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ELED 545 01W
Issues in the Development of the Elementary Curriculum
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2022

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Julia Persky

Office Location: Bain Center, Navarro College, Corsicana Campus, Suite 100

Office Hours: by appointment

Office Phone: 903.875-7617

University Email Address: julia.persky@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: 24 Hours M-F

COURSE INFORMATION

Dates and Times:

This course is 100% online and requires no face-to-face meetings nor synchronous meeting times.

Materials, Textbooks, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook Required: This is a “classic” book that can be purchased or borrowed from many locations.

Wiggins, G. & McTighe, J. (2005). *Understanding by design*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.
ISBN: 978-1-4166-0035-0

Additional Resources: Not required but may assist you in a more comprehensive understanding of the course content:

McTighe, J. & Wiggins, G. (2004) *Understanding by Design Professional Development Workbook*. ASCD. ISBN 978-0-87120-855-2

Course Description:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

The purpose of this course is to note how various philosophies have influenced the development of the elementary curriculum in order to meet the changing social and economic trends. Research articles will be studied in order to evaluate a selection of procedures and materials. Practical experiences will be provided in the construction of curriculum units for the elementary grades (K-8).

Student Learning Outcomes:

Overall Objective: The primary objective of this class is for students to: (1) become more fully aware of best practices in curriculum design and teaching the primary subject areas in elementary schools; (2) employ best practices in their classrooms not previously used; (3) develop an in-depth awareness of one curriculum area in support of the primary curriculum; (4) contrast currently used curriculum design and teaching practices with those recognized as best practices; and (5) recognize how to adjust instructional practices accordingly.

By the conclusion of the term the students will:

1. Be knowledgeable of the TEKS/curriculum taught in elementary schools, where they are found, and how they align with state and national standards.
2. Become acquainted with best practices in the major subjects taught in elementary schools.
3. Be familiar with some of the important literature on curriculum development.
4. Develop competencies to teach learning strategies and curriculum for a classroom based on the learning acquired in this course.
5. Develop competencies in planning, writing, and presenting results of research.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Doctoral Students: If you are taking this course to fulfill doctoral course requirements, you will have additional assignments to those listed in this syllabus. It is the doctoral student's responsibility to contact the instructor within the first week to discuss these additional 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. **Adhere to the Code of Conduct.** "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures).
2. **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

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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.

3. Reflections & Discussions

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 and to share your personal experiences. 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.

4. Article Reviews: Student are to review articles following the article review format below. You will also have the opportunity to correspond with an embedded university librarian. You will search for an article that you have a particular interest in that relates to curriculum design. Databases typically used in this type of a search are JSTOR, ERIC, and EBSCO host etc. Feel free to contact the librarian for assistance. Due dates will be posted in the Course Calendar. To be successful in this assignment, you should include:

- a. Name, date, and professor in the top right hand corner
- b. APA reference for article centered as title
- c. Thesis statement: one sentence that states the central idea of the article
- d. Question: every academic article is an attempt to answer a question
- e. Summary of the article: in one paragraph tell the main points, include the answer to the question, or if the question is not answered, state that the author failed to answer the question.
- f. Critical reflection: in one paragraph explain why you agree or disagree with the author. Be sure to include reasons to defend your position.

5. Unit of Study. You will write a unit of study based on the *Understanding by Design*, backwards design with the end in mind as developed by Wiggins and McTighe. You may write a unit of study based on the curriculum used in your current district. This unit of study needs to be of a quality that you can present to a school or district in order to explain the Understanding by Design concept or to explain the importance of the curriculum your district currently employs.

GRADING

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

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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.	Responses and/or examples are not specific or relevant to the topic.
Sentence Structure	All sentences are well-constructed and information well-organized.	Most of the sentences are well-constructed and organized.	Most sentences are not well-constructed and/or 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.

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	35%
Written Assignments/Activities	many	35%
Unit of Study (UbD Unit)	1	30%
Total		100%

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

Typically, holistic grades are awarded for assignments in this course. The final course grade is converted to a 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.

Master's level writing is expected. If that is a problem for you then email me and we can discuss some links that will help you with your writing.

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

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 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

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. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Questions about the Course, Assignments, Syllabus, etc.

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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 an additional day, 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. Email the assignment directly to the instructor before the due date to document your efforts.

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.

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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 Concerns

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

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).
<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:
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

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](#)

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Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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

Students with Disabilities-- 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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 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/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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

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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.

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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