

ASU College of Education
Department of Curriculum and Instruction
EDG 6313(CI 6317) Foundation of the Public School System
Online Course
Course Syllabus – Fall B 2014 (October 24th-December 12th, 2014)

Professor/Instructor: Amy Williamson, Ed.D. **Telephone:** (325) 486-6777
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Office Hours: Wednesday 9 a.m.-1 p.m., or by appointment
E-Hours (available online): M, T, R 9 a.m.-noon

Course Description: Develop an understanding of the organization and structure of the public school system in Texas. Learn to fulfill the professional role and responsibilities of the classroom teacher, adhering to the legal and ethical requirements of the profession.

This is an 8-week, online course.

Required Texts:

APA Manual, 6th edition is highly recommended.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes:

By the end of the course, the candidate will:

- a. Consider historical influences on the development of American education.
- b. Compare and contrast major educational philosophies.
- c. Articulate professional dispositions and a personal philosophy of education.
- d. Relate and critically evaluate educational theories to educational practices.
- e. Become informed about teachers, students, school and the law.
- f. Reflect on the profession of teaching.
- g. Address the complexities of the climate, culture, and context of American schools and connect these phenomena to learner needs.
- h. Respond to individual and group diversity in planning for learner-centered instruction and success.
- i. Become informed about learners who are at risk for success and apply differentiated instructional strategies.
- j. Consider traditional and innovative curriculum development and design.
- k. Evaluate instructional practices related to effective schools research.
- l. Become informed about the governance structure of schools.
- m. Analyze trends in American public education.
- n. Consider factors influencing effective communication between home and school and respond to these factors when planning instruction.
- o. Develop professional competence in designing, writing, and presenting information utilizing APA format and style.
- p. Contribute to community schools in a community-engaged project, reflecting on the needs of diverse learners.

Graduate Learning Goals Addressed:

Students will:

- Understand and value individual differences, and have the skills to work effectively in a diverse, changing world.
- Comprehend and practice the ethical principles appropriate to their chosen discipline.
- Be required to demonstrate advanced oral and written communication skills appropriate to their chosen discipline.
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge, skills and values appropriate to their chosen discipline.

CONNECT Community Engagement Scholarship:

As teachers, it is incumbent upon us to be involved in the communities where we teach, to promote our profession and the needs of children through service, and to understand the populations that comprise the schools we are connected with. This course requires a field project in which you will be required to select your own school/district placement. Details can be found in Blackboard and will be shared at length in Week 2 of this course.

Methods of Instruction:

Since this course is completely online, the students are responsible for understanding the assignments and learning the material. If questions arise, it is important to ask the professor immediately for help since many of the tasks build on one another.

Class will consist of online discussions, individual participation, and papers.

Candidates should be sure they have Adobe, Quicktime, Skype, and Real Player (free) downloads on their computers for necessary downloads. This may also require a free Java download first.

IT Help can be accessed at 325-942-2911.

Course Requirements:

The purpose of graduate education is to provide for advanced and specialized training beyond the baccalaureate program. Graduate study is intended to strengthen the academic and professional competence of the candidate, to develop the candidate's capacity for independent study, to familiarize students with past and current research, to train the student in the techniques of research, and to enable the candidate to relate his or her research to the investigations of other scholars and derive significant implications from the relationships.

1. Candidates' Participation:

Candidates should participate actively and enthusiastically in all online discussions. Readings and school experiences will prepare candidates for discussions.

When prompted by learning modules, discussion boards, PowerPoint presentations, or at any other direction for participation, the minimum response will be indicated in your assignment instructions. Additional and frequent responses to peer posts are encouraged to strengthen your shared insights and online learning experiences.

