EDCI 575: Differentiated Instruction
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2020

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Becky Sinclair
Office Location: Education South #228, Commerce Campus
EDCI Office: 903-886-5669
University Email Address: Becky.Sinclair@TAMUC.edu (Answered on a regular basis, M-F 8:00-4:00 plus additional days/times. Best way to contact me. Please include your phone number in all emails to allow for conference calls.)

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Dates and Times:
This course is 100% online and requires no face-to-face meetings.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:
Your course textbook is required for the course and may be purchased or borrowed from any source.

> Heacox, Diane (2012). Differentiating instruction in the regular classroom: How to reach and teach all learners. Minneapolis: Free Spirit Publishing Inc.
> ISBN: 978-1575424163.

Course Description

Course Description: Differentiated Instruction is a special topics course designed to explore the literature and current practices in differentiating instruction in elementary classrooms (K-8). The primary objective of this class is for students to advance their professional knowledge, skills and practice for more effective teaching through differentiated instruction.

Student Learning Outcomes: Through your experiences in this class you should be able to:
1. Articulate the definition of differentiated instruction and the critical components around which differentiated instruction is designed, i.e., readiness, interest, learning styles and affect/environment.

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2. Utilize formal and informal assessment data to plan instruction that is differentiated based on analyses.
3. Demonstrate differentiation in the three areas for which differentiation is appropriate: content, process, and product.
4. Use differentiated instruction in a way that accommodates diversity among learners, i.e., cognitive abilities, learning styles, socioeconomic and family factors, readiness, learning pace, gender, cultural influences, and confidence.
5. Write reports of differentiated instruction with several components: TEKS/STAAR objectives to be covered; assessment strategies for those objectives; analyses of results; plan of action for differentiating instruction; results of instruction; and effectiveness of the plan.
6. Understand and utilize the elements of reflection via writing and threaded group discussion.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments
This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes/objectives for the course and instructional units/modules. During each unit, you will work on various combinations of assignments; worksheets, activities, threaded discussions, readings, literature searches, etc.

1. Class Attendance & Participation. You are expected to "attend" the online course, participate and complete all course assignments and activities during the semester as outlines in the Course Calendar. The rules of the University regarding class attendance will be followed in this course. The university policy on excused absences is explained in the university Catalog and includes: (a) participation in a required or authorized university activity; (b) illness that is verifiable; (c) death in the immediate family; (d) obligation at a legal proceeding in fulfilling responsibility as a citizen; and (e) other reason as determined by individual faculty to be excusable. Assignments submitted late without documentation of an excused university absence will not be accepted.

2. Reflections & Discussions. (Student Learning Objective 1, 6)
Students will be divided into discussion groups. You will complete your course reading assignments and activities according to the Course Calendar and participate in discussions about your learning. Threaded discussions are designed to encourage communication about your learning, share your personal experiences with DI, and discuss the pros and cons of the text and DI in general.

Assessment Method: Threaded discussions will be evaluated against a rubric designed to assess both the quantity and quality of your contributions. Your responses will be evaluated using the following rubric: (1) Quantity of your initial response; (2) Quality of your initial response; (3) Quantity of your responses to your team members and (4) Quality of your responses to your team members.

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3. Written Assignments/Activities (Student Learning Objective 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
Several written assignments are required in this course to reinforce your learning. Requirements for each will be provided in the course units.

4. DI Creative Product Project. (Student Learning Objective 2, 3, 6)
There are many ways students can demonstrate their learning other than traditional pencil and paper assignments. In addition, there are many types of rubrics that teachers can create to assess student learning. Students will be given information about a non-traditional product/assessment (non-traditional). According to the Course Calendar and additional information provided online, you will complete the following:
- Locate a lesson plan in your current curriculum that currently has a traditional assessment.
- Revise the lesson plan to incorporate the non-traditional assessment you were assigned.
- Create a sample of your non-traditional project. This can be made by you or a child under your supervision.
- Create a rubric to assess student learning for your revised lesson plan. Sample rubrics will be provided in eCollege.
- Present your non-traditional assessment, lesson plan and rubric to the class via "Doc Share" in eCollege. Specific instructions will be provided in eCollege.

