EDAD 5363  
Public School Law  
Course Syllabus  

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS AS NEEDED.

Dr. Lynn Hemmer  
Office Hours: Thursday 4:00 – 6:00 pm  
Office: Faculty Center 217  
Class Time: T/R 6:00 – 9:45 pm  
Phone: 361-825-3702  
Room: ECDC-219C  
Cell: 210-473-9199

Face to face and virtual hours: As indicated above, I am available to meet with you face-to-face on Thursdays between the hours of 4:00 and 6:00 pm. If these arrangements do not meet your needs, please let me know so that we can establish a mutual time to meet. If you are having problems with assignments and readings, please email me. If you text, please identify yourself and the class.

I. Course Description  
EDAD 5363  
Public School Law  
3 sem. hrs.

Legal and managerial aspects of classroom management and basic principles of school law and school board policy.

II. Rationale

This course is designed to assist current and future faculty, staff, and administrators who have an interest in the legal issues in the K-12 public schools. Students will acquire knowledge related to the historical and philosophical underpinnings of public school law. Past and current legal issues will be analyzed to determine application possibilities and liabilities. This course is also designed to provide educational administration graduate students with knowledge regarding legal issues that impact k-12 public school education and to help develop competencies in public school education governance. Students will develop expertise as consumers of legal services. A further purpose is to provide students with information and background necessary to recognize and deal with legal issues as they emerge in the public schools. Current legal cases in public school education will be discussed; however, no attempt will be made to arrive at definitive judgments involving on-going legal cases.

III. State Adapted Proficiencies Administrators- TExES Competencies  
Domain I – School Community Leadership – Competencies 1, 2, 3  
Domain II – Instructional Leadership – Competencies 4, 5, 6
Domain III – Administrative Leadership – Competencies 8, 9

1. **Campus Culture** - The principal knows how to shape campus culture by facilitating the development, articulation, implementation, and stewardship of a vision of learning that is shared and supported by the school community.

2. **Communication** – The principal knows how to communicate and collaborate with all members of the school community, respond to diverse interests and needs, and mobilize resources to promote student success.

3. **Ethics** – The principal knows how to act with integrity, fairness, and in an ethical and legal manner.

4. **Instructional Leadership** – The principal knows how to facilitate the design and implementation of curricula and strategic plans that enhance teaching and learning; ensure alignment of curriculum, instruction, resources, and assessment; and promote the use of varied assessments to measure student performance.

5. **Instructional Program** – The principal knows how to advocate, nurture, and sustain an instructional program and a campus culture that are conducive to student learning and staff professional growth.

6. **Staff Development** – The principal knows how to implement a staff evaluation and development system to improve the performance of all staff members, select and implement appropriate models for supervision and staff development, and apply the legal requirements for personnel management.

7. **Organization** – The principal knows how to apply organizational, decision-making and problem solving skills to ensure and effective learning environment.

8. **Leadership** – The principal knows how to apply principals of leadership and management to the campus physical plant and support systems to ensure a safe and effective learning environment.

IV. **TExES Competencies**

(Please see Section III above)

V. **Course Objectives and Outcomes**

*This course is designed to enable students to:*

1. describe in general terms education law, Texas schools and parent rights (TExES Competencies: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8).

2. discuss the legal issues of school attendance and the instructional program (TExES Competencies: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7).

3. describe special education and the applicable federal laws (TExES Competencies: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8).

4. discuss employment relationships (TExES Competencies: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8).

5. analyze personnel issues (TExES Competencies: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,7).
VI. Course Topics
The major topics to be considered are:
1. An overview of education law, Texas schools, and parents rights
2. Student attendance and the instructional program
3. Special education
4. The employment relationship
5. Personnel issues
6. Expression and associational rights
7. Religion in the schools
8. Student discipline
9. Privacy issues: community, educator and students
10. Legal liability

VII. Instructional Methods and Activities
You will need access to a computer and a high-speed internet connection to view multimedia course content. TAMUCC computer labs have these items available for your use in the labs.

Summer II Course Helpful Hints

- **Remember a summer academic schedule is accelerated.**
- Consider that in a face-to-face class you would be meeting two days a week, three hours and 45 minutes each day. In addition, time is needed outside of class to fully prepare for class discussions. This class is a hybrid which requires the same amount of preparation, but perhaps more organization on your part. If there is insufficient time in your personal schedule to do the work of the course, you will be frustrated.
- Contact your instructor regularly, especially when you have questions about course content materials. I am available by phone and/or email, virtual conferences.
- Pay careful attention to instructions and be certain that you understand what is being asked when submitting assignments. It often helps to develop a brief outline before responding to questions whether they are submitted in writing, orally, video, or via email.

