



EDCI 651.41B: Curricular and Instructional Design Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Julie Mills
Office Location: EDS 222
Office Hours: T/W/Th - 9 -11 (in office), or by appointment (virtually or face to face)
University Email Address: Julie.Mills@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: 48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required:

Curriculum: From Theory to Practice, 3rd edition, (2023), by Wesley Null, published by Rowan & Littlefield.

American Psychological Association (APA) Manual (7th ed.).

Course Description

This course provides an examination of research literature relative to the process of designing, implementing, and evaluating curricula and instructional strategies.

Prerequisite: Doctoral level standing or consent of instructor.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Engage in group discussions by analyzing, designing, and evaluating information within the texts, supplementary readings, and class activities.
- Compare and contrast different theories, research, and philosophical stances which address the organization of learning activities in relation to curriculum and instructional activities

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

- Identify and elaborate on, both verbally and in writing, the contextual factors that affect the learner and the learning environment.
- Demonstrate the ability to read and synthesize existing professional literature related to curriculum theory and instructional design; and, analyze and evaluate research designs and findings.
- Write academically using APA style (7th edition)
- Plan and carry out a curriculum evaluation project related to his/her current work assignment and which demonstrates the integration of best practices based on new ideas learned through the class activities, readings, and discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Familiarity with Zoom, Google Docs, Microsoft Word, and PDFs are needed for this course.

Instructional Methods

This course reflects a sociocultural and constructivist approach to learning. Class time will be collaborative in which students will discuss, reflect, and share within small groups and whole class. This class is designed to follow a HyFlex learning format/model.

What is HyFlex?

In our program's HyFlex courses, students can choose from one of two participation paths:

1. Participate in face-to-face synchronous class sessions in-person (in a classroom)
2. Participate in face-to-face class sessions via video conference (e.g., Zoom)

Synchronous Class Meetings

We will hold synchronous class meetings on the following dates. You may join in person at our Commerce campus, or via Zoom (link provided in D2L). This class will meet the following Mondays:

August 24 (joint meeting with EDCI 659)

September 14

September 28

October 12

October 26

November 9

November 23

December 7

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Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. Be prepared.
2. Be engaged.
3. Be professional.

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

This course uses an ungrading approach to support your growth as a scholar-practitioner. Rather than traditional point-based grading, the emphasis is on meaningful engagement, critical reflection, and intellectual risk-taking. The goal is to shift the focus from earning grades to deepening understanding, developing scholarly identity, and contributing to the learning community.

Key Principles of This Ungrading Policy:

- **Feedback over scores:** You will receive feedback designed to help you reflect on your work, deepen your thinking, and make purposeful revisions. Feedback will also include if your work exceeds expectations, meets expectations, or falls below expectations.
- **Self-assessment:** At designated points in the semester, you will complete reflective self-assessments in which you evaluate your own progress, identify areas for growth, and propose a course grade based on your learning and contributions.
- **Dialogue about learning:** You are encouraged to schedule one-on-one check-ins with me throughout the term to discuss your reflections, challenges, and goals.
- **Revision and iteration:** You will have the opportunity to revise major assignments based on feedback. Growth is expected and celebrated.

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At the end of the course, you will submit a final self-evaluation (prompt provided), including a proposed course grade (A, B, C, etc.) supported by evidence from your work, reflections, and participation. I will review your self-assessment holistically and will be in conversation with you if there is any need for further discussion.

This policy is grounded in trust, respect, and a shared commitment to learning. If at any point the ungrading process feels unclear or unhelpful, please reach out.

Assessments

Scholarly Practitioner Positionality Paper
APA Presentation
Concept Map
In Class Discussions
Curriculum Evaluation Paper
Podcast Episode
Reflections

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.

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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>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

AI Use

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).

For this course, it may be appropriate for you to use AI tools 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 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 et al (2025).

<https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/cite-generative-ai-references>

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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>

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.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](#)

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<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

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<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.

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.

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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.

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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