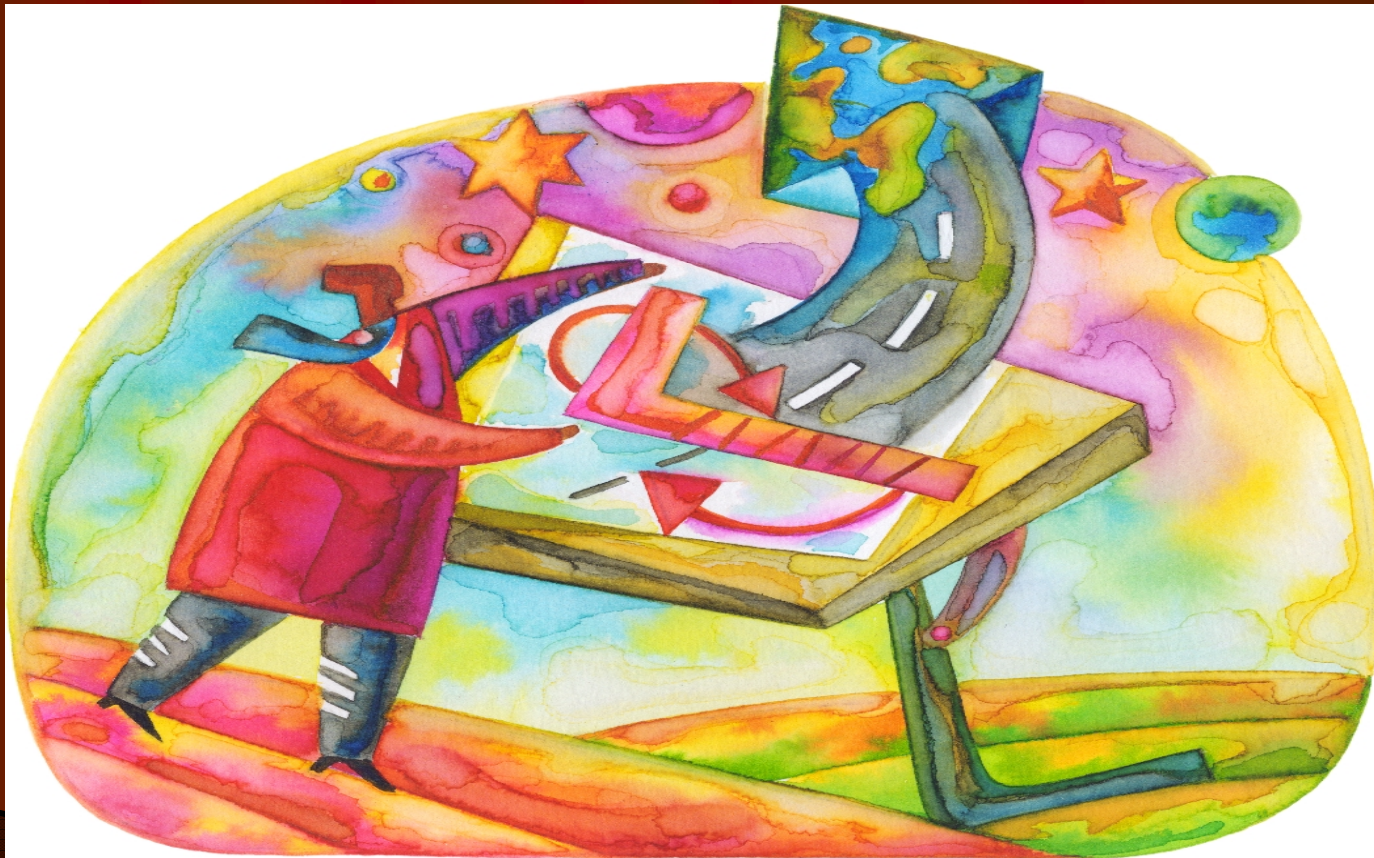




She took her ideas to the department faculty. They agreed that ESSP 600, 610 & the capstone needed revision and gave her their blessing to create something new



So, the new faculty member has begun working on the blueprint for the new and improved Master's Degree Activity Sequence



The new faculty member has much to do in developing the new Master's Degree Activity Sequence

She has begun that creation with the restructuring of the ESSP 610

Revised Course Structure for ESSP 610

Students will develop skills through modeled practice & class-based activities in a

Mock Review of Research

The class will complete an actual mini-review of research together

Class-based activities will parallel independent project activities

Mock Review of Research

Instructor will provide literature & topic focus

Students will individually review literature provided & share review notes with group

Group will determine quality & relevance of literature, organize material based on topic or themes & identify need for additional information

Individuals will search for, evaluate & share additional information with group

Group will integrate all material & sketch-out a draft of a review of research

Final Product

**Each Student will Produce an
Independently Completed Integrated
Review of Research**

On a topic from an instructor chosen list &
a partial reference list

To be completed in phases across the
semester



Through this restructuring, the new faculty member hopes to take the Koyaanisqatsi out of ESSP 610...

and to create a comprehensive, rigorous, & valuable sequence of research activities for MSU-Mankato Special Education Master's Degree Students



Questions?

Music from the Film Soundtrack
"KOYAANISQATSI"

Composed by Philip Glass

Conducted by Michael Riesman

Available on CD from Nonesuch Records

