



EDCI 632
Pedagogy and Philosophy of Education
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Ellen Yeh
Virtual Office Hours: Tuesday 10am-4pm and Wednesday 1pm-4pm
Office Phone: 903-886-5537 (EDCI Office)
University Email Address: ellen.yeh@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email
Communication Response Time: 24 hours, M-F

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Recommended:

Aubrey, K., & Riley, A. (2026). *Understanding and Using Educational Theories* (4th ed.). Sage.

Course Description

Course Catalog Description

This course shall examine traditional and contemporary philosophies associated with the pedagogy of education. Best research-based practices shall be emphasized as well as how these pedagogical practices are grounded in theories and philosophies for classroom and school settings. Specific and explicit theoretical and philosophical applications will be made to the growth and development of the learner. Progressive approaches to curriculum and instruction will be explored.

Additional Description

Students evaluate and adapt evidence-based instructional strategies to meet the needs of diverse learners while considering the ethical, cultural, and philosophical assumptions that underlie

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

educational practice. Special attention is given to experiential, social, and technology-enhanced learning, social-emotional learning, and emerging AI-supported pedagogies. By the end of the course, students will articulate a research-informed philosophy of teaching and demonstrate instructional leadership through reflective, equitable, and evidence-based pedagogical practice.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. **Analyze major educational theories and philosophies** that inform contemporary pedagogical practices, and explain how these perspectives shape instructional decision-making across diverse educational contexts.
2. **Apply research-based pedagogical theories** to the design, implementation, and adaptation of instruction that supports learner growth, engagement, and achievement in diverse learning environments.
3. **Critically evaluate instructional approaches** by examining their theoretical, philosophical, ethical, and contextual foundations, and justify pedagogical choices using evidence from educational research.
4. **Investigate instructional practice through systematic inquiry**, including observation, reflection, and action research, to examine the relationship between educational theory and classroom practice and to inform continuous professional improvement.
5. **Demonstrate instructional leadership** by synthesizing learning theories, philosophical perspectives, and emerging pedagogical innovations to develop a coherent, evidence-based philosophy of teaching and learning.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system (D2L Brightspace), using Microsoft Office software, using presentation and graphics programs, using chat programs such as Adobe Connect and Zoom, and using VoiceThread.

Instructional Methods

This is a hybrid course with classes meeting in-person and in D2L on alternating weeks throughout the semester. Class meetings are scheduled every other Tuesday at 5:30pm-8:00pm. It includes action research projects and presentations, inquiry-based discussions, and individual assignments.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Success in the course is largely based on keeping up with reading, active participation in discussions in class and online, doctoral level work on assignments and staying up to date on course related information which requires regularly logging into the course website, checking University MyLeo Email daily.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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 and Evaluation

Points for the course will be distributed as follows:

Project	Assignment	Points
1. Translating Theories into Pedagogical Practice (30%)	Bridging Activities Sheets	(10 points x4)
2. Inquiry-based Reading Discussions (15%)	Reading Responses	(10 points x4)
3. Action Research Project 1: Observation (10%)	Observation Checklist Design	10 points
	Observation Footnotes	20 points
	Presentation: Observation Findings	30 points
4. Action Research Project 2: Teaching Philosophy Interview (15%)	Interview Question Design	10 points
	Interview Footnotes	20 points
	Presentation: Interview Findings	30 points
5. Teaching Philosophy Project (15%)	First Draft	10 points

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

	Final Draft	50 points
6. Participation (15%): Attendance & Class Participation		100 points

Late Assignment Policy

Please note that ONE letter grade will be deducted for each day assignments are submitted late. Another letter grade will be deducted for each day the assignment is late thereafter. For example, if your assignment is submitted at 12:00 a.m., instead of 11:59 p.m. on the date the assignment is due, the highest grade you can earn is a "B". If it is turned in two days late, the highest grade you can earn is a "C" and so on. Discussions that are posted late will not be evaluated and the student will receive a "zero" for that discussion.

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.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.

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,

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Starbucks, an ETAMU 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

Outside of class, my primary form of communication with the class will be through MyLeo Email and course announcements in D2L. Any changes to the syllabus or other important information will be disseminated to students in this way, via your official University Email address and in D2L course announcements. It is your responsibility to check your University Email and course announcements regularly.

Students who email me outside of regular office hours can expect a reply within 24 hours M-F. Students who email me during holidays or over the weekend should expect a reply by the end of the next regularly scheduled business day.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY 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.

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).
<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>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx).
<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13student/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/13student/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

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

<http://www.etamu.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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34Safet_yOfEmployeesAndStudents/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.

ETAMU Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, 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.



Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Tentative Schedule: Subject to Change

Reading and homework assignments are to be completed by the date on the schedule below prior to coming to class

Date	Topic	Reading	HOMEWORK to be completed before class time by date on chart
Class 1	Translating Theories into Pedagogical Practice		
Class 2	Albert Bandura: Learning Through Observation	(readings in D2L)	Bridging Activities Sheet 1 Inquiry-based Reading Discussion 1
Class 3	David Kolb: Experiential Learning Theory Assign Action research project: Observation Design Observation Checklist	(readings in D2L)	Bridging Activities Sheet 2 Inquiry-based Reading Discussion 2
Class 4	Individual Conference	(readings in D2L)	Observation Plan Handout

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Class 5	Jean Lave & Etienne Wenger: Socially Situated Learning & Community of Practice Presentation: Observation Findings Assign Action research project: Teaching Philosophy Interview Design Interview Questions	(readings in D2L)	Bridging Activities Sheet 3 Inquiry-based Reading Discussions 3 Observation Footnotes
Class 6	Technology, AI, and Digital Pedagogies Assign Teaching Philosophy Project	(readings in D2L)	Bridging Activities Sheet 4 Inquiry-based Reading Discussions 4 Interview Questions & Plan Handout
Class 7	Presentation: Interview Findings Workshop: Peer review your Teaching Philosophy first draft		Interview Footnotes Teaching Philosophy first draft
Class 8			Presentation: Teaching Philosophy Project Final Paper: Teaching Philosophy Project

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.