



**EDCI 545.01W Issues in the Development of Curriculum**  
COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer 2026

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Dr. Julie Mills  
Office Location: EDS  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Office Phone: 903-886-5537  
University Email Address: [julie.mills@etamu.edu](mailto:julie.mills@etamu.edu)  
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**  
Communication Response Time: 24-48 business hours

**COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: Students are not required to purchase textbooks for this course. All readings and books will be accessible through the university library (online) and/or other websites. These readings can be found in D2L.

Selected readings from the library include but are not limited to:

Ellis, A. K. (2013). *Exemplars of curriculum theory* (1st ed.). Routledge.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315855318>

[https://etamu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01TEXAM\\_COM/7i396/alma991006473792906041](https://etamu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01TEXAM_COM/7i396/alma991006473792906041)

Ornstein, A. C. (1990). Philosophy as a Basis for Curriculum Decisions. *The High School Journal*, 74(2), 102–109.

[https://etamu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01TEXAM\\_COM/1fh34bj/cdi\\_proquest\\_journals\\_1309416627](https://etamu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01TEXAM_COM/1fh34bj/cdi_proquest_journals_1309416627)

Software Required: None

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## **Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to note how various philosophies have influenced the development of the elementary curriculum in order to meet the changing social and economic trends. Research articles will be studied in order to evaluate selection of procedures and materials. Practical experiences will be provided in the construction of course of study units.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Examine philosophies that influence the development of curriculum.
2. Examine curriculum issues by exploring trends and forces that shape education.
3. Develop student-centered units of study that are aligned to state standards.
4. Evaluate and use best practices, resources, and strategies appropriate for assigned content area and grade levels.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

This course requires basic computer, internet, email, and word processing knowledge.

### **Instructional Methods**

This fully online course will include various readings, activities, discussions, and assessments. Students will have the opportunity to interact with peers through online discussions and complete independent activities. Feedback will be provided throughout the course.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

1. Complete activities, discussions, and assignments by due dates.
2. Log into D2L multiple times a week.
3. Communicate concerns or issues with professor.
4. Use self-regulation skills to study, collaborate, reflect, and transfer knowledge.
5. Act like a teacher.

## **GRADING**

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

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

## Assessments

Find more details about each assessment in D2L.  
Discussion boards  
Various formative assessments  
Journal article reflections  
Unit Development

## 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](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.etamu.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.etamu.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@etamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@etamu.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

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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**

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

#### **AI Use in Course**

Here's the University's policy (as of August 2023) regarding AI:

*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 instructor's 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.*

For this course, it may be appropriate for you to use AI like ChatGPT for some portions of an assignment. Appropriate uses may be to edit writing, create content, and/or generate ideas. It is not appropriate to use AI to create full assignments, However, you may discover uses that are relevant and appropriate. Anytime you use AI in this course, you must include the transcription of the conversation as an appendix or attachment to the assignment or discussion. If used, you

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must also directly reference how you used AI in your discussion post or the assignment submission. This allows for transparency and avoidances of plagiarism. It also helps me to determine if it was a legitimate use of AI for the purposes of this course. If for some reason I do not think it was appropriate, then I will communicate that with you and allow you a chance to resubmit. To learn more about how to appropriately cite Chat GPT or other AI tools, read this blog by McAdoo (2024).

<https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

## **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.

### **Grievances**

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Department Head or Assistant Department Head.

Before an appointment is scheduled, the student must provide clearly documented and explained issues as to why the meeting is being requested. The student must also state when they discussed the issue in person or via phone (not email) with the instructor already. Where applicable, students should also consult [University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05](#) ("Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation").

## **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.etamu.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>

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## **ETAMU Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.etamu.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.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.etamu.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@etamu.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.etamu.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.etamu.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 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](http://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**

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## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Module	Topics
<b>History of US Curriculum and Major Philosophies of Education</b>	
1 -	Introductions, Course Overview, What is curriculum?
2	History of K-12 Education in United States
3	Educational Philosophies Overview, Progressivism
4	Learner-centered philosophies
5	Society Centered Philosophies and Curriculum
6	Knowledge Centered Philosophies
<b>Curriculum Issues</b>	
7	Historical and Contemporary Curriculum Issues
8	Dimensions of Curriculum
9	Context of curriculum in Texas - role of TEA, SBOE, and Texas Legislative branch
<b>Curriculum Design</b>	
10	Curriculum Design, Backward Design
11	Assessments
12	Universal Design for Learning and Evaluation of Resources
13	Unit Plans

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