

**EDUC 4320.110**  
**Integrated Social Studies Methods, EC-8**  
**CRN 10058**  
**Spring 2023**  
**Texas A&M University-Central Texas**

**COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION**

This course meets face-to-face on Tuesdays from 12:00 noon-2:45 am in Warrior Hall Room 316, from January 17, 2023 to May 12, 2023, with supplemental materials made available online through the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System <https://tamuct.instructure.com/>

**INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Linda Black, PhD

**Office:** WH 322P

**Phone:** Outside of office at 832-372-7640.

**Email:** linda.black@tamuct.edu

**Online & In Person Office Hours:**

MW 11-noon, 1-3:00pm Online email [linda.black@tamuct.edu](mailto:linda.black@tamuct.edu) or phone 832-372-7640

Tuesday 10:45am-11:45am, 2-4 pm On campus office

Thursday 10:30am-11:30pm, On campus office

**Student-instructor interaction** You can meet with me online during scheduled office hours or by appointment. Often, multiple students ask the same questions via email. In these instances, I typically respond through Canvas in an announcement to clarify concerns for the entire class. I respond to emails within 24 hours. Whether texting or leaving a voice mail, please tell me your name and which class you are taking. I usually respond to phone calls or text messages the same day, unless in a meeting or at a conference.

**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 to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

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

**SAFEZONE.** SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the SafeZone website [[www.safezoneapp.com](http://www.safezoneapp.com)].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:
  - o iPhone/iPad: [<https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756>]
  - o Android Phone / Tablet  
[<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp>]
2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. [{name}@tamuct.edu](mailto:{name}@tamuct.edu))
3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

For updates on COVID information, please monitor the University website [<https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/>]

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

### **Course Overview and Description**

This methods course is concerned with providing experience for preservice educators to plan, organize, deliver, and evaluate developmentally appropriate educational strategies and instructional techniques in teaching Social Studies to diverse learners. The students design responsive instruction appropriate for all learners which reflects an understanding of relevant content, promotes active engagement, and is based on continuous and appropriate assessment. Emphasis is on integration of content.

**Prerequisite:** Admission to Educator Preparation Program.

### **Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course the pre-service teacher will understand and apply knowledge of social studies to create interesting, relevant, and rigorous integrated lessons.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Develop a comprehensive understanding of the social sciences [EC-8] and recognizing the value of social science.
2. Integrate the multiple strands of content knowledge and skills of social studies, as defined by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), with each other and with other selected disciplines in planning and implementing effective curriculum, instruction, assessment, and evaluation (unit plan)
3. Design responsive instruction appropriate for all learners which reflects an understanding of relevant content, promotes active engagement, and is based on continuous and appropriate assessment (unit-plan, quizzes, final).

4. Deliver, and evaluate, developmentally appropriate educational strategies and instructional techniques in teaching Social Studies to diverse learners (unit plan, quizzes, final).

### **Social Studies Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)**

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113/ch113a.html>

### **National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)**

<https://www.socialstudies.org/standards/strands>

### **TEXES Core Subjects test information**

<http://cms.texas-ets.org/texas/core-subjectsgeneralisttests/>

### **Social Studies Standards 4-8**

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/4-8socstu.pdf>

### **Social Studies EC–6 Standards**

[https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/EC\\_6SocialStudies\\_Committee%20Revisionsfinal%20%282%29\\_0.pdf](https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/EC_6SocialStudies_Committee%20Revisionsfinal%20%282%29_0.pdf)

### **ISTE Technology Standards**

<https://www.iste.org/standards/iste-standards-for-teachers>

### **Required Textbooks**

Conklin, W. (2015). *Analyzing and writing with primary sources*. California: Shell Education.  
ISBN 978-1-42581478-6.

Zarnowski, M. (2006). *Making sense of history: Using high-quality literature and hands-on experiences to build content knowledge*. New York, NY: Scholastic Inc.  
ISBN 978-0-439-66755-5.

\*Other required readings will be posted on the course website throughout the course.

### **Course Website through TAMUCT Library**

<https://tamuct.libguides.com/SocialStudies>

### **Suggested Readings**

Maxim, G. W. (2018). *Dynamic Social Studies* (11th ed). New York, New York: Pearson.

