TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – CORPUS CHRISTI
Schooling in a Democracy

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Office hours by appointment
Or M 10 – 2:30  W 12-2:00

Please read the syllabus carefully!

This is an online course. You will need your NET ID to log into the course on Blackboard. There is a student tutorial available on the Island Online website. (http://iol.tamucc.edu) If you have any problems logging in, the Blackboard help desk phone number is 825-2825. Each student is advised to check their Blackboard account every day for announcements, due dates in the course calendar, and/or assignment directions.

This course utilizes PDF files. In order to access these files, please click the Adobe Reader link located in the Course Content tab of your Blackboard account.

The course is organized in six units. The units can be accessed through the Course Content link in Blackboard. Begin with Unit 1 and continue through Unit 6. You may also access the tasks by using the Assignment Tab, Discussion Forum Tab, or Assessment Tab.

I. Course Description: EDCI 2307 Schooling in a Democracy
This course enables prospective professional educators to synthesize their general education experiences/courses with current issues and practices related to teaching and learning in the United States. Career opportunities and personal commitments to the teaching profession will be explored. The systematic process of admission to the teacher education program will be explored. Field observations will be required. No prerequisites

II. Rationale:
As today’s schools become more diverse, educators must promote an environment that welcomes all students, regardless of background, culture, language, or special need. The classroom now serves as an “inclusive” academic environment where teachers promote student success by implementing a variety of instructional strategies, differentiating curriculum and diversifying assessment. This course provides a foundation in designing instruction that meets the needs of special student populations. Most states require a course such as this for teacher certification.

III. State Adopted Proficiencies:
A. Learner-Centered Knowledge: The teacher possesses and draws on a rich knowledge base of content and technology to provide relevant and meaningful learning experiences for all students.
B. Learner-Centered Instruction: The teacher collaboratively identifies needs and implements appropriate pedagogical and assessment strategies using technology and other resources.
C. Equity In Excellence for All Learners: The teacher respects, addresses, and validates the needs of diverse learners.
D. Learner-Centered Communication: The teacher demonstrates effective professional and interpersonal communication skills and serves as an advocate for all students.
E. Learner-Centered Professional Development: The teacher is a reflective practitioner and demonstrates a commitment to learn, to improve the profession, and to maintain professional ethics and personal integrity.

IV. TEExES Competencies:

01 The teacher understands human developmental processes and applies this knowledge to plan instruction and ongoing assessment that motivate students and are responsive to their developmental characteristics and needs.
02 The teacher understands student diversity and knows how to plan learning experiences and design assessments that are responsive to differences among students and that promote all students’ learning.
03 The teacher understands procedures for designing effective and coherent instruction and assessment based on appropriate learning goals and objectives.
04 The teacher understands learning processes and factors that impact student learning and demonstrates this knowledge by planning effective, engaging instruction and appropriate assessments.
05 The teacher knows how to establish a classroom climate that fosters learning, equity, and excellence and uses this knowledge to create a physical and emotional environment that is safe and productive.
06 The teacher understands strategies for creating an organized and productive learning environment and for managing student behavior.
07 The teacher understands and applies principles and strategies for communicating effectively in varied teaching and learning contexts.
08 The teacher provides appropriate instruction that actively engages students in the learning process.
09 The teacher incorporates the effective use of technology to plan, organize, deliver, and evaluate instruction for all students.
10 The teacher monitors student performance and achievement; provides students with timely, high-quality feedback; and responds flexibly to promote learning for all students.
11 The teacher understands the importance of family involvement in children’s education and knows how to interact and communicate effectively with families.
12 The teacher enhances professional knowledge and skills by effectively interacting with other members of the educational community and participating in various types of professional activities.
13 The teacher understands and adheres to legal and ethical requirements for educators and is knowledgeable of the structure of education in Texas.

V. Student Learning Outcomes:

The student will:

1. Develop a foundation regarding concepts of legal and ethical implications related to a professional career as an educator. The outcome of this objective will be based on the Current Events and Issues in Education reports.
2. Examine personal beliefs concerning the impact of quality curriculum development, lesson planning, and teaching. The outcome of this objective will be based on the Current Events and Issues in Education reports. (TExES Competencies: 001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 008) (Curricular Topics: Curriculum Development and Lesson Planning, Learning Theories, Motivation, and Child Development)

3. Develop instructional strategies and appropriate methods to increase student motivation and success based upon current educational issues and developmentally appropriate practices. The outcome of this objective will be based on the Classroom Management Procedure or Routine assignment. (TExES Competencies: 007, 009, 012) (Curricular Topics: Pedagogy/Instructional Strategies, Motivation, Learning Theories, and Special Populations)

4. Demonstrate an understanding of the pedagogical learning theories and how to apply techniques of motivation/encouragement in the classroom. The outcome of this objective will be based on The Teacher in Video Analysis assignment. (TExES competencies 003, 004, 007, 008, 009) (Curricular Topics: Pedagogy/Instructional Strategies, Learning Theories, Motivation, Classroom Development and Lesson Planning)

