



COURSE SYLLABUS EDAD 671 Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Melissa Arrambide Ed.D.

Office Location: Frank Young Education North 203B

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday – 9:00 am-4:00 pm
As Needed – Upon Request

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University Email: Melissa.Arrambide@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: e-mail

Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Bolman, L. G. & Deal, T. E. (2021). *Reframing organizations: Artistry, choice, and leadership*. (7th ed.). San Francisco, CA: Jossey- Bass. ISBN# 9781119281825. (cloth and pdf version available)

Fowler, F. C. (2021). *Policy studies for educational leaders: An introduction*. (4th ed.). Allyn & Bacon. ISBN-13: 978-0-13-267811-7.

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th Ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to create and/or refine their understanding of educational governance and politics of the environment. The course is structured to provide students with the opportunity to explore current issues in school governance and related legal issues. Students will be able to utilize this understanding of educational governance to further develop the Problem of Practice

Student Learning Outcomes

1. The learner will demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which economic, constitutional and political forces have guided the evolution of the organization of public education in the United States in the past, present and will impact the future.
2. The learner will demonstrate an understanding of the formal and informal roles of various constituencies including school administrators, site-based planning teams, local school boards and state education agencies, state legislatures, and court systems in governing American public education
3. The learner will demonstrate an understanding of the key administrative roles and functions within an organization and the strategies which contribute to organizational efficiency and effectiveness.
4. The learner will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the structural, political, symbolic, and human frameworks as defined by Bolman and Deal as they apply to governance and policy development of public and private educational entities
5. The learner will be an active and engaged team member within the cohort learning community by analyzing, constructing/creating, and evaluating information presented within the textbooks, external readings and resources.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students should have basic knowledge of MS Office including Word, PowerPoint and Excel documents. The use of Leo Mail is required for communication with the professor and other students. The use of the Learning Management System (LMS) D2L is important to success in the course. Tutorials and support are available to learn these skills. Students should be able to do basic research including library database and internet searches for documents and publications.

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Instructional Methods

This web-based course relies heavily on written responses, interaction, and discussion. It is problem-based and inquiry oriented. Learning in this course will take place as a result of online discussion boards, lectures/power-point presentations, readings and concentrated study, and participation in intensive group learning exercises in online venues.

Assignments include a series of written responses to readings and online discussions. The readings cannot be neglected. It is important that you set aside time to read and digest the readings before you write or participate in discussion boards.

A wide variety of instructional methods will be used to provide students with meaningful learning experiences. Some of these will include focused discussions, written reflections, problem-solving activities, case studies, independent research, and the direct teaching model.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students will be required to log into the course daily, use University email to communicate, participate in discussion boards as well as complete assignments both individually and in groups.

GRADING

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

Assignments

Assessment Method: Assignments will take several forms including projects and independent research and writings.

Discussions

Each student is expected to participate through D2L, complete all reading and written assignments on time, and actively engage in class by closely connecting class topics and discussions to textbook and other readings. Participate online at least two

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weekdays each week by responding to prompts and responding to the answers of others. Participate in endeavors with the goal of contributing meaningfully and implementing higher order thinking skills. You cannot receive participations points if you are not contributing to the class discussion. To earn participation points, you must discuss and apply knowledge of the readings.

You should read, analyze, and respond to the issues of the week/questions and comments from me and the other members of the class. In short, you are required to actively participate in our classroom discussions and online. You must do more than complete assignments; you must demonstrate your regular reading of others' responses. I am looking for evidence that you are an active participant in the learning experience. This can be done by relating real world experiences to the discussions or summaries, building on other's comments with alternative solutions, and pointing out problems or adding another dimension to the discussion. Saying, "I agree" does not fall within the above parameters. Responses should be substantial (i.e. not one sentence).

The discussion forums are related to the readings, external resources, and activities. Upon completion or near completion of the assigned readings and activities, you are expected to engage in an ongoing discussion/debate with your learning community peers. Your contributions to the discussion forums will be graded for quality and timeliness of your contributions.

Assessment Method: Class participation will be determined by the professor. Each online forum will be graded using the Discussion Forum Rubric.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce 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

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

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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 TAMUC 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

The instructor normally responds to student questions within 2 days. Email is the preferred method of communication. The instructor has provided a cell phone number for students to call for more detailed or urgent communication.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Examination Policy

Questions will require analysis and synthesis requiring the student to formulate answers demonstrating their ability to apply knowledge.

Assignment Policy

Assignment due dates are posted in D2L along with instructions for each assignment. All projects should be submitted in the Assignment Folder and saved as a .doc or .docx file unless specified otherwise.

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Late Work

Late work will not be accepted in the course.

Incompletes

An incomplete will not be available for this course.

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).

<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](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx).

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

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf)

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.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 Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5930

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: StudentDisabilityServices@etamu.edu

Website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

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 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 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 A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

Counseling Center Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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

Modules	Assignments	Due Dates/ Deadlines	Points
Module 1	January 29 – February 8, 2026		

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Policy, Power & Governance	Read Chapters 1 & 2 Fowler Read Chapter 1 & 2 Bolman & Deal		0
	Discussion Thread Participation	Sunday, Feb 8 @ midnight	15
	Assignment Module 1(Fowler Ch.1)		20
Module 2 The Policy Environment	February 9 - 22, 2026		
	1. Read Chapters 3 & 4 in the Fowler Text. 2. Read Chapters 3 & 4 in Bolman & Deal Text.	Sunday, Feb 22 @ midnight	0
	Discussion Thread Participation		15
	Module 2 Assignment		20
Module 3 Values & Ideology	February 23 – March 8, 2026		
	Read Chapter 5 in Fowler text	Sunday, March 8 @ midnight	0
	Module 3 Assignment		20
Module 4 The Political Frame	March 9 – 22, 2026		
	Ready Cahpter 9 & 10 Bolman & Deal Review Moule 4 PPT Watch Video “The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us Read Article: A Look At American Education Issues Today	Sunday, March 22 @midnight	
	No Assignments due in Module 4		

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Optional Zoom Session https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99423738021			Thursday, March 19 @ 5:00 p.m.
Module 5 The Symbolic Frame	March 23 – March 29, 2026		
	Read Chapters 12, 13, and 14 in Bolman & Deal. Use the PPT of Unit 5 Bolman & Deal to guide your study: Module 5 PPT. READ: Education Bills Passed by the 89th Texas Legislature	Sunday, March 29 @ midnight	0
	Module 5 Assignment		30
Module 6 Levels of Political Structure	March 30 – April 12, 2026		
	1. Read Chapter 11 in Bolman & Deal. This unit explores organizations as political structures 2. Read the article entitled: The Micro Politics of Education Change & Reform. 3. Read the article entitled: Macro Political Context	Sunday, April 12 @ midnight	0
	Module 6 Assignment	Sunday, April 12 @ midnight	30
Module 7	April 13 – 26, 2026		
	Module 7 Assignment	Sunday, April 26 @ midnight	20
Optional Zoom Session https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/99423738021			Thursday, April 16 @ 5:00 p.m.

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Module 8 Education Issues of Today	April 27 – May 3, 2026		
	Reread: A Look at American Education Issues Today (and what we can do) Reread: Education Bills Passed by the 89th Texas Legislature	Sunday May 3 @ midnight	0
	Module 8 Assignment		30
	TOTAL COURSE POINTS		200

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