Assessment Method: You will receive one grade for your lesson plan and presentation and a second grade for your sample project and rubric. Grades for these activities will be evaluated based on the requirements.

GRADING

The following rubric guidelines will be used for grading most assignments for the course.

Category	Full Credit (A)	Partial Credit (B/C)	No Credit (F)
Supporting information	Information is clearly stated, comprehensive, and includes required supporting information.	Information is stated, but is unclear.	Information presented does not specifically or comprehensively address the topic.
Evidence and Examples	All responses and examples provided are specific and relevant to the topic.	Most of the responses and/or examples are present, specific and relevant to the topic.	Reponses and/or examples are not specific or relevant to the topic.
Sentence Structure	All sentences are well-constructed and	Most of the sentences are well-constructed and organized.	Most sentences are not well-constructed and/or organized.

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	information well-organized.		
Capitalization, punctuation and grammar usage	There are no errors in capitalization, punctuation, or grammar usage.	There are one or two errors in capitalization, punctuation, or grammar.	There are several (two or more) errors in capitalization, punctuation, or grammar.
Quality of Work (Computer generated or handwritten)	Complete clear, readable responses.	Partially readable clear responses.	Not legible and/or unreadable.

FINAL GRADE IN THE COURSE

Your final grade in this course is based on your performance on all of the requirements and expectations for the class. Some assignments carry more weight than others. Grades on individual assignments are numerical and based on the table below. Grades are recorded in the online grade book.

Activity	Number	Percentage of Final Average
Discussions & Responses to Classmates	many	40%
Written Assignments/Activities	many	40%
DI Creative Product Project	1	20%
Total		100%

Students are responsible to alert instructors of any errors seen in the Gradebook as soon as possible.

At the end of the semester, numerical scores are converted to percentage based on the total assignments for the semester. Percentage scores will be used to calculate a final grade on a scale of 91-100% (A), 81-90% (B), 71-80% (C), 61-70% (D), etc.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive

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support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or **point** release of that major version) and the previous major version

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Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
			of iOS (the latest minor or **point** release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2Lsupports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

- You must have a:
  - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - Speakers or headphones.
  - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.

- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp

- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.
  Pop-ups are allowed.
  JavaScript is enabled.
  Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:

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- Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/
- Adobe Flash Player *(version 17 or later)* https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/
- Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/
- Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 (phone is answered 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week, except during university holidays) or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT
Brightspace Support

Need Help?
Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "click here" to submit an issue via email.

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System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Questions about the Course, Assignments, Syllabus, etc.
Contact me via **email** any time 24/7. I check my email Monday through Friday (8:00-4:00) and often on the weekends. If you email me and do not receive a response from me after 24 office hours (not including the weekend), please resend the email. If you do not receive a response after several office days, or have an urgent need to speak with me, call the EDCI Office (903-886-5307) and ask an office manager to contact me.

Office Hours
I am available most days to meet with students either at my office in Commerce, at the MPLX Center or by phone. Email me to schedule an appointment.

Email Correspondence
All emails from me (and the University) will be sent to your University Email account, not your work or home email. Therefore, it is important to check your Leo Mail every day. Always send emails to me at the university email address provided on the first page.

Student Technical Support
Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you encounter a technical issue that prevents you from completing an assignment, copy me the work order from the Tech Department.

Best Phone Support: Tech support usually available 24/7 by a techie located in Commerce, Texas – call 903-468-6000.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course 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 during 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 automatic 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.

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<u>Email the assignment directly to the instructor before the due date to document your efforts.</u>

Syllabus Change Policy

According to State of Texas HB 2504, this course syllabus must be submitted in advance of the when the courses is actually scheduled to begin. Therefore, the instructor has the right to modify this syllabus and course calendar at any time between submitting it 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.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook. http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01. http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf

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[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

[http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedur es/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf](#)

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

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- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

[http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServ ices/](#)

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-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.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

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 the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

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Web url:
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

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.

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