

"Do I dare disturb the universe?"
T.S. Elliot

EDUC 3320-110. CRN 80321, SURVEY OF EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS

Fall 2019

Texas A&M University - Central Texas

Wednesday 11:00-1:45

Warrior Hall 312

This course meets face-to-face, with some supplemental readings and activities made available online and/or on Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Amanda G. Allen, Ed.D.

Office: Warrior Hall 322 O

Phone: 254-519-5411

Email: agallen@tamuct.edu

Office Hours: Monday: 11:30-1:30; Tuesday: 9:00-1:00; Wednesday: 2:30-5:30; by appointment

Student-instructor interaction:

I will respond to email messages sent to the above email account. You may expect a response to your email message within 24-48 hours except on weekends. You may also call at the above number or make an appointment.

WARRIOR SHIELD

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

COURSE INFORMATION:

Catalog Description

EDUC 3320. Professional Development in Learner Centered Schools. 3 Credit Hours.

Examine students in learner centered schools. Study lesson planning, learning styles and strengths of diverse learners, learner-centered instructions, instructional strategies, lesson plans, TEKS educational equality, and the professional standards of educators.

Documentation of field experiences are required. Certification Fee - \$150.

Prerequisite or co-requisite: PSYC 3303, EDUC 2308, or TECA 1354 and a minimum of 60 hours toward certification or degree requirements.

Course Objective:

The student will be a reflective professional educator who makes effective educational decisions that support the creation of dynamic learning environments. The student will demonstrate effective practices in a field-based setting and reflect on his/her role as a professional education as he/she moves forward on the continuum from pre-service to in-service educator.

Student Learning Outcomes:**Outcome 1: Texas has a learner-centered vision for schools. The students will:**

1. Assess the social, physical, and emotional needs of learners as related to instruction and student success.
2. Develop an action plan for family involvement in schools and classrooms.
3. Analyze student backgrounds and study the impact of SES and culture on school success.
4. Analyze the climate, teacher behaviors, and student behaviors in a learner-centered classroom compared to traditional educational contexts.
5. Develop a personal philosophy of education.

Outcome 2: Effective teachers must know their students and use a variety of strategies to meet the needs of all learners. The students will:

1. Analyze the characteristics and instructional needs of students with varied backgrounds, skills, interests, and learning needs.
2. Analyze different approaches to learning that students may exhibit and what motivates students to become active, engaged learners. Students will focus on using best practices.
3. Explain the importance of creating a learning environment in which diversity and the individual differences of student, faculty, and staff are respected, celebrated, and used to foster academic success and identity development.
4. Analyze the impact of teacher-student interactions and interactions among students on the classroom climate and student learning and development.
5. Evaluate methods to establish a positive classroom climate that will foster active engagement in learning among students.
6. Align TEKS, goals, and Objectives.

Outcome 3: Effective teachers are professionals and engage in thoughtful ongoing reflection of their professional practice: The student will:

1. Develop and practice professional vocabulary (academic language) related to principles of teaching and learning.
2. Reflect on their own learning using metacognitive strategies. Translate those strategies to possible teaching methodologies.
3. Set high expectations for themselves as teachers and learners.
4. Practice ethical standards related to the teaching profession.
5. Communicate effectively advocating for future students and self.

Competency and Goals Statements:

Competencies and goals are the final documents of the syllabus as are the dates from the University's Academic Calendar.

Resources:

Jenson, E. (2008). *Brain-based learning: The new paradigm of teaching* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.

Fender, G. (2014). *Learning to learn: Strengthening study skills and brain power* (Revised ed.). Chicago, IL: Incentive Publications by World Book.

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (as needed)

Other reading as assigned

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Field Experience, field notes, and reflective classroom observation paper (20)

Observe classroom teaching and learning for a minimum of 10 hours and take detailed field notes. You will reflect on the observation and write a discussion paper on this experience. In your five page paper, you will reflect on how teachers exhibit knowledge of students and student learning, plan for effective instruction, manage effective learning environments and demonstrate professionalism. Address students by initials or false names to eliminate identifying information.

Philosophy of Teaching Paper (10)

Write a two to three page philosophy of teaching paper. The development of a personal teaching philosophy has important implications for teaching practice. It is the foundation on which teachers base their decisions about students, the classroom, teaching, and the school. This includes a philosophy of teaching diverse (culturally, linguistically, and learning) students which is a narrative that comprises your conceptions of teaching and learning to a diverse student population, a description of how you would teach, and justification of teaching methods to diverse students. The paper should demonstrate that you have been reflective and purposeful about your perspective teaching and provides a way to articulate your goals as a teacher and your corresponding actions in the classroom.

Contextual Factors Paper (20)

Write an analysis of school and community factors that may influence students' learning for a given school context. Understanding the correlation found between the teaching-learning process and the contextual factors of the individual student, classroom, school, and community is the first step in developing an awareness of teaching. This paper will discuss relevant factors and how they may affect the learning process.

EDUC 3320 Journal (20)

Create a journal to record and support your reflections as a teacher. You will be required to complete journal entries for each course unit, include unit notes, and reflect on at least 10 teaching and Restorative Practice experiences. The journal will be checked periodically to assess how you are engaging in the assignments and class work. To receive full credit, records of in class work, teaching experience and professional development should demonstrate thoughtful and completed tasks and reflections.

Exams: [20 (10 each)]

A cumulative final exam will be given at the end of the semester

Professionalism: (10)

Attendance, punctuality, preparedness, and active participation are expected. You are expected to demonstrate the attitudes and dispositions of a capable, competent, and caring professional educator. Represent yourself, the Department of Curriculum & Instruction, and the University in the best light possible. Follow the TEA Code of Ethics.