5. Explore the relationship between child development, learning theories, and classroom climate. The outcome of this objective will be based on researching and reporting on a developmentally-appropriate Classroom Management Procedure or Routine. (TExES competencies 004, 005, 006, 007) (Curricular Topics: Classroom Management, Child Development, Learning Theories)

6. Understand how diversity in the contemporary classroom can influence instructional design and how to best meet the needs of special populations of students. The outcome of this objective will be based on the Cultural Background Report (TExES competencies 002, 010) (Curricular Topics: Special Populations, Pedagogy/Instructional Strategies, Differentiated Instruction)

7. Enhance professional knowledge by interacting with other members of the educational community. The outcome of this objective will be based on the Education Career Research Report (TExES competency 012); (Curricular Topic: Code of Ethics & Standard Practices)

VI. Course Topics:
EDCI 2307 considers the following Subject Matter Curricular Topics:

- Reading Instruction
- Code of Ethics & Standard Practices
- Child Development
- Motivation
- Learning Theories
- TEKS Organization, Structure & Skills
- TEKS in the Content Areas
• State Assessment of Students
• Curriculum Development & Lesson Planning
• Classroom Assessment
• Classroom Management
• Special Populations
• Parent Conferences / Communication
• Instructional Technology
• Pedagogy / Instructional Strategies
• Differentiated Instruction
• Certification Test Preparation

VII. Instructional Methods and Activities
• Traditional Experiences: (reading assignments and on-line delivery)
• Field Experiences: (field observations; value clarifications; community resource use)
• Quizzes and exams

VIII. Evaluation and Grade Assignment
Grading Scale:
A = 1000 – 900 pts.
B = 899 – 800 pts.
C = 799 – 700 pts.
D = 699 – 600 pts.
F = 599 – 0 pts.

Course Requirements:

I. Traditional Experiences
   A. Reading/Discussion Forum Questions 5 @ 30 pts. each 150
   B. Current Event and Issue Reports 3 @ 50 pts. each 150
   C. Classroom Management Procedure 75 pts. 75

II. Field Experiences
   A. Teacher in Video Analysis 75 pts. 75
   B. Cultural Background Report 100 pts. 100
   C. Education Career Research/Report 50 pts. 50

III. Exams
   A. Chapter Quizzes (4) on Blackboard 200
      50pts. EACH
   B. Mid-course Exam on Blackboard 100
   C. Final Exam on Blackboard 100

   Grand Total ____________/1000
Description of Course Requirements:
Remember: The Blackboard help desk phone number is 825-2825. Each student is advised to check their Blackboard account at least once daily for announcements, due dates, and/or assignments.

Chapter Reading Assignments/Discussion Forum Questions on Blackboard
Focus discussion threads will be provided for you to thoroughly discuss the topics from your reading and learning. For each assigned discussion question posted on Blackboard, follow the directions for the question(s) on each thread. Your initial response should be **300 to 400 words** total word count. Your response should be spell checked and proof read before being posted. Please read all of your classmates’ responses. You will need to respond to at least **two peer responses** (**50 word minimum - each**) by the due date for full credit of the assignment. Make sure to check your calendar for discussion threads and due dates. Please see the **full directions and grading rubric located in the Discussion Forum tab** in your Blackboard class. **5 @ 30 points each (Total 150 Points)**

Teacher in Video Analysis - Submit a completed analysis report over a teacher portrayed in a video. Choose a movie that features a practicing classroom teacher (for example, Freedom Writers, Mona Lisa Smile, Stand and Deliver, Mr. Holland’s Opus, Ferris Bueller’s Day Off, Boston Public, etc.) Briefly describe the teacher portrayed. Can you place the teacher appearing in the movie in one of the career stages identified in the Chapter 1 section? Please explain. Do you see overlap across the career stages? Please explain. What career cycle overlaps occur in the movie? Please explain. How does this portrayed teacher encourage or discourage the students to experience success? Please explain. Answer each of the questions in the analysis report and post to Blackboard by the due date. (300 word minimum) Please see the Teacher In Video PDF located in the Assignment tab for full directions and a grading rubric in your Blackboard class. **(Total 75 points)**

Current Event Reports - It is very important for you to know and understand the educational events/issues that are happening locally, nationally and globally. You will be required to complete three (3) current events assignments. This assignment consists of reading an article pertaining to education in a newspaper, magazine, or educational journal and to analyze the article. The purposes of this assignment is to (1) increase your ability to research current events in education, (2) to increase your understanding of a particular area of education; and (3) to be able to critically evaluate news articles regarding education. Please see the Current Events/Issues PDF located in the Assignment tab for full directions and grading Rubric in your Blackboard class. **3 @ 50 points each (Total 150 points)**
**Educational Career Research/Report** - You will research 5 school districts that you are considering for future employment. You will need to describe the location of the district; population of the community; number of schools in the district; beginning teacher salary; any stipends they may offer and for what certification; and any special programs available to the students or teachers of the district. Submit your report on Blackboard. (200 word minimum) Please see the **Educational Career Research/Report PDF** in the **Assignment tab** for full directions and a grading rubric in your Blackboard class. (Total 50 points)

