



S Y L L A B U S

Differentiated Instruction Methods

Duration: 5 Days (Total: 20 Hours)

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1.0 Course Overview

This course introduces educators to the **principles and strategies of differentiated instruction** — a responsive teaching approach that meets diverse learner needs. Teachers will learn how to adjust teaching methods, materials, and assessments to accommodate students' varying abilities, interests, and learning styles.

2.0 Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand the core philosophy and benefits of differentiated instruction
- Identify learner readiness, interests, and profiles for tailored instruction
- Modify content, process, product, and environment for student needs
- Apply flexible grouping and continuous assessment
- Design and implement inclusive, differentiated lesson plans

3.0 Training Methodology

- Real-Classroom Scenario Simulations
- Case Studies & Reflection Exercises
- Differentiation Planning Templates
- Interactive Group Activities
- Peer Feedback & Lesson Adaptation Labs

4.0 Foundations of Differentiated Instruction (3 Hours)

Objectives:

- Explore the philosophy, purpose, and framework of DI

Topics Covered:

- What is Differentiated Instruction (DI)?
- Key Principles: Respectful Tasks, Flexible Grouping, Ongoing Assessment
- Equity vs Equality in the Classroom
- Common Myths About Differentiation

Activities:

- Group Discussion: What DI is and what it's not
- Case Study: Traditional vs differentiated classroom
- Self-Assessment: Your current differentiation practices

5.0 Readiness, Interests, and Learning Profiles (3 Hours)

Objectives:

- Discover how to assess and plan for individual differences

Topics Covered:

- Learning Styles and Multiple Intelligences
- Pre-Assessment for Readiness Levels

- Student Interest Inventories
- Learning Profile Surveys and Mapping

Activities:

- Task: Create a student profile template
- Exercise: Match learning strategies to multiple intelligences
- Group Task: Plan a tiered activity for 3 readiness levels

6.0 Differentiating Content, Process, Product & Environment (4 Hours)

Objectives:

- Design differentiated approaches to what, how, and where students learn

Topics Covered:

- Differentiating Content: Choice Boards, Compacting, Scaffolding
- Differentiating Process: Learning Centers, Tiered Tasks, Think-Pair-Share
- Differentiating Product: Menus, Projects, Performance-Based Tasks
- Learning Environment: Flexible Seating, Culture, Student Voice

Activities:

- Lab: Create a content choice board
- Task: Design a tiered task with visual and auditory support

- Peer Review: Share and critique differentiated product examples

7.0 Assessment, Grouping, and Classroom Management (3 Hours)

Objectives:

- Use assessment and classroom structures to support differentiation

Topics Covered:

- Formative vs Summative Assessment for DI
- Exit Tickets, Rubrics, and Observations
- Flexible Grouping and Rotations
- Managing Transitions and Behavior in a DI Classroom

Activities:

- Scenario Simulation: Adjust instruction after formative results
- Group Task: Design a rubric for a student product
- Exercise: Plan and rotate 3 small groups based on data

8.0 Planning and Implementing Differentiated Lessons (3 Hours)

Objectives:

- Combine strategies to build inclusive lesson plans

Topics Covered:

- UDL (Universal Design for Learning) Integration
- Backward Design and Differentiation
- Lesson Planning Templates for DI
- Supporting ELLs and Students with Disabilities

Activities:

- Task: Build a full differentiated lesson using provided template
- Partner Practice: Co-plan a subject-specific DI lesson
- Feedback Round: Peer critique of differentiated lesson plans

9.0 Tools, Templates, and Inclusive Strategies (2 Hours)

Objectives:

- Explore practical tools to streamline and enhance differentiation

Topics Covered:

- Digital Tools for DI (EdPuzzle, Google Forms, Padlet, Flip)
- Templates: Student Interest Inventory, Learning Menus, Tiered Tasks
- Culturally Responsive Teaching Techniques
- Low-Prep Strategies for Busy Classrooms

Activities:

- Demo: Create a digital learning menu or playlist
- Group Brainstorm: “5-minute fixes” for inclusive engagement

- Task: Build your DI toolkit with ready-to-use resources

10.0 Conclusion and Wrap-Up (1 Hour)

Key Takeaways:

- Reflect on your new approach to equitable, personalized teaching

Final Activities:

- Showcase: Present your differentiated lesson to the group
- Certificate Distribution
- Feedback and Journaling: “What I’ll do differently starting next class”