



Public Spirit
1 Semester Credits/Units
Instructor – Ryan Pickett

Course Overview

Most educators experience social and emotional learning (SEL) through isolated programs that are separate from academics. Learn to be more effective and efficient in teaching such skills by embedding it into the daily academic curriculum. Explore one of the most important steps educators must take in this regard: building their students capacity to understand and uphold their ethical, civic, and social responsibilities.

Welcome to **Public Spirit**. This class was created as part of a five course series entitled **SEL: The Real Essential Skills**. These courses can be taken in isolation and/or in any order. There are no prerequisites. The other four courses in the series are:

- **Identity and Agency**
- **Emotional Regulation**
- **Cognitive Regulation**
- **Social Skills**

All five courses in the SEL: The Real Essential Skills series require one book entitled [All Learning is Social and Emotional Learning: Helping Students Develop Essential Skills for the Classroom and Beyond](#) by Nancy Frey, Douglas Fisher, and Dominique Smith. This book is available for purchase at www.Amazon.com.

Course Objectives

After completing the course Public Spirit, you will demonstrate or indicate:

- The definition of public spirit.
- The importance of public spirit.
- How to improve student respect and courage in your classroom.
- How to create lessons that promote ethical and civic responsibility.
- How to create curriculum and/or environments that improves student capacity for leadership.
- Demonstrate an improved ability to build public spirit in the classroom.

Course Relation to CCS or other Professional Standards

This course aligns to the following professional teaching standards: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ps/index.asp>

- Engaging and Supporting all Students in Learning
- Creating and Maintaining Effective Environments for Student Learning
- Understanding and Organizing Subject Matter for Student Learning
- Planning Instruction and Designing learning Experiences for all Students

How to Submit Coursework

After reading chapters 1, 6, and 7 in the book All Learning is Social and Emotional Learning, complete all of your assignments. Place each assignment 1-5 on a separate page in a single Word Processing file, clearly labeling each assignment by number and name. Submit the single document containing all 5 assignments to the *Independent Learning*, Submit Assignment Section. Some assignments may require supplemental documents. Attach these documents clearly labeled with your name and assignment number. If your assignments are too large for the assignment section or you create them in a format that cannot be attached (i.e. Google Docs), feel free to e-mail or share the documents directly with your instructor. Either way, be sure to email your instructor when you turn in any work.

Course Assignments

1. Conversations with Colleagues

- a. After reading chapter 6 of the book All Learning is Social and Emotional Learning, write a script of a conversation with one or more colleagues in which you help them define public spirit with respect to social and emotional learning and why it is so important to help our students build capacity in this area.
- b. Write a script of a follow-up conversation with the same colleagues that reflects on your current practices with respect to building public spirit within your students. Be sure to include your strengths as well as where you need to improve within your conversation.

2. Respect and Courage

After reading chapter 6 of the book All Learning is Social and Emotional Learning, create a plan for how you will create a truly respectful classroom where students have the courage to take risks. Describe your plan and explain your reasoning for each decision that you made. Be sure to include any forms or documents that you created in order to implement your plan in the future.

3. Lesson Plans

- a. Attach an existing lesson that you have taught your students that you feel has the potential to engage students with respect to their ethical and/or civic responsibilities. Explain why you chose this lesson.
- b. Utilizing the information that you learned in the book, All Learning is Social and Emotional Learning, alter and reattach this lesson improving upon its ability to engage students in their ethical and/or civic responsibilities. Explain the changes that you made.

4. Integration

What opportunities do you see in your course content to improve your all of your students' capacity for leadership. Explain where and how you might accomplish it.

5. Building Public Spirit

Pretend that you won teacher of the year due to your ability to build public spirit in your students. Because of this honor, you were asked to write an article for Education Weekly about building public spirit in schools. Write this article. While doing so, be sure to address Respect, Courage, Ethical and Civic Responsibility, Social Justice, and Leadership.

Course Assessment Rubric

Exemplary: A+ to A-	Acceptable: B+ to B-	Unacceptable Must be resubmitted
Reflective, thoughtful ideas relevant to the assignment are clearly stated	Presents some relevant ideas and connections to the assignment	Ideas are not clear or relevant
Very well organized	Generally well organized	Shows little or no organization
Responses relate numerous facts and specific details of the program materials	Some facts and specific details of the program materials are included	Few or no facts or specific details of the program materials are included
Free of spelling and/or grammatical errors	Writing contains a few spelling and/or grammatical errors	Numerous spelling and/or grammatical errors make the writing difficult to read