*Methods and activities for instruction include:*
Methods and activities for instruction in this course will include traditional university graduate level educational experiences, including lectures, class discussions, student presentations and application activities such as case studies.

We will have assigned readings in the required text and some of the bibliographic references listed in the text. Bibliographic entrees include relevant court cases to be read by students and which should be brought into the class discussions of the topics assigned for the particular class meeting. Student participation and contribution to the discussions will be an integral part of the class. Therefore it is important that students read the assigned material prior to coming to class.

The following constitute the course components:

1. Active involvement in the class in a way that demonstrates thoughtful consideration and reflection of topics and issues is expected. Students should be respectful of the opinions of peers but should not hesitate to propose opposing views appropriately supported and defended.

2. A variety of assignments ranging from case briefings, journals, discussions boards, quizzes and more are included throughout the summer session.

3. The student will be responsible for virtually attending a public school board of trustee meeting that is not your own district. This requires a 2-5 page, type written, double spaced paper summarizing items on agenda, who presented, date, and district and more importantly a synthesis of the what you observed with what you have read in the textbook and supplemental article.

4. Students will be assigned to a group. Each group will present the material covered by the reading for a particular topic. Individuals are expected to facilitate a class discussion concerning their topic.

5. Final examination will be conducted. Students are to work independently, but may use the textbook, and any other material provided in class.

VIII. Evaluation and Grade Assignment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Active Learning Approach</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attend School Board Meeting</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key Court Cases</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Studies (2)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation/Discussion Facilitation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Attendance/Participation/Active Learning Approach: (15%).
Please read assigned readings in order to participate in group discussions. This class requires you to be critical of the reading so you can develop an understanding the nature of law applied in the educational setting. As part of your participation grade, you will be required to share your insights.

At the beginning of class, discussion about assignments and class issues are addressed. By entering the class late, it stops the flow of discussion and disrupts other students’ learning. As a common courtesy to all, please be on time and have readings completed.

When students are talking or presenting in class, students should be engaged, listen and respond in a positive manner. Treating each other with respect contributes to other students’ learning and establishes a positive learning environment.

Issues about schools, teachers, administrators and district issues should remain in the classroom and not be shared outside the classroom. Confidentiality and integrity are first and foremost.

2. Attend School Board meeting – 10%
The student will be responsible for attending a public school board of trustee meeting. Each student must “attend” a different district. Attendance may be virtual. This requires a 2-5 page synthesis of the meeting and readings.

3. Key Court Cases – 5%
Students will look up and write short summaries for court cases that have had significant influence on school law (cases specified by the instructor). Example provided.

4. Case Studies (2) - 20%
Students will read cases provided and respond in writing to the questions that accompany each case.

5. Journal (10%)
Journal writing is a means to acquire and improve reflective thinking. It is also a personal and unique endeavor. There are numerous benefits of journal writing such as it can assist you in developing critical thinking skills when used to analysis challenging issues and determine alternative solutions to problems. Additionally, it can help with the development of observational skills and the development of self-evaluative skills by revisiting prior journal entries in an effort to track progress. Seven prompts will be provided periodically, with three sections in each prompt. Rubric available

6. Group Presentation/Class Discussion Facilitation (20%)
Students will be assigned to a group. Each group will present the material covered
by the reading for a particular topic. Groups are expected to provide a written summary of their material as a handout for classmates. Creativity, use of audiovisual equipment, and group activities are encouraged. All group members will receive the same grade.

7. Final Exam (20%)

IX. Course Schedule and Policies

See Course Schedule and Policies

X. Textbook

The textbook adopted for this course is:


XI. Bibliography

Knowledge base that support content and procedures:

In addition to the following items, Appendix C and Case Index in the course textbook will also be used as the bibliographic knowledge base.


**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...
For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

XIII. Disabilities Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute 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 accommodations 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 Driftwood 101.

XIV. Course Expectations

The Educational Administration Program encourages classroom discussion and academic debate as an essential intellectual activity. It is essential that students learn to express and defend their beliefs but it is also essential that they learn to listen and respond respectfully to others whose beliefs they may not share. The Program will always tolerate diverse, unorthodox, and unpopular points of view, but it will not tolerate condescending or insulting remarks. When students verbally abuse or ridicule and intimidate others whose views they do not agree with, they subvert the free exchange of ideas that should characterize a university classroom. If their actions are deemed by the professor to be disruptive, they will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, which may include being involuntarily withdrawn from the class.

