

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – SAN ANTONIO
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

EDCI 5310
Differentiated Instruction for Diverse Students
Spring 2025

Instructor: Dr. Salma Boyd

Class Location: Classroom Hall 219

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Office: Madla 364

Phone: 210-784-2405

Email: sboyd@tamusa.edu

Please allow 24 hours for messages to be returned. **Email is the preferred method of communication.** Please do not email through Blackboard. Email messages are checked all week; however, more sporadically over weekends and holidays.

This syllabus was created to give students guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. Please note the instructor for this course reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any point during the semester.

Required Readings/Materials:

There is no textbook for this course. Any articles and/or required readings will be posted in Blackboard.

See Blackboard for all course materials: <http://tamusa.blackboard.com/>

Course Description:

This course focuses on developing and applying appropriate, differentiated instructional strategies that will help teachers more effectively engage all students in optimal learning experiences. The course will examine and critique various pedagogical strategies that are intended to create a positive and rich learning environment for a diverse population of students. In addition, students in this course will reflect on their own instructional practices to determine best practices that will work to meet students' needs and ensure student success.

Prerequisite:

Acceptance into Texas A&M University – San Antonio Graduate School and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction master's program.

Course Objectives:

- Introduce the terms and concepts related to differentiated instruction.
- Expose students to current research on differentiated instruction and provide opportunities to apply new knowledge.
- Facilitate the application of differentiation in instructional planning and lesson internalization.
- Emphasize the importance of recognizing and identifying student readiness.
- Promote professional reflection and follow-through actions.

How to Access Course Materials:

- Log into Jagwire: <https://jagwire.tamusa.edu>

- Click on Blackboard
- Under “My Courses,” locate our course and click on it.
- On the left-hand side, under “Course Content” you will find weekly assignments.

Technology Requirements:

Student Technical Skills Needed

Knowledge of computer skills including software applications (e.g. MS Word, PowerPoint, Blackboard, etc.) You are expected to be proficient with installing and using these basic computer skills and applications:

- Getting online
- Using an Internet browser. The IT department recommends [Mozilla Firefox](#) and [Google Chrome](#).
- Downloading, saving, opening, and printing material found online.
- Conducting Internet searches.
- Composing email/course messages and attaching documents. Need help? See [Course Messages](#)
- Posting to a discussion forum. Need help? See [Threads](#)
- Submitting work to Blackboard. Need help? See [How to Submit and Upload an Assignment](#)
- Using Microsoft Office. Need the program? It’s FREE for currently enrolled students. See [Microsoft Office for Students](#).
- Taking online examinations.

Electronic Devices

Your participation and intentional engagement in class is beneficial to you and to your classmates. Please refrain from phone use and other distracting activities on any device during class time; this is an important aspect of professionalism. You are invited, however, to use your device to find resources that enhance our discussion. Please come to each class with either your laptop or another electronic device that allows you to easily access the internet.

Lecture or Discussion Topics:

See the Course Overview for details.

Major Course Requirements: Instructions for all assignments are listed below and/or in the Blackboard assignment folder. Each assignment will be graded according to the points below. Consult the Course Schedule (at the end of this syllabus) for due dates.

Evaluation & Grading:

Assignments/Exams will be worth the following points

Assignment	Points	Week Due
Syllabus Agreement & Acknowledgement	5	1
Reading Response	5	1
Reading Response	5	2
Reflection	10	3
Reading Response	5	5
Reflection	5	6
Interview Response I	5	8

Interview Response II	5	9
Reflection	5	10
Video Response	5	11
Reflection	5	12
Reflection	10	13
Reflection	15	14
Attendance	15	15
Total	100	

Final Grade	# Of Points
A	100-90
B	89-80
C	79-70
D	69-60
F	59-BELOW

Course Assignments: All assignments that are submitted via Blackboard must be submitted in a readable format on university computers and by the due date and time listed in Blackboard with the assignment instructions. **Grammar and spelling count towards the grading of all written work.** Please find out during the first week of class if you do not know how. See [Submit Assignments](#).

Late Work Policy for Assignments: Any late work submitted to Blackboard after the posted deadline will be considered late - no matter the circumstances. Blackboard will continue to accept late assignments; however, all late work will receive a 10% deduction per day that it is late.

Attendance Policy: Class attendance will be checked during every class session. The student's responsibility is to ensure that her/his presence has been noted by signing the sign-in sheet. Punctuality is expected as part of professional responsibility and courtesy. Arriving late and/or leaving early in a class period is considered unprofessional. Continued unprofessionalism will result in deductions in the student's final grade at the discretion of the professor. **All** absences are documented in the same manner, each student is allowed ONE absence per semester that will not impact the attendance grade.

University Policies and Procedures

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for individuals with disabilities. Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodations for their disability. If you have a disability that may require an accommodation, please contact [Disability Support Services](#) (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and the email is dss@tamusa.edu.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the [Academic Learning Center](#) for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment-based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

Counseling 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 or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University-San Antonio, please contact the [Student Counseling Center](#) (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. After-hours crisis support is available by calling 210-784-1331. Please contact UPD at 911 if harm to self or harm to others is imminent.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (to the extent permitted by law), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff, and faculty who are registered in JagE Alert, will have the option to receive a text message, email, and/or phone call with instructions and updates. Register or update your information via [JagE-ALERT](#)

[Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide](#)

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.

