

We will have weekly 90-minute synchronous Zoom sessions. These are recorded for those who cannot attend. A complete schedule will be sent out one week before the first class based on student survey. 😊



EDCI 538 Understanding and Engaging Today's Students

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

AUG 20 – OCT 16

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Amy Corp, EdD
Location: online/virtual office
Office Hours: by apt. or Wed. 12-5
Office Phone: 972.613.7591
University Email Address: Amy.Corp@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **email**
Communication Response Time: within 48 hours

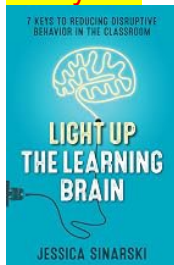
COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Readings provided throughout the course.

Mandatory textbooks:

Everyone reads:



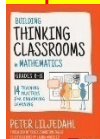
Light Up the Brain:

ISBN: **1931636524**

ISBN13: **9781931636520**

(\$10 [used] - \$13 Amazon- new)

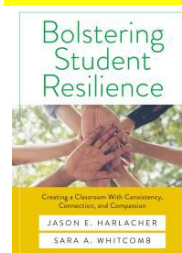
Experienced teachers read: group read



The Thinking Classroom (**free**

The *syllabus/schedule*

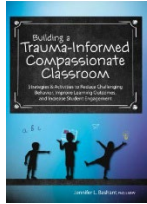
New teachers (or alt cert) read: group read



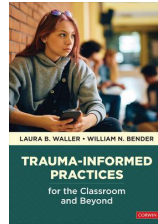
Free in ETAMU library

in the ETAMU library or \$30 used)

Everyone reads:



OR



Alt cert or new choose this one.

(FREE in ETAMU library)

Building a Trauma-Informed, Compassionate Classroom: Strategies and Activities to Reduce Challenging Behavior, Improve Learning Outcomes, and Increase Student Engagement

Bashant, Jennifer
2020

Experienced choose this one. (FREE in ETAMU library)

Trauma-Informed Practices for the Classroom and Beyond

Waller, Laura B., author.; Bender, William N., author.
2024

Course Description

This course focuses on current theories of understanding student behaviors and practices of how to engage all students in learning.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Compare and contrast various theoretical approaches to classroom management from past experiences with Brain-based and Trauma Informed research and practices.
2. Research and evaluate practical routines and procedures for supporting all students within a learning environment.
3. Evaluate strategies that foster classroom community, particularly in a diverse setting. (FOCUS)
4. Reflect on views, beliefs, and experiences to determine their impact on classroom culture, community, and the learning environment.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students should be prepared to use the learning management system (D2L Brightspace), Microsoft Office software, presentation and graphics programs, chat programs such as Zoom and VoiceThread.

Instructional Methods

We will have weekly 90 minute synchronous Zoom sessions. These are recorded for those who cannot attend. A complete schedule will be sent out one week before the first class day. The books will be read in book clubs- students say this is a highlight of the course. *The expected reading is: two full books and portions of an 3rd.

The weekly evening will be determined through class survey.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. Attend the virtual meetings as much as possible.
2. Read all assigned readings. (view the recorded class if absent & follow the guide)
3. Stay engaged with classmates and complete all assignments.
4. When online synchronously, be engaged & participate in learning.
5. Demonstrate a growth mindset toward new ideas on managing all parts of a classroom.

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

Assessments

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Handed out with the grading policy within the first two weeks. The following is a list of possible assessments used to determine the final grade. Weights, points, and expectations will be given in the first two weeks of class.

1. Weekly assignments
2. In-class assignments
3. Group Assignments (asynchronous can be individual)
4. Individual Assignments
5. Participation/Class engagement
6. Mid-term (over Light Up the Learning Brain...)
7. Final project (final exam only if needed based on midterm)

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, Starbucks, a ETAMU 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

I prefer email communication. In most cases, I respond within 24 hours, but it can be 48 hours.

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.

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:

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 instructors' 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.

[13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty](#)

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.

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

East Texas A&M 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 connections 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

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Will be provided within the first two weeks of class online through D2L.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.