All work will be word-processed, double-spaced, 12 point font, front page only, and in the format of APA 6th edition. Use person-first language in all documentation. Ensure that your work has correct grammar, mechanics, structure, and clarity. Points will be deducted for these errors. Please have someone proofread your work prior to submission. Staple all work of two or more pages, unless otherwise instructed. Do not use folders or sheet protectors.

Grading Criteria		Grades will be assigned at the end of the semester on the following basis:
Field experience	20	100-90 = A
Philosophy of teaching paper	10	89-80 = B
Contextual factors paper	20	79-70 = C
3320 journal	20	69-60 = D
Exams	20	59 > F
Professionalism	10	
TOTAL	100	

Posting of Grades

Grades will be posted on Canvas. Grades will be posted within two (2) weeks after the assignment is submitted in most cases. This timeline does not apply to late work. The instructor is not responsible for assignments that are not collected during the class period they are returned.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Complete Course Calendar: The calendar will appear in a separate document.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT:

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select "Chat with Canvas Support," submit a support request through "Report a Problem," or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES:

Drop Policy.

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html),

[<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0),

[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required)

[<https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717>]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students.

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit the [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) web page

[<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html>]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines online](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf), please visit the website

[<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111. Tutor.com tutoring will not offer writing support beginning August 1, 2019, but will continue to offer other tutoring support.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

University Library.

- The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.
- Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

- Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, who are exhibiting behaviors that pose a threat to safety, or individuals causing a significant disruption to our community, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES:

Copyright Notice.

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

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Field Experience: Texas A&M University-Central Texas students working toward becoming teachers are guests in the schools in which they are placed. When you are at a local school, you will remove facial and/or multiple ear piercings. You will be clean and follow the rules of good hygiene. You will dress professionally. *Remember, every time you are in a school, you are on an interview.*

Attendance and Late Work Policy:

Attendance: Professional behavior and commitment to teaching are the expectations. Attendance and punctuality are required. It is not possible to make up the work missed during the class period since it involves interactions of students, instructor, and content.

Three class absences for any reason may result in lowering the final grade by a letter grade. Four or more absences may result in failure of the class. Tardies may result in the loss of professionalism points. Four (4) times a student is tardy or out of the classroom for 15 minutes or more is equal to one absence.

Students missing class are responsible for notes, handouts, assignments, and any changes in schedules. Your commitment to becoming the best teacher possible includes regular, timely attendance and participation.

Late Work: Work is due according to the course calendar. No late work will be accepted except under extenuating circumstances of which are communicated directly to the professor in a timely manner. If an extension is granted, the late work may be subject to a deduction of points of 10% each day past the due date. If the late assignment is due on Canvas, the assignment date may not be reopened. Supplemental assignments are not available.

Class Participation: Being prepared to participate includes completing assigned reading and bringing necessary textbooks, assignments and materials to class. You are expected to read before the class session, actively participate in classroom assignments and discussions, and fully participate in online work. Any in-class presentations and activities cannot be made up.

The use of technology, including cell phones and other electronic devices, can enhance learning and the educational experience; however it can also become a distraction to the learning task at hand. Off-task technology usage will result in deduction in professionalism points.

Cell phones may be a beneficial tool in the classroom. They may also be a distraction. I may ask you to use your phones in class intermittently. If you must have your cell phone out during class on a consistent basis, place and leave it face down on the table. If you choose to use your cell phone at an inappropriate time, you choose to disrespect others and to lose professionalism points.

This syllabus is subject to change.

ACADEMIC CALENDARS AND REGISTRATION SCHEDULES

The following calendar is proposed and scheduled to change **without notice**.

Date	Description
August 26, 2019	Classes Begin for Fall Semester
August 26, 2019	Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for 16- and First 8-week Classes \$25 Fee assessed for late registrants
August 28, 2019	Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for 16- and First 8-week
September 2, 2019	Labor Day (University Closed)
September 3, 2019	Deadline to Drop First 8-week Classes with No Record
September 11, 2019	Deadline to drop 16-week Classes with No Record
October 1, 2019	Deadline for Teacher Education and Professional Certification Applications
October 4, 2019	Deadline to Drop First 8-week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
October 15, 2019	Deadline for Clinical Teaching/Practicum Applications
October 18, 2018	Classes End for First 8-week Session
October 18, 2019	Deadline to Withdraw from University for First 8-Week Classes (WF)
October 21, 2019	Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for Second 8-Week Classes \$25 Fee assessed for late registrants
October 21, 2019	Classes Begin for Second 8-Week Session
October 21, 2019	Class Schedule Published for Spring Semester
October 22, 2019	Deadline for Faculty Submission of First 8-Week Class Final Grades (due by 3pm)
October 23, 2019	Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for Second 8-Week Classes
October 25, 2019	Deadline for Graduation Application for Ceremony Participation
October 28, 2019	Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with No Record
November 4, 2019	Registration Opens for Seniors, Post-Bacc, and Graduate Students for Spring Semester
November 8, 2019	Deadline to Drop 16-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
November 11, 2019	Veteran's Day (University Closed)
November 12, 2019	Registration opens for all students for the Spring Semester
November 28-29, 2019	Thanksgiving (University Closed)
November 29, 2019	Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
December 13, 2019	Deadline for Applications for Tuition Rebate for Fall Graduation (5pm)
December 13, 2019	Deadline for Degree Conferral Applications to the Registrar's Office \$20 Late Application Fee
December 13, 2019	Deadline to Withdraw from University for 16- and Second 8-Week Classes
December 13, 2019	Fall Semester Ends
December 13, 2019	Fall Commencement Ceremony
December 17, 2019	Deadline for Faculty Submission of 16-Week and Second 8-Week Final Class Grades (due by 3pm)