



## **CAT 124 Practicum - Spring 2010**

### **Urban Discovery Academy**

<http://www.urbandiscoveryacademy.com>

**Address:**

2850 Sixth Ave

San Diego CA 92103

(Between Olive and Palm streets, across from Balboa Park)

**Professor:** Michael Cole [mcole@ucsd.edu](mailto:mcole@ucsd.edu)

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Office Hrs: Tuesday 10:00 – 11:00 and 1:00 – 2:00 SSRB Room 303

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This course is designed to provide you with an intense experience that combines the theories and information you've been acquiring in your classes with "real-life" practice in a community setting. The Urban Discovery Academy is a new Charter Elementary School (K-8) directly across the street from Balboa Park in San Diego. At Urban Discovery you will have the chance to work after school two afternoons per week, helping inner-city kids with their homework and one-on-one enrichment activities. These can be arranged around your own personal interests and skills, like digital media projects, visual or performing arts, science explorations, sports activities and more. Readings will be assigned that are directly related to your experiences in the program and will be discussed weekly at the site. You will also be investigating a research question of your making, one that is directly related to your major, writing weekly field notes, and writing a final paper at the end of the quarter.

The course has been designed to help you develop qualitative research skills (participant observation, field note taking, and data analysis techniques) and use field experience as the foundation for evaluating theories you are acquiring in your courses. As a result of participation in this class, you are expected to improve your writing skills for creating research reports, data analysis, and expository and narrative texts, and to enhance your interpersonal skills for communicating with adults and children in informal settings.

### **Group I**

**Practicum:** Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00 - 5:00 Practicum

**On-site Seminar:** To be announced

### **Group II**

**Practicum:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00 - 5:00

**On-site Seminar:** To be announced

### **On-line guidelines for writing field notes:**

<http://communication.ucsd.edu/rleucusay/comt115fa09/coursematerials/fnguide.html>

### **On-line field note database (where you submit your field notes):**

<http://fieldnotes.ucsd.edu/index.pl>

### **Readings:**

**Below is a partial reading list. Subsequent readings will be chosen as questions and topics of interest emerge from our work during the quarter.**

Cole, M., Olt, A. and Woodbridge, S. (1994). Documenting children's problem solving behaviors during computer based game playing by using fieldnotes of participant observers.

Kohn, Alfie. (1999) Punished By Rewards: The Trouble with Gold Stars, Incentive Plans, A's, Praise, and Other Bribes. Chapters 4 and 8.

Nocon, H., & Cole, M. (2006). School's invasion of "after-school": Colonization, rationalization, or expansion of access? In Z. Bekerman, N. Burbules, & D. Keller (Eds.), *Learning in places: The informal education reader* (pp. 99-122). New York: Peter Lang.

Practices to Foster and Avoid in Out-of-School Time Programs

[http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child\\_Trends-2010\\_01\\_28\\_RB\\_Practices2Foster.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2010_01_28_RB_Practices2Foster.pdf)

Reienauer, V., Cress, C., & Bennett, J. "Becoming Community: Moving from I to We." Chapter 2 in Christine Cress et al., *Learning through Serving: A Student Guidebook for Service-Learning Across the Disciplines*, 2005, Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing. P.33-42

Reienauer, V., Cress, C., & Bennett, J. "Creating Cultural Connections: Navigating Difference, Investigating Power, Unpacking Privilege." Chapter 5 in Christine Cress et al., *Learning through Serving: A Student Guidebook for Service-Learning Across the Disciplines*, 2005, Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing. p. 67-79.