EDCI 655.41B: ASSESSMENT of LEARNING and the LEARNER

COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Laura Slay
Office Location: Online
Office Hours: Virtual on Tuesday 9:30 am – 12:30 pm & Wednesday 1:00 – 4:00 pm and by appointment
Office Phone: 903.886.5537
University Email Address: Laura.Slay@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email
Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours (Monday-Friday)

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: Course texts will be available in the Water's Library
Software Required: D2L Brightspace
Optional Texts and/or Materials:

Course Description

This course prepares doctoral students to critically analyze educational assessment by exploring its philosophical, theoretical, and methodological foundations from historical, cultural, psychological, and technological perspectives. Students will examine how these viewpoints shape current assessment practices and policies, analyze assessment in relation to real-world problems, and consider implications for all learners.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze historical and contemporary trends in educational assessment.

2. Evaluate emerging technologies and their impact on assessment practices.

3. Examine the interplay between (conditions that frame) cultural, social, and political influences on assessment practices.

4. Critically examine policy implications of assessment trends.

5. Audit & report a critical analysis of assessment across various levels of the education system.

6. Describe (the nonlinear and) the dynamical nature of educational assessment relative (to determine future directions in assessment relative) to a problem of practice.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Access to a Computer with:

*   Internet access
*   Microsoft Office Software, including Word Processing and PowerPoint
*   Google Suite of office tools and apps
*   Zoom video conferencing software
*   Adobe or Foxit Reader to open PDF File
*   Padlet

Instructional Methods

This course will meet face-to-face at the Mesquite MPLX Center every other Monday from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm (see course schedule for exact dates). It uses a flipped classroom model where students are expected to complete readings, activities, and assignments before each in-person meeting. Instructional methods include lectures, instructor and student led discussions, student presentations, and writing assignments. Video conferencing will be available during class meetings.

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Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students are responsible for engaging in their own learning. This includes being aware of and meeting deadlines, checking class emails, course announcements posted in D2L, asking questions to clarify understanding, and actively participating in course activities.

Participation, Preparation & Professionalism are minimal expectations. Because this course is designed as a seminar, it depends on students' timely participation and engagement. As a firm believer in Vygotsky's notion of the social construction of knowledge, I will work towards creating a learning community that is interactive and continuously invites input from each of you as well as input from other scholars and forms of media. It is expected that students will attend or respond to prompts related class meetings, as well as actively engage in discussions and activities throughout the course. It is expected that students will demonstrate knowledge and behavior appropriate for doctoral studies. Lack of preparation and late discussion submissions may result in a lower grade.

GRADING

Evaluation in this course follows an "**ungrading"** approach, rooted in trust, reflection, and meaningful academic engagement. Rather than assigning traditional letter grades to individual assignments, the emphasis will be on your growth as a scholar, your ability to engage critically with course content, and your contributions to our shared learning environment. Instructor feedback, student self-assessment, and a collaborative final evaluation are key components of "ungrading".

However, to conform with the registrar's system for posting final grades will be assigned using the following scale:

A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or Below

Assessments

The assignments for the course are listed below along with its weighted value towards the final grade. Specific instructions for each assignment are included in detail in D2L (see assignments for each unit).

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- **Participation and Discussion** (20%): Engage in seminar-style and small group discussions.

- **Reading and Reflection** (20%): Synthesize, reflect, and respond to course content and resources for each module in Dialectical Reading Response Journals and Positionality & Truth about Assessment Statement.

- **Book Review** (20%): Write an academic book review on a current professional book about a trend or innovation in educational assessment and evaluation (e.g., equity, validity, formative assessment) that may inform your work or problem of practice.

- **Assessment Case Study & Evaluation** (25%): Conduct an evaluation of an assessment system relative to your problem of practice and describe future directions in educational assessment for this context. Both qualitative and quantitative methods will be used in this study.

- **Case Study Presentation** (15%): Present audit findings on future of educational assessment.

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
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.

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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

You should expect responses to questions and concerns posted in my virtual office or sent by email within 48 hours. In most cases, I respond within 24 hours. Please email me only for personal concerns. Questions about the class should be posted in my virtual office for the benefit of the class.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

This course allows students to work through each unit at their own pace, prior to the scheduled class meeting. However, all assignments be submitted by the due date. No late work will be accepted after the due date except for in extenuating circumstances. Examples of extenuating circumstances include a verified illness, death in a student's immediate family, and obligation of a student at legal proceedings in fulfilling responsibility as a citizen. Documentation is required to be granted an exception to the late work policy. Make-up work, re-writes, and extra credit are not permitted.

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

ETAMU 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 East Texas A&M University 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

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

AI Policy
ETAMU AI use policy as of May 25, 2023:

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East Texas A&M University 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 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

AI Use in this Course

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become increasingly pervasive in education in the last couple of years. It provides numerous benefits and can serve almost as a critical friend who can challenge your thinking and help foster creativity and new ideas. However, it is all too easy to rely on AI to generate content and "complete" assignments quickly and easily. Consistent with East Texas A&M University's policy on AI use, using AI to generate content for course assignments without instructor permission is considered academic dishonesty. The following graphic provides potential levels of AI use in education with requirements for AI disclosure. In this course, it is expected that all online discussions are completed with no AI use. In the D2L course shell, it will be explicitly noted what assignments, if any, allow for AI use and at what level. If a student in this course is suspected of using generative AI in a manner that violates the course policy for AI use, this will be considered cheating and a Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form will be submitted to the Graduate School for review. Students using AI to generate assignments may receive a failing grade on an assignment and/or in the course.
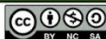
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Can I Use AI on this Assignment?
Generative AI Acceptable Use Scale

Generative AI refers to any of the thousands of Artificial Intelligence tools in which the model generates new content (text, images, audio, video, code,etc)
This includes, but is not limited to, Large Language Models! LLMs such as ChatGPT, Google Bard,etc, Image creators such as Dall-E3, Adobe Firefly, and any tools with built in generative AI capabilities such as Microsoft CoPilot, Google Duet, Canva, etc etc)

	Level of AI Use	Full Description	Disclosure Requirements
0	**NO AI Use**	This assessment is completed entirely without AI assistance. AI Must not be used at any point during the assessment. This level ensured that student rely solely on their own knowledge, understanding, and skills.	No AI disclosure required. May require an academic honesty pledge that AI was not used.
1	**AI-Assisted Idea Generation and Structuring**	No AI content is allowed in the final submission. AI can be used in the assessment for brainstorming, creating structures, and generating ideas for improving work.	AI disclosure statement must be included disclosing how AI was used. Link(s) to AI chat(s) must be submitted with final submission.
2	**AI-Assisted Editing**	No new content can be created using AI. AI can be used to make improvements to the clarity or quality of student created work to improve the final output.	AI disclosure statement must be included disclosing how AI was used. Link(s) to AI chat(s) must be submitted with final submission.
3	**AI for Specified Task Completion**	AI is used to complete certain elements of the task, as specified by the teacher. This level requires critical engagement with AI generated content and evaluating its output. You are responsible for providing human oversight and evaluation of all AI generated content.	All AI created content must be cited using proper MLA citation. Link(s) to AI chat(s) must be submitted with final submission.
4	**Full AI Use with Human Oversight**	You may use AI throughout your assessment to support your own work in any way you deem necessary. AI should be a 'co-pilot' to enhance human creativity. You are responsible for providing human oversight and evaluation of all AI generated content.	You must cite the use of AI using proper MLA or APA citation. Link(s) to AI chat(s) must be submitted with final submission.

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/

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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/rulesProcedur es/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

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.

ETAMU 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.etamu.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.

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Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Class Meetings	Topics	Assignments
1-29-26	**Preliminary Reading**	**Assignments due on Mondays 4:00 pm**
2-2-26	**Foundations & Frameworks of Assessment & Evaluation** ● Syllabus Review & Introductions ● Power of Questions Assessment Inquiry ● Assignment: Your Truth & Positionality Statement on Assessment	Truth & Positionality Statement 2/9 Discussions Journal 1 2/16
2-16-26 3-2-26	Cultural & Social Perspectives of Assessment Complexity theory and complex adaptive systems	Discussions Journal 2 3/2
Spring Break	**March 9 – 13, 2026**	
3-16-26 3-30-26	**Contemporary Issues in Assessment & Evaluation** ● Book Review Presentations & Peer Review Writing Workshop Individual Mid-term meetings with Dr. Slay (3/16 – 20)	Discussions Book Presentation & Review draft 3/16 Final Book Review 3/30
4-13-26 4-27-26	**Policy & Global Perspectives** **Future Directions in Assessment & Evaluation**	Discussions Journal 3 4/27
5-4-26 Finals Week	Assessment Case Study Presentations End-of Course Individual Meetings with Dr. Slay	Case Study Report & Final Present. & Reflective Self-Assessment May 4

In a doctoral seminar, there is always room for negotiation and flexibility for change in our proposed schedule if we find our time better used in one direction than another. *It is expected that we will interact as a community of learners.*

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