George Mason University
Department of Health, Fitness and Recreation Resources

HEAL 402 - Introduction to Driver Education Instruction (3)
Summer 2004

Day / time:	TBD	Location:	TBD
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Catalog Description

An introduction to the vehicle operator's tasks within the highway transportation system. Includes introduction to laboratory experiences in the use of psychomotor and psychological tests in the development of driving skills, practice driving instruction and teaching related to holding a driver's license.

Prerequisite

Student must have a valid driver's license for operating motor vehicle in VA throughout the duration of the course.

Course Description

This courses represents *Driver Task Analysis*, the first of two courses required by the Virginia Department of Education for an endorsement in driver education as well as by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles for employment in a commercial driver education school. The intent of this course is to develop a thorough understanding of the highway transportation system, the complexity of the driving task, factors contributing to the performance of highway users, and attitudes and skills necessary to develop competent drivers. It will also provide prospective teachers with the essential knowledge and skills to effectively deliver the course content as presented in the *Administrative and Curriculum Guide for Driver Education in Virginia.*

Course Objectives

By the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Explain what it means to qualify as a driver education instructor.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of instructional content as it relates to Driver Education Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools including: licensing responsibilities; highway transportation system components; basic operating tasks; basic maneuvering techniques; information processing and decision-making (sequences); time, space and visibility needs of the vehicle and the driver; risk assessment, acceptance, compensation, and reduction; influence of personal factors in driver performance; adverse driving conditions, vehicle functions, and consumer needs.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the traffic laws motor vehicle section of the Code of Virginia and the *Virginia Driver's Manual.*
4. Define and describe the nature of the driving tasks in the complex highway transportation system.
5. Demonstrate the ability to observe, in a measurable manner, the pertinent highway transportation system events and conditions for vehicle guidance along selected routes.
6. Assess the importance of sensory perceptual skills needed for driving tasks.
7. Analyze driving hazards and correctly decide how to minimize these risks.
8. Define traffic regulations and recognize the conditions to which they apply.
9. Define and recognize the capabilities and limitations of vehicles under various driving conditions.
10. Evaluate the function of vehicle subsystems to determine the need for corrective maintenance or repair.
11. Determine a person's shared legal and social responsibilities while using the highway transportation

system.

12. Deliver successfully the content included in the *Administrative and Curriculum Guide for Driver Education in Virginia* in lessons plans as they relate to classroom driver education instruction.

Required Readings

VA DOE (2001). *Administrative and Curriculum Guide for Driver Education in Virginia.* Departments of Education / Motor Vehicles, Richmond, VA.

On-line Driver Education Course (www.vadrivered.com)

Additional readings, lecture outlines and resource material available at the instructor's website: http: / / mason.gmu.edu / ~emiller

Evaluation

20% - First Exam
20% - Second Exam
20% - Completion of Virginia Association of Driver Education and Traffic Safety (VADETS) online Driver Education Course
20% - Participation in class activities
20% - Class presentation

The first and second exams are each composed of 50 multiple choice questions and two essay questions. The exams are based on the content of text and assigned readings. Each exam will be graded 0-100 points and weighted .20 of overall course grade. Multiple choice items will measure students' cognitive abilities to identify / recall, differentiate, apply and analyze subject material. Essay questions will measure students' abilities to analyze, synthesize and evaluate subject material.

VADETS online Driver Education Course is designed to raise prospective teachers' comprehension of curriculum content. Students must achieve 90% proficiency on a module test before they can proceed to the next module. The online program allows teacher monitoring of student's progress. Each student will receive a VADETS Workbook to be completed as he / she progresses through the course. Completion of this online course is graded satisfactory (100 pts) or unsatisfactory (0 pts) and weight .20 of overall course grade. This requirement will measure students' abilities to identify / recall, differentiate, apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate subject material. This requirement also measures the psychomotor skills relevant to accessing and progressing through a web-based online course.