**Cultural Background Report** - This experience can help you identify the range of cultural differences represented in your future classroom and compare it with your own experiences. First, describe your cultural background and that of your family. Include a description of the community and school where you grew up. Then, take a drive through a neighborhood different from the one you grew up in. Next, describe the community and school you observed while driving through the neighborhood. Finally, compare and contrast these two different communities. What similarities did you see? What differences? What experiences have you had that might help you relate to today’s students? Be sure to identify cultural and community factors that should be considered by teachers. (400 word minimum) Please see the **Cultural Background Report PDF** in the **Assignment tab** for full directions and a grading rubric in your Blackboard class. (Total 100 points)

**Classroom Management Procedure** - You will create a classroom management procedure lesson plan. Please see the **Classroom Management Procedure PDF** in the **Assignment tab** for full instructions and a rubric in your Blackboard class. (Total 75 points)

**Exams:**

**Chapter Quizzes** – Four chapter quizzes will be given over material covered in the textbook chapters on Blackboard. You will be given ample time to take the quiz. Therefore, you will not be able to make-up any quiz. There are no exceptions to this statement. Please refrain from asking for an exception. See calendar for due dates. 50 points possible each. (Total 200 points)

**Mid-course Exam** – The mid-course exam will be a combination of objective and short answer items. This will be available on Blackboard. See calendar for due date. (Total 100 points)

**Final Exam** – The final exam will be composed of a combination of objective and short answer items. This will be available on Blackboard. See calendar for due date. (Total 100 points)
IX: Course Schedule and Class Policies (All sessions on Blackboard)

Session 1  Unit 1- Read over Syllabus, Read Chapter 1
Complete Discussion Forum Question #1

Session 2  Unit 1- Personal View of Teaching-Developing a Philosophy
Read Chapter 2
Respond to 2 peers for Question #1
Due-Quiz over Chapter 1 and 2

Session 3  Complete and Submit Teacher in Video Analysis

Session 4  Unit 2- Teacher Accountability and Ethical Issues
Read Chapters 3 and 4
Complete Discussion Forum Question #2
Due-Quiz over Chapters 3 and 4

Session 5  Complete and Submit Current Event #1

Session 6  Unit 3- The Status of Contemporary Children
Read Chapter 5
Respond to 2 peers for Question #2

Session 7  Complete and Submit Cultural Background Report

Session 8  Unit 3- Midterm is due by midnight over Chapters 1-5
Complete Discussion Forum Question #3

Session 9  Unit 4- Classroom Learning Theory
Read Chapter 6
Respond to 2 peers for Question #3

Session 10  Unit 4- Complete Current Event #2

Session 11  Unit 5- Successful Classroom Environments
Read Chapter 7
Complete Discussion Forum Question #4
Due-Quiz over Chapters 6 and 7

Session 12  Complete and Submit Career Research Report (5 school districts)
Unit 5- Respond to 2 peers for Question #4

Session 13  Complete and Submit Current Event #3
Session 14
Unit 6- Lessons in Today’s Classrooms
Read Chapter 8
Complete Discussion Forum Question #5
Due-Quiz over Chapter 8

Session 15
Complete and Submit Classroom Management Procedure
Unit 6- Respond to 2 peers for Question #5

Session 16
Due- Final Exam ( see University schedule for due date)

Be sure to check your Blackboard Calendar for exact due dates and times!

Note: Even though I reserve the right to alter this syllabus, assignments, and due dates, I will provide you with ample notification of any changes.

Class Policies :

Written Assignments must be typed or word-processed. Please use 12-point font and double space. Points will be deducted for spelling, mechanical, and grammatical errors. When submitting writing to Blackboard, please copy and paste text from your word processor to Blackboard. Using the word processor this way allows you to take advantage of spell-check.

Late assignments – No late assignments will be accepted. You are going to be a teacher. You must learn to multi-task. There will be no exceptions to this policy.
You should understand that I will not accept technology excuses. If your computer is not working or an Internet connection is unavailable, it is your responsibility to find an alternative method for submitting work. Please note: All tests and quizzes will close at 11:59 p.m. on the due date. Make sure to allow yourself enough time to complete the assessments before the close time.

ONLINE CLASS CONDUCT: The study of education in America allows us a dialogue and thus, an exchange of ideas and mores that may differ than the individual’s own. I provide and expect respect, courtesy, and open-mindedness among all of us. Students, therefore, should exhibit mature online behavior. Online classroom responses should not be considered “chat room” activities. A classroom level of formality should be maintained in all email and discussion board communication. Students should refrain from text messaging style of writing or “chat speak”. While the nature of the course requires the expression of divergent opinions, discrimination, abuse, harassment, or disorderly conduct in any form that inhibits or interferes with my educational responsibility to my students will not be tolerated in the classroom or online.

Statement of Civility-Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of gender, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, age, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.
Academic Honesty
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to a penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one's own work.)
http://falcon.tamucc.edu/~students/JAffairs/ja_hndbk_academic_info.htm

X. Textbook

XI. Bibliography


XII. Grade Appeals
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

XIII. Disabilities
“The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statue that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in CCH 116.”  http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu
If you are a returning veteran and experience cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.