2. **Candidates' Written Work:**

- Demonstrates content quality and clarity that emphasizes depth and breadth, reflection and insights, scholarly discussion using scholarly vocabulary.
- Clearly shows a high level of understanding regarding classroom discipline/ the topic of discussion.
- Demonstrates writing quality and clarity, including mechanics, spelling, grammar, appropriate language.
- Demonstrates appropriate and accurate inclusion of authority to support discussion, with citations that follow a scholarly (APA) format.
- Demonstrates appropriate use of respectful person-first language (e.g., "student with dyslexia" rather than "dyslexic student").
- Demonstrates an overall appearance according to APA format (title, page, 12pt font, 1 inch margin, and double spaced), completeness, and timeliness.
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3. **Candidates' Communication:**

Candidates should maintain open communication with the instructor. Ask questions in a timely manner to provide time for the instructor to respond prior to due date. Candidates are expected to check Blackboard and ASU email on a regular basis, preferably daily. Candidates are expected to complete assignments and meet all deadlines for submission of coursework.

Evaluation:

Each assignment will be worth a varying number of points. Grades will be determined by the percentage of the total possible points earned.

A= 90-100%

B= 80-89%

C= 70-79%

Discussion Boards @ 50 each: **100 points**

Timeline: **50 points**

Philosophy: **50 points**

Demographics Paper: **100 points**

Community engagement project: **100 points**

400 points possible

All activities should be submitted on or before the required due dates. **Late work is not accepted.**

Communication:

Candidates must communicate with all instructors via the ASU e-mail system. Candidates must also access and use Blackboard, Rampart, e-mail and Skype. Candidates must access Blackboard regularly for electronic posting of the syllabus, assignments, announcements, grading information, and instructions. Candidates contact the ASU Help Desk at 325-942-2911 to learn about Blackboard, how to access and navigate it, or other assistance. This should be done EARLY in the class, preferably before the first class day.

You can expect to receive email responses within 24 hours. Please allow up to 6 days for grading.

Research writing style:

In the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, all candidates should adhere to *American Psychological Association Publication Manual (APA)* when completing written assignments, and when applicable, *in* other electronic or media-style presentations. The *APA Manual* is available at the ASU library, at the bookstore, or on-line at www.apa.org.

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Persons Seeking Accommodations:

Persons with disabilities, which may warrant academic accommodations, must contact the Student Life Office, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Academic Honesty:

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook.

Plagiarism is strictly forbidden, and ASU instructors may utilize Internet search links that assist in identifying plagiarized materials.

Assignment	Due Date
Introduction- Discussion Board	10/24 <i>*Note this is a Friday.</i>
Historical Timeline	11/2
Case Reader Scenario- Discussion Community Engagement Site Choice due	11/9
Philosophy of Education	11/16
School and Community Demographics Paper	11/23
Discussion Board due	11/30
CONNECT Engagement project due	12/7
Conclusion	No assignment due; Extra Credit option due December 9th

**Assignments are due each week on Sunday evening (see date listed) at midnight, with the exception of the first week. Additional assignment instructions can be found in Blackboard.*

Skype Download Instructions

I am available on Skype during many of my office hours. If you need to chat, this is an alternate option to an email or office visit. To download Skype (free), follow the directions below:

1. Go to <http://www.skype.com>
2. Click on Download Skype Now.
3. A message should come up that says "You are now downloading Skype."
4. Click "Run" when the pop up download box appears.
5. If you receive a message that says "A program needs your permission to continue," click Continue.
6. Choose your language, then click "I agree- install," on the box that appears.
7. Click "Continue installing Skype."
8. You should receive a message that says "Thank you for installing Skype." Click Finish.
9. Close your browser box.
10. In the box that appears, create your Skype account information. Accept the Terms, hit next, then complete the rest of your account information. Click Sign In.
11. Close the Welcome screen.

To add me as a contact:

1. Once you have logged in, click on +New in the left corner. Click on New Contact.
2. You can search by my name (Amy Williamson) or my username (**amymw3**). Once I have been added as a contact, you can see when I am online and available to chat with you.

Please note: These directions are for a PC, but the process is very similar for a Mac.