General's Store: General's Store is an on-campus food pantry to serve members of the campus community who need food assistance. Located in Patriot's Casa room 110, this service is

available Wednesdays (2-6 p.m.), and by appointment. For more information email foodpantry@tamusa.edu.

[The Jaguar Writing Center](#) provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website. The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu.

Library: The [A&M-SA Library](#) provides access to thousands of research and learning materials for COEHD students, faculty, and staff. These resources are mainly provided in electronic format and are accessible 24/7/365 with Jaguar log-in credentials. They include, but are not limited to, scholarly academic journals, professional publications, newspapers, ebooks, streaming video, and curated web resources. Additionally, there is a smaller physical collection, study space, and computer access available in CAB 202. Two unique physical collections housed in CAB 202 are the curriculum materials (sample textbooks, teachers' guides, activity guides, manipulatives, models, classroom reading collections, educational games, etc.) and the children's literature collection. These materials are available for checkout and can be used by students in lesson planning and in their clinical school placements.

The [Education Librarian Kimberly Grotewold](#) is available to assist with finding, accessing, evaluating, and effectively using relevant library resources and other information. She has developed subject, topic, and course-specific research guides which are linked into Blackboard (under Campus Resources in the left menu) and are accessible through the [Library's website](#) under the Research Guides link. If you have questions, concerns, or need help, please contact her through email at kimberly.grotewold@tamusa.edu; via phone: (210) 784-1519; or request an appointment using her [online scheduling calendar](#).

[Writing Center](#) provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous, 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. The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu.

Support for APA 7th Edition Writing & Citing

- The A&M-SA Library houses print copies of the [APA Publication Manual 7th Edition \(2020\)](#) for in-library use.
- Much of the essential content from the print manual is available online for the 7th Edition. See the APA's 7th Edition [Style and Grammar Guidelines page](#) for links to explanations and examples for most of the rules.

For additional resources, see the Library's [Basics of APA Guide](#); contact the [A&M-SA Writing Center](#); or call or email [Kimberly Grotewold](#), the Education Librarian.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Statement: Writing, reflection, and critical thinking skills are essential learning outcomes for this course. Developing strong competencies in these areas will prepare you for future academic, personal, and workplace success. All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may make use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software in a

collaborative format. However, submissions that are solely AI-generated are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism.

[Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement](#): The Mays Center provides enhanced learning opportunities and access to resources and relationships in order to develop students into career-ready and community-minded graduates. Programs and services provided by the Mays Center include: Career Services, Career Clothes Closet, Civic Engagement, Community Service, Experience Transcript, Externships, the General's Store, Internships and more. Science and Technology Building, Suite 111 | (210) 784-1356 | mays@tamusa.edu

Meeting Basic Needs: If you face challenges securing food, housing or other basic needs, you are not alone, and A&M- San Antonio can help during this time of crisis. We invite you to learn about the many resources available to support you by visiting the [Dean of Students' website](#) or by reaching out via dos@tamusa.edu. Additionally, it is not unusual for students to encounter temporary illness or injuries that may interfere with your academic success. Students may request temporary illness/disability assistance by reaching out to the [Dean of Students' Office](#) (210) 784-1354. If you are comfortable doing so, please notify the professor of any issues so that they may provide additional resources.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, about 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@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 A&M System 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.

Respect for Diversity: We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the classroom, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

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, diversity, pluralism, 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, or gender expression. 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 helping create 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 has staff members trained to support survivors 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 university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and other healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about an incident of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the [Student Counseling Center](#) at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions of students' freedoms and responsibilities to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System, including the [A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct](#).

Students' Rights

- A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no university rule or procedure that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition, and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
- 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, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
- 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.

- Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

- A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and staff, and the administration.
- A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted and compliant with the University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and in the University Catalog.
- A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
- A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
- A student has the responsibility to check their University email for any updates or official University notifications.
- 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.

Course Assignment Overview

Week	Topic & Class Work	Blackboard Assignment	Due Date
1 1/27/25	Course Overview	Assignment (1): Syllabus Agreement/Acknowledgement Assignment (2): Reading Response	2/1/25
2 2/3/25	What is differentiated instruction?	Assignment: Reading Response	2/8/25
3 2/10/25	What are diverse academic environments?	Assignment: Reflection	2/15/25
4 2/17/25	No Class-President's Day Conduct Required Interviews	Conduct Required Interviews Due in Weeks 8 & 9	
5 2/24/25	What do we differentiate?	Assignment: Reading Response	3/1/25
6 3/3/25	How do we differentiate?	Assignment: Reflection	3/8/25
7 3/10/25	No Class-Spring Break	No Assignment Due	
8 3/17/25	Why do we differentiate?	Assignment: Interview Response I	3/22/25
9 3/24/25	How do we plan for differentiated instruction?	Assignment: Interview Response II	3/29/25
10 3/31/25	Interview Data Trends	Assignment: Reflection	4/5/25
11 4/7/25	Instruction Delivery	Assignment: Video Response	4/12/25
12 4/14/25	Leadership Moves	Assignment: Reflection	4/19/25
13 4/21/25	Anticipating Challenges	Assignment: Reflection	4/26/25

14 4/28/25	Group Presentations	Assignment: Reflection	5/3/25
15 5/5/25	Putting it All Together	FINAL GRADES GIVEN	
16 5/12/25	No Class-Finals Study Week	No Assignment Due	