



**EDCI 500**  
**May Mini 2023**  
**Issues in Education**

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**Office: Vanguard High School**

**Office Hours: Anytime via email or make an appointment for office visit**

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Description: This course focuses on socially and politically motivated mandates in K-12 education.**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Course Components and Assignments - There will be a calendar in D2L that will help guide you through this course. If you have any questions about dates, the calendar is right!**

**Summarized below are the main components of the course:**

- 1. Read Professional Materials.** You will read and reflect on current social, political, and educational issues that impact K- 12 education. The main reading materials for the course will come from professional articles, conference papers, US Department of Education documents, excerpts from professional books, and sources obtained via the internet.
- 2. Discussion in group.** Groups will be assigned a major topic to discuss. Each group member will find resources about the topic and present this research in their initial post. Each group member will respond for discussion. After the discussion is finished, each group member will write a reflection paper over the group's discussion. there will be 3 major topics for discussion.
- 3. Final Paper:** You will research an issue in education that is not one of the 3 topics used for discussion groups. You will research this topic of interest and write a 5 page paper double spaced over the research you found. You will take a position on how you feel

after reading all of the research. This should be the conclusion of your paper. You will be given a rubric of how it will be graded.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Learning outcomes are supported by the Association of Teacher Educators (2010)

#### **STANDARD 6: Collaboration**

Collaborate regularly and in significant ways with relevant stakeholders to improve teaching, research, and student learning.

- Participate in joint decision making about teacher education

#### **STANDARD 7: Public Advocacy**

Serve as informed, constructive advocates for high quality education for all students

- Actively address policy issues which affect the education profession

#### **STANDARD 8: Teacher Education Profession**

Contribute to improving the teacher education profession.

- Review resources designed to advance the profession

#### **STANDARD 9: Vision**

Contribute to creating visions for teaching, learning, and teacher education that take into account such issues as technology, systemic thinking, and world views.

- Actively participate in learning communities that focus on educational change

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| <b>TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS ACCESS AND NAVIGATION</b> |
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**Required Technology:** This course will use the online platform D2L. Therefore, students are required to have continuous on-line access. All students must have access to email and adequately functioning computer equipment.

To use the university's online resources, students need a computer and an Internet service provider (ISP). Students also need an Internet browser, an email program, and a word processing program. A working familiarity with hardware and software is advantageous before entering the program. You must have the most recent computer software and hardware to successfully complete the course.

**Ecollege Technical Concerns:** Please contact the HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. By sending an email directly to [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org). You may also reach the HelpDesk by calling (toll-free) 1-866-656-5511. There is also a number that is associated with D2L.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### Interaction with Instructor Statement:

**Course Concerns:** If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course (e.g., questions about an assignment, exam, about course due dates, etc.), please contact the instructor via email or by phone. Email is the best way to contact me. I check it daily, Monday-Friday.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Policies:

- 1) The publication manual for the American Psychological Association (APA), 6<sup>th</sup> ed., should be used for citations, references, and manuscript style for all written work.
- 2) Written work should be turned in according to the class schedule. Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m on the day indicated, unless otherwise indicated. **No late discussion postings will be accepted or receive any credit. No exceptions will be made.** Plan ahead and try to complete assignments well in advance to avoid last-minute problems. Computer difficulties will not be accepted as an excuse for late submission. Students are encouraged to check with different browsers, security levels; and, if settings on home computers are not compatible, they are encouraged to use libraries or computer labs on campus or local/private cyber cafes. It is a good idea to allow plenty of time for eleventh-hour adversities.
- 3) All assignments should be the student's own work. Please read the student handbook for information regarding the penalty for plagiarism. ***All documented cases of plagiarism will result in an automatic zero (0) on that assignment and may be forwarded to the Office of Student Life for disciplinary action.*** Remember that even copying one sentence without proper citation/quotations constitutes plagiarism!
- 4) Please note that points will be deducted for incomplete assignments and for those that are not of high quality.

### Plagiarism Policy:

Professionals are careful to include appropriate citations of all sources. Without citations, you are presenting ideas or words as your own. Paraphrasing another's work calls for a citation to give credit to the author. Even when you cite accurately, you need to use your own words; use direct quotes very sparingly. It is imperative that you create your own work and use your original words. Cutting and pasting from another source is not acceptable.

### ACADEMIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT:

Academic integrity is the foundation of the academic community. Because each student has the primary responsibility for being academically honest, students are advised to read and understand all sections in this handbook relating to standards of conduct and academic life.

### Definitions

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, falsifying academic records and other acts intentionally designed to provide unfair advantage to the student or the attempt to commit such acts. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, intentionally giving or receiving unauthorized aid or notes on examinations, papers, or class assignments intended to be individually completed. Cheating also includes the unauthorized copying of tests or any other deceit or fraud related to the student's academic conduct. Plagiarism occurs when a student obtains someone else's work and presents those ideas or words as her or his own academic work. Falsifying academic records includes, but is not limited to, altering grades or other academic records.

