Concepts addressed in this course: Major categories, advantages, and appropriate uses of instructional strategies: Project approach

Students should refer to:

Specifically, students should review:
I. How Projects Begin
   a. From the environment
   b. From the children’s interests
   c. From the teachers’ interests
   d. The desire to solve a problem
II. Project Approach (Katz & Chard)
   a. Set of teaching strategies which enable teachers to guide children through in-depth studies of real world topics
   b. Following children’s interests/motivations expands children’s learning
   c. Child-initiated, teacher-framed concepts
   d. Organizing what children already know, want to know, and how to learn it.
   e. Hypothesize, explore, and investigate.
   f. Incorporate parents/families into many steps along the way
   g. Review learning with children through a culminating event or activity to bring together all that has been learned.
   h. Measure outcome data after project is complete to review learning.
III. Characteristics of Projects
   a. Cyclic nature
   b. Communication is a key to continued project investigation
   c. Reflection on what has occurred is key to planning next steps
   d. Critical review of documentation - documentation of prior experiences should be viewed with children to facilitate children’s memories and launch discuss of experiences
   e. Peripheral interests are engendered
   f. Community ownership should be established
   g. Group meetings can inspire further work.
IV. Building a Home-School Connection
   a. Engaging parents in planning
   b. Engaging parents in collecting resources
   c. Engaging parents in designated, requested help from children
V. Benefits from Project Approach
   a. Social constructivist theory in action
   b. Ongoing evaluation for teachers to question their motives, their biases, and their abilities
   c. Projects allow children to build expertise and identify interests
   d. Projects help family members to become involved in meaningful ways
   e. Projects bring into schools outside community resources
   f. Continual observation, data collection, analysis, and reflection ensures that no child is missed in the learning process.

Helpful websites include:
The Project Approach:  http://www.project-approach.com/