1. Students are expected to engage as co-participants in this course working closely and consistently with professor and student colleagues.
2. Students are expected to show human concern for each of those with whom they work and study, while presenting a positive attitude and professional demeanor.
3. Students are expected to attend each class meeting and inform the instructor in advance if an emergency arises.
4. Just as students expect instructors to be prepared, students are expected to come to class prepared, having read assignments beforehand in order to contribute fully and thoughtfully to class discussions.
5. Students are expected to work with team members collaboratively and obtain their input when working on group exercises and projects.
6. Students are expected to engage respectfully in a dynamic classroom environment, creating and maintaining a safe place in which ideas can be explored, shared, and evaluated.
7. Students are expected to submit work that meets the academic honesty standards of Texas A&M Corpus Christi.
8. Students are expected to respect the rights and dignity of each member of the campus community.
9. Students are expected to contact the instructor with questions, concerns, or issues that need to be addressed.
Course Schedule

Tuesday, July 3
Introductions
Course overview
Ripped from the headlines
Familiarization: Locating court cases
Legal Consciousness
Overview of education law, Texas schools and parental rights
Student Attendance and the Instructional Program
Emerging Issues – home schooling

Readings:
- Walsh, Kemerer, & Maniotis Chapter 1

Activities:
- Lecture/Discussion/PowerPoints
- Assign Journal #1
- Key Court Cases - Assigned

Thursday, July 5
Due: Journal #1

Impermissble Discrimination
Desegregation
The Road to Brown
*Mendez v. Westminster* (1943)

Readings:
- Walsh, Kemerer, & Maniotis Chapters 1 and 2

Activities:
Video/Lecture/Discussion

Case Study #1 - Assigned
Tuesday, July 10

**Key Court Cases - Due**

Special Education 504

*Readings:*
- Walsh, Kemerer, & Maniotis Chapter 3

*Activities:*
Lecture/PowerPoint

Thursday, July 12

**Online – Blackboard**

**Case Study #1 Due**

The Employment Relationship
Personnel Issues

*Readings:*
Chapters 4 and 5

*Activities:*
Quiz
Emerging Issues Activity/Discussion
Group 1 – Employment Relationship
Group 2 – Personnel Issues
**Assign Journal #2**

Tuesday, July 17

**Online – Blackboard**

**Due Journal #2**

*Readings:*
- Walsh, Kemerer, & Maniotis Chapter 9, specifically the Legal Framework, The Texas Open Meetings and Public Information Acts, Educator Privacy Rights.

*Activities:*
School Board Writing Assignment due
View Wichita School Board meeting
Thursday
July 19  
**Online - Blackboard**  
Religion in the Schools  
**Activities:**  
- Quiz  
- Emerging Issues Activity/Discussion  
- Group 3 - Religion

**Last Day to Drop a Class Monday, July 23, 2018**

Tuesday
July 24  
**Regroup: Face to Face Class meeting**

Thursday,  
July 26  
**Student Rights of Expression**  
**Student Privacy Rights**

**Readings:** Each person is expected to read all material  
- Walsh, Kemerer, & Maniotis (actual page numbers are dependent on specific editions. Refer to the headers to be sure you are reading the appropriate section)  
  - Chapter 6, Specifically **Student Rights of Expression:**  
  - Chapter 9, Specifically **Student Privacy Rights:**

Tuesday,  
July 31  
Chapter 8, Specifically **Student Discipline:**

Thursday,
August 2  Legal Liability  
*Readings:*  
- Walsh, Kemerer, & Maniotis Chapter 10  
*Activities:*  
Emerging Issues Activity  

Friday, August 3  Final – Due by 5:00 pm  

**Policies**  

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**  

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 penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in an” F” in the course.  

**Class Attendance Policy**  

Students are required to attend all class meetings. In the event that a student misses a class, he or she is required to contact the professor. 10% of your grade is based on class attendance, participation and active learning. Each class period is worth 15 points.  

At the beginning of class, discussion about assignments and class issues are addressed. By entering the class late, it stops the flow of discussion and disrupts other students’ learning. As a common courtesy to all, please be on time and have readings completed.  

When students are talking or presenting in class, students should be engaged, listen and respond in a positive manner. Treating each other with respect contributes to other students’ learning and establishes a positive learning environment.