Honesty in completing assignments is essential to the mission of the university and to the development of the personal integrity of the student. Cheating, plagiarism, or other kinds of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in appropriate sanctions that may include failing an assignment, failing the class, or being suspended or expelled. Suspected cases in this course will be reported. The specific disciplinary process for academic dishonesty is found in the TAMU-C Student Handbook.

Please see the Student Handbook for additional information on academic dishonesty.

### Professionalism Component

You are expected to demonstrate a professional attitude at all times. This includes respecting the thoughts of your peers as well as your instructor. Also included is the following: participating in small and large group discussions, being on time, staying the entire time, accepting constructive criticism, listening, turning in high quality work, and understanding that this is a growth experience. Students who come into class expecting an A need to rethink their reason for being here. ***If you want an A, then you must work to earn the A.*** The Professional Behavioral Standards Evaluation Form will be used at such a time as it is warranted due to non-compliance with these expectations. "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, Conduct).

### Online Discussions and Chat rooms

You will be expected to participate in online discussions and some chats. Post to discussion boards answer the questions thoroughly. There is no, "I agree with her" and that's it. You must respond in a professional manner. The discussions, please see rubric. ***No late discussion postings will be accepted or receive any credit. No exceptions will be made.***

### ONLINE CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Online courses are a lot of work, more so than a face to face meeting. You have to be disciplined to be successful. If you are not, this may not be the course for you. Do not get behind in this course. If you do, you will not succeed. ***Your readings, assignments and in depth discussions are critical to your success in this course.*** The points you earn for discussion boards and activities will help ensure that you are keeping up with your assignments. You also need to have computer equipment that works. I understand storms cause power outages. However, you

are still responsible for completing all assignments by the due date. If you are having technical difficulties, you need to get it corrected a.s.a.p. I do not suggest waiting until the last minute to complete your assignments.

All students are expected to maintain high standards of quality of work and integrity. All written assignments are to be word processed, double-spaced and in 12 pt. font. All students are expected to maintain high standards of integrity; any use of the writing of others, must be quoted and cited.

**Final Grade:** Your final grade is a percentage of total possible points. Your grades will be posted in gradebook so you will know where you stand throughout the class.

### **University Specific Procedures:**

**Other Questions/Concerns:** Contact the appropriate TAMU-C department relating to your questions/concern. If you are unable to reach the appropriate department with questions regarding your course enrollment, billing, advising, or financial aid, please call 903-886-5511 between the hours of 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Student Code of Conduct:** The A&M-Commerce Student [Guidebook](#) (page 55) details student rights and explains grievance procedures. The guidebook includes the Student Code of Conduct.

**Dropping a course online:** If you are considering dropping an online course please e-mail your instructor stating that you desire to drop the course. The instructor will reply back to you via e-mail with an acceptance of your drop and forward your request to the Office of the Registrar. The Office of the Registrar will process the drop. You may check the status of your drop through MyLeo. Dropping a course may affect your financial aid (<http://www.tamuc.edu/home/finAid/default.asp>) and/or your scholarships (<http://www.tamuc.edu/scholarship/>). Please check with them before proceeding, if necessary.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*** This procedure is for dropping an online course only. It does NOT apply to a withdrawal from the university. If you are dropping ALL of your courses, a withdrawal must be completed.  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/registrar/pdfs/studentwithdrawal.pdf>

### **Appeal of Final Grade**

Any student who is not satisfied with their final grade and believes he or she can justify why the final grade should be different is welcome to participate in the process of appeals. The policy for appealing a semester grade is available through the office of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Texas A&M University-Commerce. Generally, the student must first make an appointment with his or her professor and present in writing the reasons why he or she believes a higher grade was earned. The professor is obliged to hear and read the case and provide an answer to that appeal with a reasonable time. If the student continues to be dissatisfied with the decision of the professor, the student may contact the head of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and continue the appeal at that level.

### **Academic Integrity/Honesty Statement**

This course demands a high level of scholarly behavior and academic honesty on the part of students. Examples of academic dishonesty include 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. 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 be brought before a higher level of governance for possible dismissal from the university.

**NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus, including course assignments, grading system and due dates as circumstances may warrant.**

### **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 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.

**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*).

**NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus, including course assignments, grading system and due dates as circumstances may warrant.**

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| <b>COURSE GRADING SYSTEM</b> |
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A "A" will be given for 90%-100% of the total points earned or work that is exceptional quality

A "B" will be given for 80%-89% of the total points earned or work that is above average quality

A "C" will be given for 70%-79% of the total points earned or work that is average quality.

A "D" will be given for 60%-69% of the total points earned or work that is below average quality.

A "F" will be given for 59% or less of the total points earned or work that is poor quality.

*NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus, including course assignments, grading system and due dates as circumstances may warrant.*

**The specific due dates for assignments and discussions will be on D2L. There will be a calendar for this class and you will use that if there is any confusion on when something is due. With an online class, I have found that students really like the calendar.**