



EAST TEXAS A&M

ALEC 573 CRN: 83864
Practicum in Teaching

COURSE SYLLABUS – Fall 2025

Instructor: Whitney Figland, PhD, Assistant Professor

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Office Hours: I maintain an open-door policy and welcome visits to address questions; I would encourage you to send me a quick email to schedule a meeting or zoom. However, I am always available by my cell.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description: This course is the culmination of the teacher certification process and is conducted in the field at your school district under a mentor teacher. The *resident* teacher will be expected to plan, organize, deliver, and evaluate instruction for **courses** in the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Career Cluster **for the duration of this time**. In addition to this course, the resident teacher is expected to serve as an FFA advisor for meetings, SAE visits, shows, and CDE's.

Textbook (Required): None (Recommended):

Talbert, B. A., Vaughn, R., Croom, D.R., and Lee, J.S. (2007). *Foundations of Agricultural Education, 2nd Edition*. Danville, IL: Professional Educators Publications, Inc.
(Reference on file for use/copying).

Agriculture Teacher's Manual: A guide to local program success for preservice, new and experienced agriculture instructors **(Reference on file for use)**

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course and associated activities the student should be able to:

1. Recognize differences in student learning styles.
2. Demonstrate appropriate teaching techniques.
3. Manage classroom discipline.

4. Select and utilize teaching resources.
5. Collaborate with colleagues.
6. Recognize inappropriate teaching methods.
7. Identify resources for improving instruction.
8. Utilize instructional technology in the classroom.
9. Utilize online technology and social media for professional development.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS and ASSESSMENT

Assessment and Grade Determination	Point Value
Unit of Record #1	100
Lesson Plans	100
Reflections of Advisor Activities	100
1. Chapter Planning / Meeting	
2. SAE Visit	
3. LDE Planning	
Supervisor Evaluations	300
Professional Portfolio	200
1. Cover Letter	
2. Resume	
3. Philosophy of Education	
4. All pieces listed above included	

GRADING SCALE

A = 90% +

B = 89.9 – 80%

C = 79.9 – 70%

Anything less = Removal from Program

SPECIAL NOTE: The above requirements are minimums to be considered for passing the course. You cannot pick and choose what to do in order to “get by”. This is an all or nothing situation.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Professionalism: You are expected to be professional in your actions, words, attitude, dress, and in all things, you are expected to perform. You are expected to dress professionally and appropriately in accordance with the expectations of your district. Whatever their expectations are for dress, go one step above it. The use of profanity or tobacco products is prohibited at all times. You may be subject to drug/alcohol testing by the school district, particularly if you are authorized to drive district vehicles. You will be expected to adhere to all policies of the district including employee handbooks.

Attendance: You are expected to be a full-time resident teacher following your mentor teacher in all aspects of our profession and under the policies of the school district. Your mentor teacher has been identified and given you prior to the start of this term. Your mentor teacher should be used to help guide you in day-to-day activities.

FFA Travel: You should anticipate traveling to at least one major stock show, Area Career Development Event, local and/or county show, district degree & scholarship check, and district and area banquet/convention for this term.

Professional Practice and Organizations: Teachers will also adhere to the Agricultural Science Teacher Code of Ethics as outlined in the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas (VATAT) pocket diary, which is presented to all members, including student members. It is highly recommended that each teacher join VATAT as a member. (<http://secure.vatat.org/application.php>).

Plagiarism: Plagiarism **WILL NOT** be tolerated and will result in an automatic **F** in the course. Students are expected to do their own work. Assistance with written assignments, such as proofreading or editing, is encouraged as long as the final concepts and product are those drafted and authored by the student. Information or materials (including ideas, quotes, data, procedures, etc.) from sources other than the student must be given proper credit through appropriate citation. The discipline of Agricultural Education uses the APA format (6th edition) as its primary style guide for publications, including research papers and reports. Assistance with this format and general guidelines for written assignments are available at the following source:

Scholarly Expectations: All works submitted for credit must be original works created by the scholar uniquely for the class. It is considered inappropriate and unethical, particularly at the graduate level, to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor. Work submitted at the graduate level is expected to demonstrate higher-order thinking skills and be of significantly higher quality than work produced at the undergraduate level.

Writing Standards: All written assignment will be written in a format aligned with the *American Psychological Association (APA) Manual for Publication*, 7th edition. APA style will always be used for punctuation, writing style, headings, and citations. Exceptions to APA formatting will be specified when appropriate. For the two writings in this course, the exceptions and expectations are:

- Name (First Last) will be a flush right header and Assignment Name will be a flush right footer. I do not want a “running head” in the top left. Page numbers are optional. This precludes the need for a cover page or a “heading” on the first page in the body of the paper.
- 1” Margins for Top, Bottom, Left, and Right
- Times New Roman, 12 Point
- Single all paragraphs with double space between paragraphs, topic headings (in the body), tables, and figures

A tutorial on scientific writing, including the use of APA format is available from the Online Writing Lab at Purdue University (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>). Personal face-to-face assistance with editing and format suggestions is available from the ETAMU on-campus Writing Center

Interaction with Instructor Statement: E-mail will serve as the primary method for out-of class communication between the instructor and students. Therefore, students should check their university (myLeo) or other preferred e-mail account at least once daily. The instructor will attempt to answer each student-generated message within 48 hours of dispatch.

University Specific Procedures and Language

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

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/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

ETAMU 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.

Citizenship

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>

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas

ETAMU 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 ETAMU 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.

I reserve the right to make changes and revisions as needed to improve the class, the assignments, provide clarity, or provide a better experience.

Concerning COVID-19:

A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments

Counseling Availability

The Counseling Center at ETAMU, 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