Participation in class activities requires attendance in class and active involvement in learning activities. Completion of the activity to the satisfaction of the instruction will constitute .20 of overall grade. Participation in class activities will measure students' affective abilities: to accept, contribute, value, prioritize and live by values as it relates to important subject material.

The class presentation involves students assigned topics to be instructed in class. Before starting this teaching assignment, students will submit a copy of a lesson plan. Students are expected to thoroughly research their assigned topics and treat this assignment as an actual "teaching situation." The lesson plan and its presentation will be graded 0-100 points and weighted .20 of overall course graded. Completion of this requirement will measure range of students' cognitive and affective abilities as well as psychomotor skills.

Faculty reserve the right to request a copy of the student's DMV record throughout the duration of the course to verify eligibility to operate a motor vehicle in VA.

Grading: A 93-100, A- 90-92, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82, C+ 77-79, C 70-76, D 60-69, F 0-59

Course Outline

Session	Topic	Learning Activities
1	Introduction to course Qualifying as driver education instructor Material on Driver Education Standards of Learning related to: licensing responsibilities; and the highway transportation system components	Lecture, readings, self-assessment and discussion
2.	Material on Driver Education Standards of Learning related to: basic operating tasks, basic maneuvering techniques; information processing and decision-making (sequences); and time, space and visibility needs of the vehicle and the driver	Lecture, readings, computer lab website resources and discussion
3.	Material on Driver Education Standards of Learning related to: risk assessment, risk acceptance, risk compensation, and risk reduction; influence of personal factors in driver performance; adverse driving conditions; vehicle functions; and consumer needs.	Lecture, readings, video and discussion Completion of online module 1: Virginia Driver Responsibilities
4	Complex driving tasks in HTS Understanding traffic and safety regulation "Youth driving laws"	Lecture, readings, knowledge self-test and discussion Small group work
5.	Observing HTS events and conditions Adolescent driver characteristics Adolescent crash facts	Lecture, readings, video and discussion Completion of online module 2: Preparing to Operate a Vehicle; and module 3: Basic Maneuvering Tasks - Low Risk
6	Capabilities and limitations of vehicles under various driving conditions Review for first exam	Lecture, readings, and class activities (cross-referencing texts with Curriculum Guide)
7.	First exam	Covers material presented in weeks 1-6 Range activities: demonstration BGE, reference points, lane positions and vehicle operating space
8.	Sensory perceptual skills in driving Driving hazards	Lecture, readings, class activities (using and editing Curriculum Guide Powerpoint® slides Completion of online module 4: Basic Maneuvering Tasks: Moderate Risk Driving Environment; & module 5: Information Processing – Intersections, Curves, Hills and Passing
9.	Driving hazards and minimizing risk	Lecture, readings, video and discussion, and small group work
10.	Applying traffic regulations to driving conditions	Lecture, readings, and computer lab website resources

11.	Personal factors influencing driving (substances, emotions, fatigue)	Lecture, discussion, video, and class activities (evaluate videos available for driver education) Completion of online module 6: Information Processing – Complex Risk Environment; module 7: Driver Performance: Personal Factors; & module 8: Driver Responsibilities: Adverse Conditions
12.	Vehicle capability in various driving conditions	Lecture, readings, and lesson plan presentations
13.	Vehicle subsystems Corrective maintenance / repair	Lecture, readings, and lesson plan presentations
14.	Shared legal and social responsibilities while using HTS Review for second exam	Lesson plan presentations Completion of online module 9: Vehicle Functions & module 10: Making Informed Choices
15	Second Exam	Covers material presented in weeks 8-14

Our Department follows all academic and general policies contained within the University's Catalog. Among which are:

- All students are held to the standards of the George Mason University Honor Code.
- Students having documentation on file at the Disability Support Services Office should bring this to the attention of the instructor.
- University policy states that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the professor.
- Students are expected to attend class regularly although attendance alone is not factored into final grade. (In this course, participation is considered attendance on specified days and is factored in overall course grade.)

http://www.gmu.edu/departments/hfrr