



**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO**

**EDCI 1301
Department of Curriculum and Instruction**

Instructor Name: M. Heather Herschell	A&M-San Antonio email: mherschell@tamusa.edu ***** Please DO NOT email through Blackboard!*****
Office Hours and Location: Via Zoom, By Apt. Send an email to set up a convenient and agreed-upon appointment time. Link will be sent for confirmation.	Course Location & Time: Tuesdays/Thursdays 12:30-1:45pm Malda 204

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

- Readings posted via Blackboard
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Recommended Course Materials:

- Google or Microsoft Office suite. All work must be submitted either as Google Docs, Word or .PDF files and there can be compatibility issues with the Mac word processing programs
- Regular and reliable access to the internet and ability to print copies for class

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed as an introduction to the American public education system, the history of education and the foundations of education, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, and Texas teacher certification. Students will develop the skills necessary for analyzing written lesson plans and meaningful student learning objectives based on relevant content and appropriate assessment.

Course Objectives

Students will:

- Reflect on their understanding of themselves as students and as teachers.

- Explore and discuss the history of the American public school system and the foundation of education nationally and in Texas.
- Explore their opinions on contemporary issues of education.
- Gain an understanding of Texas teacher certification and reflect on which types of certification they may want to pursue.
- Become aware of the various teacher evaluation systems in Texas.
- Develop an awareness of diverse student populations.
- Gain an understanding of the content and pedagogical knowledge necessary to obtain certification.

MAJOR COURSE COMPONENTS:

Assignment	Points	Due
Various In-Class Formatives/Participation Assignments	Varies ~ 1-30	Varies
Attendance	~1-30	Weekly
Texas Teacher Certification Project:	--	
Certification Plan	50	9/2/25
Practice TExES Exam DURING CLASS	50	9/9/25
Attendance at JagsROAR	100	TBD
Practice TExES Exam Reflection	100	9/11/25
JagsROAR Reflection	100	TBD
TEKS Exploration	100	10/9/25
JA Day 1 (Submit Evaluation Documents)	50	TBD
JA Day 2 (Submit Evaluation Documents)	50	TBD
JA Day Reflection 1	50	TBD
JA Day Reflection 2	50	TBD
Lesson Planning Quiz	20	10/16/25
Educator Interview & Reflection	100	12/2/25
Career Reflection Paper	100	12/11/25

Final Grade Distribution:

Final Grade	# of Points
A	~900 – 1000 points
B	~800 – 899 points
C	~700 – 799 points
D	~600 – 699 points
F	~599 points or below

STANDARDS:

PPR Standard I: The teacher designs instruction appropriate for all students that reflects an understanding of relevant content and is based on continuous and appropriate assessment.

1.19k—1.24k and 1.19s—1.23s **Designing Coherent Instruction**

PPR Standard III: The teacher promotes students learning by providing responsive instruction that makes use of effective communication techniques, instructional strategies, that actively engage students in the learning process, and timely, high-quality feedback.

3.5k—3.11k and 3.7s—3.14s

Engaging Students in Learning

3.18s—3.20s:

Demonstrating flexibility and responsiveness

TAC Code Standard 1: Instructional Planning and Delivery. Teachers demonstrate their understanding of instructional planning and delivery by providing standards-based data-driven, differentiated instruction that engages students, makes appropriate use of technology, and makes learning relevant for today's learners.

TAC Code Standard 2: Knowledge of Students and Student Learning. Teachers work to ensure high levels of learning, social-emotional development, and achievement outcomes for all students, taking into consideration each student's educational and developmental backgrounds and focusing on each student's needs.

GRADING POLICIES

Assessment	Accompanying Standard	
Certification Project	I, III	
TEKS Exploration	I, III	
JA Day Planning, Facilitation, Reflection Assignments	I, III	
Lesson Planning Quiz	I, III	
Educator Interview and Reflection	I, III	
Career Reflection Paper	I, III	

Evaluations will be made with numbers. Final course grades of “A” through “F” will be awarded based on the A&M-SA grading Policy (see below):

Letter Grade	Range	Grade Points
A	90-100	4.0
B	80-89	3.0

C	70-79	2.0
D	60-69	1.0
F	59 & Below	0.0

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE:

This course is offered as an in-person course. We will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays for on-campus/in-person classes to enable students to personally experience several different types of learning activities and learn different pedagogical strategies and techniques to use in their own future classroom. This course is designed to prepare future teachers for the classroom and a large part of that preparation is being part of the learning community. Daily attendance enables this preparation and community building to happen. The manner in which we conduct ourselves, including attendance, reflects on the teacher candidate and their commitment to the profession.

It is expected that students will be at all class sessions as well as prepared for each class. I will be conducting formative assessments throughout the semester. These assessments will be worth points toward the final grade in the course but, equally as important, I use these to gauge the students' level of understanding in the course. Therefore, formative assessment points, based on student learning, will be taken during most class periods.

You have four "leave days" from this class- no excuses asked. Please indicate your absence in the attendance assignment on Blackboard. You do not need to email me regarding your "leave day" absences. More than two absences may result in a loss of points. I understand that emergencies or crisis situations that cause a student to miss additional class periods do, at times, occur. If such an emergency arises, it is the student's responsibility to attach documentation as appropriate in the course attendance assignments on Blackboard. Exceptions to the attendance policy will be made on a case-by-case basis.

