



EDCI 597.01W & K-12 MULTICULTURAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOKS

COURSE SYLLABUS: WINTER MINI 2024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Tami Morton, PhD
Office Location: EDS 216
Office Hours: by appointment only
Office Phone: 903-886-5537 (main office phone)
University Email Address: Tami.Morton@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **email**
Communication Response Time: 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required:

Dowdy, J. K., & Fleischaker, R. (Eds.). (2018). *Text sets : Multimodal learning for multicultural students*. BRILL.
https://tamuc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01TEXAM_COM/7i396/alma991006635797206041

Leland, C., Lewison, M., & Harste, J. C. (2017). *Teaching Children's Literature : it's critical!* (Second edition.). Routledge.
<https://www.taylorfrancis-com.proxy.tamuc.edu/books/mono/10.4324/9781315269627/teaching-children-literature-christine-leland-mitzi-lewison-jerome-harste>

Wolf, S., Coats, K., Enciso, P., & Jenkins, C. (Eds.). (2010). *Handbook of research on children's and young adult literature*. Taylor & Francis Group.

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https://tamuc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01TEXAM_COM/7i396/alma991006486518406041

Optional Texts and/or Materials:

Multicultural Children's and Young Adult literature, digital or in print

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association 2020: The official guide to APA style* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association: ISBN: 9781433832161

Course Description

This course explores a diverse selection of multicultural literature aimed at promoting social justice within K-12 educational settings. Participants will critically examine books that address themes such as race, gender, identity, and equity, and analyze how these narratives can foster empathy and understanding among young readers. Through engaging discussions, reflective activities, and practical lesson planning, educators will learn to incorporate these texts effectively into their classrooms, empowering students to engage with social issues and become advocates for change.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. Students will use critical literacy pedagogy as a framework for planning lessons and various literacy learning experiences.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the criteria for selecting texts that reflect cultural diversity and that may address various social issues as they plan literacy lessons.
3. Students will demonstrate an understand of how assessments and/or curriculum materials may promote or hinder student literacy achievement as a result of a match or mismatch between student's cultural background and the school's curriculum and/or assessment content.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Acknowledgement

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the

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student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources. 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Instructional Methods

This winter mini course will be conducted entirely online. The professor will provide comprehensive modules that include course content, instructions for assignments, and details for assessments. Students will engage in discussion forums, maintain reflective journals, and create multimedia presentations that will be shared with the class.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

- **Daily Login:**
 - Log in to the online course platform each day to stay updated with new information and course announcements.
- **Critical Reading:**
 - Engage in critical examination of the literature, focusing on themes of multiculturalism and social justice.
- **Reflective Journals:**
 - Maintain a reflective journal to document thoughts, analyses, and personal connections to the readings.

GRADING

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 451- 500 Points

B = 401- 450 Points

C = 351- 400 Points

D = 301- 350 Points

F = 300 & > Points

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Reflective Journal	30% (150 points)
Discussions	30% (150 points)
Final Project	40% (200 points)
TOTAL	100% (500 points)

Assessments

1. Children's or Adolescent Multicultural Book Reflective Journal (3 X 50 = 150 points) (SLO 2)

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- a. Students will maintain an online journal to read and reflect on multicultural books chosen for independent reading. In this journal, students are expected to engage with each book critically, evaluating its content, themes, and representation. Additionally, students will assess the suitability of each book for their selected grade level, considering factors such as age appropriateness, relevance, and potential impact on diverse readers.
- 2. Discussion Responses (3 X 50= 150 points) (SLO 1) Students will discuss the appropriateness and authenticity of diverse books.
- 3. Pick your own Final Project (200 points) (SLO 1,2,3)
 - Students will select their own final project (ONE) based on their interests and/or classrooms.*
 - a. Research Paper: Conduct research on a specific aspect of multicultural literature and social justice, presenting your findings in a format of your choice (e.g., poster, slide show, infographic). Discuss the implications for K-12 education and how these findings can influence teaching practices.
 - i. Paper must be 5 pages long. Arial or Times New Roman 12, APA formatting, double spacing.
 - b. Curriculum Guide: Culturally Responsive Curriculum Development:
 - Create a mini-curriculum guide that integrates multiple multicultural books focused on social justice themes for a specific grade level. Include a list of recommended texts, discussion questions, and suggested activities.
 - c. Multimedia Presentation Project: Students will create a comprehensive multimedia presentation on a specific aspect of multicultural literature and its relation to social justice. The presentation should include the following components: Content Research, Visual Elements, Narration/Explanation

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

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https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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 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

Dr. Tami Morton is available for all questions via email (Tami.Morton@tamuc.edu) on a daily basis. Please contact her for any questions or concerns you may have about the class organization or content. If you would like to meet face-to-face, schedule an appointment. Her office is on the main campus in Sowers Education South #216.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

In this online class, digital products are not only accepted but promoted if available. Students may also use Audiobooks if necessary. Waters library also has a great amount of children's and young

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adult books, so please make a point to connecting with the library. Not only does the library have a collection of print books, but there is also a tremendous digital collection available.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance 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](#)

[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>

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<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

East Texas A&M University

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/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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>

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Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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/counseling-center

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



Department or Accrediting Agency Required

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**Course Calendar
EDCI 597
Winter Mini 2024**

Modules	Topic	Read:	To Do:
Module 1	Introduction to Multicultural Literature & Social Justice	Leland et al., Chapter 3 & 4 Teaching K-8 Reading, Chapter 8	Discussion question Begin Reflective Book Journal
Module 2	Themes in Multicultural Literature & Social Justice	Wolf et al., Chapter 11 & 12	Discussion question Finish reflective book Journal
Module 3	Creating Inclusive Classrooms	Dowdy, et al. Chapters 1-4 Leland et al., Chapter 7 & 8	Discussion Question Begin Final Project
Module 4	Advocacy Through Literature	Teaching K-8, Chapter 9 Reading	Discussion question Final Project Due

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