### **Course Requirements/Assignments/Assessments**

**a. Authentic Assessment, Course Design: *Getting to Know You* Sheet (100 pts.)-** Students will complete a *Getting to Know You* sheet for themselves (50 pts.) to share with the class, as well as create a *Getting to Know You* sheet for a future classroom (50 pts.). \*\*Supports the **Dept. of C&I Goals #2, 4, & 10, Student Learning Outcomes #5, and ISTE Technology Standards 7a, 7b, 7c.**

**b. Authentic Assessment, Course Design: Personal Collage (36 pts.)-** Students will complete a personal context/frame of reference collage about themselves and then design a graphic to teach students

about historiography skills such as evidence, source, primary and secondary sources. **\*\*Supports the Dept. of C&I Goals #2, 4, & 10, Student Learning Outcomes #5, and ISTE Technology Standards 7a, 7b, 7c.**

**c. Authentic Assessment, Course Design: Graphic Design (50 pts.)-** Students will design a graphic to teach students about the historiography skills of evidence, source, and primary and secondary sources. **\*\*Supports the Dept. of C&I goals #3, 4, 7, Student Learning Outcomes #1-4, Social Studies EC–6 Standards II, III, & IV, and ISTE Technology Standards 1, 4, & 5.**

**d. Summative Assessments: Two exams and one quiz (200 pts.)-** Each student will be assessed on (1) Social Studies standards, (2) social studies/historiography skills, (3) social studies content, and other topics from the texts and research-based articles about social studies topics. **\*\*Supports the Dept. of C&I goals #2, 6, 9, 10, Student Learning Outcomes #1, 2, 4, 5 & 6, Social Studies EC–6 Standards I, and ISTE Technology Standards 1c.**

**f. Summative Assessment: An integrated plan for a combined Social Studies/ELAR unit (240)-** Working with a partner/group, students will design a unit of 1-2 weeks that incorporates a non-fiction children's history book, historical thinking activities, and hands-on experiences during the unit which will also include a fine arts component (100 pts.) **\*\*Supports the Dept. of C&I goals #3, 4, 7, Student Learning Outcomes #1-4, Social Studies EC–6 Standards II, III, & IV, and ISTE Technology Standards 1, 4, & 5.**

**g. Formative Assessment: Reading guide for identifying examples of historical context in children's literature (120 pts.)** Students will practice explaining, identifying, and giving examples from children's literature for both historical context and historical significance, and then how to teach both of these concepts to K-8 students. **\*\*Supports the Dept. of C&I goals #3, 4, 7, Student Learning Outcomes #1-4, Social Studies EC–6 Standards II, III, & IV, and ISTE Technology Standards 1, 4, & 5.**

**h. Summative Assessment: Annotated List of Children's Books Project (300 pts.)-** Working with a partner or a group, students will identify and annotate a list of ten children's books appropriate to teaching social studies and/or language arts in at least three different grade levels, K-8. Due at end of semester. **\*\*Supports the Dept. of C&I Goals #2 & 7, Student Learning Outcomes #2 & 6, PPR State Standards #3, and ISTE Technology Standards #1a, 1b, 1c, 4a, 4c, 5a, 5b, 5c.**

**i. Summative Assessments: Final Exam (100 pts.)-** Each student will be assessed on (1) Social Studies teaching skills, (3) social studies content, and other topics from the texts and research-based articles about social studies topics. **\*\*Supports the Dept. of C&I goals #2, 6, 9, 10, Student Learning Outcomes #1, 2, 4, 5 & 6, Social Studies EC–6 Standards I, and ISTE Technology Standards 1c.**

**j. Class Participation (100 pts.)** Each student is required to participate in class through discussion, collaboration, active listening, and teaching. **\*\*Supports the Dept. of C&I Goals #1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 10 and Student Learning Outcomes #1, 3 & 6.**

**k. Professional Growth Opportunities (20 pts. each)-** Just as professional educators have the opportunity for continued professional growth, students will be given the opportunity to extend, elaborate, and apply their classroom learning by attending 1-2 educational experiences outside of the classroom setting. Students will submit a written reflection describing the impact of the experience. These experiences will vary with the semester depending upon community and university events. **\*\*Supports the Dept. of C&I goal #11.**

### Summary of Course Grades

Getting to Know You (2 types)	100 pts.
Personal Context/Frame of Reference Collage	36 pts.
How to Teach Historiography Skills to Students	50 pts.
Reading Guide for Identifying Examples of Historical Context in Children's Literature	50 pts.
Two Quizzes	200 pts.
Integrated SS/ELAR Instructional Unit Plan	240 pts.
Examples of Historical Significance	70 pts.
Annotated List of Children's Books Project	300 pts.
Class Participation	100 pts.
Final Exam	100 pts.

### Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

To determine your grade, take your points earned and divide by the number of points possible. Letter grades for the course will be determined as follows:

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

### Posting of Grades

Grades from assessments will be posted within seven working days, unless it is a major assignment. Posting of major assessment grades will be discussed in class.

### Grading Policies

**Quality of Assignments-** High professional standards are expected of all assignments. In order to obtain the full credit for an assignment, candidates must demonstrate higher order thinking skills (analyze data by applying theoretical and conceptual tools; construct convincing arguments; integrate information from various sources; evaluate various theoretical perspectives; etc.). All assignments are to be submitted in a timely, professional manner. This includes use of standard English, correct grammar and spelling, and appropriate formatting. Remember that the quality of work you present reflects your desire to be a professional educator. **All submitted work should be typed unless otherwise noted.**

**Late Work Policy- Missed exams and quizzes** may only be re-scheduled in cases of excused absences and must be made up within 2 weeks of the original date. Late work will be accepted for no penalty for university-excused absences. For other late work due to extenuating circumstances, please speak with the professor privately.