LATE WORK POLICY:

My Blackboard Gradebook will automatically assign a zero to assignments submitted past the deadline.

Students are expected to complete course assignments in a timely manner. Course materials build on one another. Falling behind has a negative impact on your success with subsequent assignments. Therefore, work submitted after the deadline, if accepted, is subject to a reduction in points awarded. Work submitted more than a week after the deadline may not be counted for credit at all and may receive a grade of zero. **Assignments due before the midterm grading period will not be accepted for credit after midterm grades are posted. Assignments due after the midterm grading period will likely not be accepted for credit if they are posted more than one week after the due date. No late work will be accepted for credit after the last scheduled class date.**

I understand that emergencies or crisis situations cause a student to miss a deadline. If such an

emergency arises, it is the student's responsibility to contact me as soon as possible, altering the situation. Exceptions to the late work policy will be made on a case-by-case basis and will only be considered in light of continued communication with the course instructor. Exceptions to the late work policy will require appropriate documentation of the circumstances surrounding the late submission(s).

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION IN BLACKBOARD:

All assessments must be neatly typed unless otherwise noted in the instructions. **The content of tests and assessments will be evaluated based on the level of higher-ordered thinking skills** demonstrated by the student according to the criteria for grading included in this syllabus, Blackboard and the expectations explained in class. **All assessments must be submitted through Blackboard** unless otherwise specified by the instructor. Submit your assignments in Word, PPT, Google, Images, Links, or pdf format; do not upload pages (Mac users).

- All work, except for those expressly listed otherwise, will be submitted electronically through the Blackboard site and will be due at 11:59 PM the day they are due.
- Assignments and assessments will be explained throughout the semester and will have corresponding written explanations and descriptions, and/or grading rubrics or checklists provided in Blackboard.
- There will be both formative and summative assessments in the course.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS:

All students must have adequate writing skills in English to communicate content in a professional and concise manner. Students must be proficient in their written presentations including strategies for developing ideas, citing scholarly references, writing style, wording, phrasing, and using language conventions. Students must follow APA guidelines, use non-racist and non-sexist language, and include sufficient references and evidence to support their thesis and ideas in the paper and projects.

Important University Policies and Resources

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Support Services in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210, or at (210) 784-1335 or visit <https://www.tamusa.edu/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Artificial Intelligence Policy: Use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for students who wish to use them. To adhere to our scholarly values, students must cite any AI-generated material that informed their work (this includes in-text citations and/or use of quotations, and in your reference list). Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

AI Policy:

Use of Generative AI Permitted Under Some Circumstances or With Explicit Permission

There are situations and contexts within courses where you may be asked to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to explore how they can be used. Outside of those circumstances, you should not use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any student work (assignments, activities, discussion responses, etc.) that is part of your evaluation in this course. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate with attribution what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, students should reach out to their instructor for clarification before submitting work for grading. Use of AI-generated content without the instructor's permission and/or proper attribution in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Acceptable Use:

- **Editing and Proofreading:** AI can be utilized to correct grammatical errors, punctuation, spelling mistakes, and suggest improvements in sentence structure.
- **Revising for Clarity:** AI can assist in identifying areas where the content may be unclear or confusing and offer suggestions for improvement.
- **Enhancing Style:** AI can provide recommendations for refining writing style, such as eliminating redundancy, improving flow, and enhancing readability.

Prohibited Use:

- **Content Creation:** AI should not be used to generate original content or ideas. All submitted work must originate from the student's own thoughts and efforts.
- **Plagiarism:** It is strictly prohibited to use AI to plagiarize or produce work that is not original. All sources must be properly cited, and ideas must be appropriately attributed.

Guidelines for Acceptable Percentage of AI Usage:

- **Editing and Proofreading:** Up to 100% of the document can be reviewed and corrected by AI for grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors. -
- **Revising for Clarity:** AI can be used to identify areas of improvement, but the actual revisions should be primarily made by the student. Aim for a balance where no more than 25% of the suggested revisions are directly implemented from AI recommendations.
- **Enhancing Style:** Similar to revising for clarity, AI recommendations can guide improvements, but the student should make the final decisions. Limit AI usage to no more than 25% of style enhancements.

Responsibility: It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that their work adheres to the guidelines outlined in this policy. Faculty and instructors may employ plagiarism detection tools to verify the originality of submitted work.

Consequences of Violation: Violation of this policy, including but not limited to plagiarism or excessive reliance on AI for content creation, may result in disciplinary action, including failing grades or academic probation.

By adhering to these guidelines, students can effectively leverage AI for editing and revising their work while upholding academic integrity and fostering their own creativity and originality

NOTE: Guidance for how to cite AI-generators, like ChatGPT, can be found here <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment call 210-784-1331 or visit Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance).

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services.

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2'). For more information and self-help resources, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-operations-plan.pdf> and <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-action-plan.pdf>

Download the SafeZone App for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can

schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots’ Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student’s GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as “F” grades and will impact the student’s GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio’s Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university’s Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant students that would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition and that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, University Catalog and to comply with them, as well as federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct.