



EDCI 697: Policy and Advocacy in Education

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Julia Persky

Office Location: N/A

Office Hours: Wednesday and Thursday, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Office Phone: 903-886-5537

University Email Address: julia.persky@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:

Douglass, S., Scott, J.T., & Anderson, G.L. (2025). *The Politics of Education Policy in an Era of Inequality: Possibilities for Democratic Schooling*, 2nd edition. Routledge. ISBN: 978-1032328140

Alouf, J.L. (2025). *Advocacy for Educators: A Roadmap to Action*. Bloomsbury Academic. ISBN: 979-8881807030

Software Required:

Optional Texts and/or Materials:

Course Description

Students in this course will explore and analyze the entanglements of cultural, social, economic, and political forces with advocacy and educational policymaking related to educational equity and equal opportunity of outcomes for all learners. This course equips students with skills necessary to critically evaluate how power, politics, and

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advocacy impact the policymaking process at federal, state, and local levels, and the implications of how a stratified society shapes educational policy and institutions. Students in this course examine the role played by educational leaders in advocacy and policy development, and cultivate practical skills necessary for communicating complex ideas with various stakeholders, crafting resolutions to conflicting stakeholder values and ideals, implementing policy change, and evaluating its impact on schools, students, and the public.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will identify and articulate current equity issues in educational policy and practice, and effectively advocate for equitable schools for all learners.
2. Students will be able to analyze and evaluate the impact of educational policies and programs on student outcomes.
3. Students will analyze various advocacy groups and methods that have significantly impacted educational policy in the United States.
4. Students will engage with policymakers, advocacy groups, and community leaders in education to learn and employ advocacy strategies needed to lobby for educational policy change.
5. Students will develop and implement skills necessary for meaningful and effective communication, collaboration, and coalition building across a variety of social sectors, for the purpose of improving educational outcomes for all students.
6. Students will use research to affect public education policy change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Access to a computer with internet access, Microsoft Word processing software, Microsoft PowerPoint software, Adobe to open PDF files.

Instructional Methods

Instructional methods include lectures, small group discussions, student presentations, inquiry groups, guest lectures, and writing assignments.

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, asking questions to clarify understanding, and actively participating in course activities.

GRADING

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Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Assessments

See D2L.

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.

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.

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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.

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 24-48 office hours (not including the weekend), please resend the email. If you do not receive a response after another 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.

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.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

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.

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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/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.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

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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/)
<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>

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.

East Texas A&M University 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

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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.



Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

See D2L.

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