Course Outline

Course Topic – The American Education System
Course Theme – Reforms in Secondary Education

Concepts –
- Education:
- Secondary education:
- Actors:
- Reform:
- Learning outcomes:

Course Learning Outcomes –
1) Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of important issues in the American educational system, especially important reforms in secondary education and the people responsible for these reforms.
2) Students will be able to evaluate, analyze, and research complex issues, and will be able to effectively and informatively organize ideas and findings in writing.

Opportunities Model:
- continuous cycle of input (content) → practice → output (speaking, writing) → feedback
- (more input) → output (speaking, writing)
  - this is a writing class and not a class in education

Questioning Training:
- Why ask questions
- How to ask questions

Course Task –
Writing portfolio on the American education system, with a focus on educational reforms in secondary education and the actors responsible for creating the reforms

Learning Activities –
- Course content readings
- Course writing handbook / Online tutoring
- Lectures / Note-taking: for example...
  - The structure of the education system
  - Credentialism and the purpose of education
  - Educational reform efforts
  - Overview of the types of bilingual education programs
- Group discussions and information sharing and knowledge building
- Reflections, Summaries, and Analyses of key issues and reforms in each reading
- Vocabulary development:
  - 10 academic words/ week for 15 weeks = 150 words
  - pronunciation, stress, POS, definition, family, collocations, textual quote
- Grammar development
- Extended readings for information sharing and knowledge building
- Video(s) on educational reform
- Proposal essay on bilingual education reform
- Classroom speaking opportunities:
  - Group Debate on Bilingual Education
  - Seminar Presentation on Research Paper
- Research Paper:
  - 1st section of paper – What should be the outcomes of secondary education?
  - 2nd section of paper – Based on your knowledge of the education system, actors, and reforms, which actors would develop the kinds of reforms that would best lead to your desired outcomes?