



## EDCI 597: SCIENCE INSTRUCTION FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LEARNERS COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL, 2016

According to State of Texas HB 2504, this course syllabus must be submitted for review prior to the course's scheduled start date. Therefore, the instructor has the right to modify this syllabus and course calendar at any time between submission for publication and the first day of class. Furthermore, the instructor has the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the course itself provided that (1) such changes do not increase expectations or requirements beyond a reasonable equivalent and (2) students are given ample notification.

**Instructor:** Dr. Becky Sinclair

**Office Location:** Education South 228, Commerce Campus

**Office Phone:** 903.468.3237 (Please use email.)

**Office Fax:** 903.886.5581

**University Email Address:** [becky.sinclair@tamuc.edu](mailto:becky.sinclair@tamuc.edu) (Best way to contact me.)

### COURSE INFORMATION

#### **Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**

Textbook(s) Required: None. Readings will be assigned from online sources and handouts provided by the instructor.

**Course Description:** This course will focus on effective elementary science classroom instructional practices supporting mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and the Next Generation science standards. The course content and activities address the inquiry process in instruction, resources for teaching science, strategies that support student-centered and constructivist-based pedagogical design and technology applications.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will learn effective teaching strategies for elementary science classrooms connected to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and the Next Generation Science Standards.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills and their connection to effective science instruction.
3. Students will develop strategies and activities to effectively integrate 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills into their science classroom.
4. Students will create a plan of action for implementing ideas learned through the course into their classroom(s).

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This course consists of varied readings with related reflective assignments, online activities, and E-College threaded discussions.

### Grading

1. Unit Science Journal Assignments – 30%  
Each unit will require thoughtful written comment on unit assignments based on online readings, activities and websites.
2. E-College Threaded Discussions – 25%  
Each unit will have several embedded discussion questions with posting requirements described in the course shell.
3. Sharing of Strategies and Activities – 20%  
Each unit will require the finding and/or modifying of activities/strategies and sharing these with classmates.
4. Final Project - Learning Application into the Classroom – 25%  
A final project will demonstrate the ability to apply ideas learned from the course in your own classroom by developing an action plan describing how you will use strategies/ideas from each unit. Details for this assignment will be provided in the course shell.

Points students' receive from the previously described requirements will be totaled and the following course grades will be assigned:

- A – 90 - 100 points
- B – 80 - 89 points
- C – 70 - 79 points
- D – 60 - 69 points
- F – below 60 points

### COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This online course will be divided into 5 units of approximately one week each. Details provided in the course shell.

### TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

**Computer with Internet Connection.** High speed internet connection needed. Dial up connections are so slow that students tend to get timed out on a regular basis. This tends to be too frustrating for use in online courses.

**Brower Testing.** It is *strongly recommended* that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the ‘My Courses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

## Access and Navigation.

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>. You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu). Technology support at 903-468-6000 is available 24 hours a day/ seven days a week.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### Interaction with Instructor Statement:

The students will be able to communicate with instructor via email: [becky.sinclair@tamuc.edu](mailto:becky.sinclair@tamuc.edu), which is checked frequently throughout the day during weekdays and occasionally on weekends.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course/Department Specific Procedures/Policies:

#### **Late Work.**

Specific dates and times are established for every assignment. No late work is accepted without extenuating circumstances approved by the instructor. Students who feel they have an extenuating situation must contact the instructor prior to or within 24 hours of the the due date about the circumstance. Work cannot be made up and extra work is not allowed to compensate for missing or later work.

Technology Failure is not an automatically approved excuse for submitting late work. If you experience a technology issue you should: 1. Contact the Tech Support Team and send a copy of the "trouble ticket" to the instructor to document your efforts; 2. Email the assignment directly to the instructor before the due date to document your efforts.

### **Appeal of the Final Grade (13.99.99.R0.05 Student's Appeal of Instructor's**

**Evaluation**, Effective September 1, 1996. Revised February 8, 2007)

1. The final grades awarded by faculty members are their expert judgment concerning student performance. Students challenging a final grade must show that the instructor's judgment was unfair based on:
  - a) some basis other than performance, or
  - b) standards different from those applied to other students in the same course section, or
  - c) a substantial, unreasonable, and unannounced departure from previously articulated standards or the syllabus.
2. Students who believe their grade to be unfair must first discuss the matter with the instructor.
3. If no satisfactory resolution is reached with the instructor, or if the instructor is unavailable, the student shall appeal to the department head. A grade appeal must be initiated in writing with the department head (or dean if the department head is the instructor) within six months of the last day of the semester in which the grade was awarded. The department head will examine the student's appeal to determine whether the student has established an apparent case of unfair academic evaluation as described in section 1. If the student has not established a case that appears to have merit, the department head will so inform the student and the instructor without delay.
4. If the case has merit, the department head will secure, from all parties, written statements and other such information as he or she deems helpful and will issue his or her findings and remedies, if any. In so doing, the department head will be guided by the principle the burden of proof lies with the student.

For additional information regarding the appeal of a final grade above that of the department head, please consult the latest version of the graduate catalog or contact the Head of the Department, Curriculum and Instruction, at 903-886-5537.

### **University Specific Procedures:**

#### **Academic Integrity/Honest Statement**

This course demands a high level of scholarly behavior and academic honesty on the part of students. Violations of academic integrity/honesty while carrying out academic assignments may, at the discretion of the instructor, receive a zero on the particular work in question, receive an "F" in the course, or brought before a higher level of governance for possible dismissal from the university. Examples of academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, but are not limited to: (1) turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or instructor without obtaining permission from this instructor in advance; (2) turning in another person's work, in part or in whole, as your own; (3) copying from professional works without citing them; and (4) any form of cheating on exams.

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, visit the following websites and/or ask your instructor:

<http://www.plagiarism.org/>

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html>

#### **ADA Statement**

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 accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

#### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook). Use of cell phones, texting or email devices during class is forbidden. In the event of an emergency, students should excuse themselves from the classroom to receive/make a communication and should return to class as soon as possible.

#### **Non-discrimination Policy**

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by

persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.