### Course Outline and Calendar

Week	Topics
Jan. 17	-Syllabus, textbooks, course expectations; Getting to Know You for You and Your Future Class; Video: What is social studies, where did it originate, why should we teach it? Def. of various social studies subjects. - Basic facts about social studies curriculum in Texas, including standards TEKS & ELPS

Jan. 24	-Historiography, historical thinking Part I-Evidence, source, primary/secondary sources, POV, frame of reference, context
Jan. 31	-Historiography, historical thinking Part II- Meaning, reliability, consistency, corroboration -Historiography, historical thinking Part III-Bias, balance, loaded words, fact/opinion
Feb. 7	-Historiography, historical thinking Part IV-Bias, Interpretation, revisionist -Review
Feb. 14	-Assessment Exam: historiography, basic social studies, -Chronology -Teaching about Community & Citizenship Grades K-5 & 8
Feb. 21	-Teaching Historical Context
Feb. 28	-Assessment Quiz over chronology -Teaching Historical Context
Mar. 7	Teaching Historical Context Strategies Teaching Historical Significance
Mar. 14	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
Mar. 21	- Teaching Historical Significance strategies
Mar. 28	- Teaching Multiple Perspective
April 4	-Teaching Historical Accounts
April 11	Dev. of first governments; Dev. of democratic ideas & practices in history from standards -Events & terms from American Revolution
April 18	-Teaching about economic concepts -Teaching about geographic concepts
April 25	-Teaching about culture, including Grade 6 world cultures -Strategies for teaching English language learners
May 2	Review and presentation of instructional units
May 9	Final Exam How do you teach history content using ELAR skills with quality literature, critical thinking skills and hands-on learning? Explain each part and then give an example.

\*\*\*The instructor reserves the right to modify assignments and due dates to enhance student learning outcomes. Assignments may be altered, but no additional assignments will be added.

### Important University Dates

[http://catalog.tamuct.edu/undergraduate\\_catalog/general-information/academic20calendars20and20final20exam20schedule/](http://catalog.tamuct.edu/undergraduate_catalog/general-information/academic20calendars20and20final20exam20schedule/)

**University Closed-** March 13-17, 2023 for Spring Break

### TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

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.

### **Online Proctored Testing**

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

### **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](mailto: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*

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## **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://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be45f3-a37d46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

**Faculty 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. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. 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>].

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 Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity 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 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 [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [<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](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, 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 virtually and in-person. Student success coaching is available online upon request.



If you have a question, are interested in becoming a tutor, or in need of success coaching contact the Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion at (254) 501-5836, visit the Warrior Center at 212 Warrior Hall, or by emailing [WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu](mailto:WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu).

To schedule tutoring sessions and view tutor availability, please visit Tutor Matching 6 Services [<https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT>] or visit the Tutoring Center in 111 Warrior Hall.

Chat live with a remote 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 except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

### **University Writing Center**

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. For the Fall 2021 semester, the hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

### **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!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via WOnline at <https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

### **University Library**

The University Library & Archives provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 350 electronic databases containing approximately 631,525 eBooks and 75,149 journals, in addition to the 97,443 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 through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. Schedule an appointment here [<https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments/?g=6956>]. 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].

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## OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

### 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/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

### 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, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the referral 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 254-501-5805.

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## OTHER POLICIES

### Class Attendance

Regular, punctual attendance, documented participation, and submission of completed assignments are expected in all classes, field experience, and other activities for which the student is registered. Failure of students to adhere to these requirements may influence the course grade, financial assistance, and/or enrollment status. Students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health/medical reasons, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Make-up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence.

**A. Personal Days**-Students are expected to attend all classes, arrive on time, sign in, and actively participate in class, including online courses. Students are allowed **one "personal day" of**

**absence that they may take at their discretion, but only with prior notification.** You MUST notify the instructor by phone, email, or during class time.

**B. Excused Absences-**You also have officially excused university days available to you that are covered under university policy- health-related issues, family emergencies, and student participation in university-related activities. Sick days and university-related activities require appropriate documentation so that any missed work may be completed.

**C. Unexcused absences-** If there is a situation for an absence beyond your one personal day, please communicate with your instructor. **It is YOUR responsibility to NOTIFY the instructor of your absent.**

**D. Tardies-** Two tardies of over 20 minutes late will count as one absence, unless there are extenuating circumstances. This is the same rule as in Clinical Practice (Student Teaching).

**Mobile technology:** Please turn off any mobile phones prior to the beginning of class unless we are using them to complete a class assignment. If you are expecting an important call during class time, please inform the instructor before class.

### **Code of Ethics for Texas Educators**

The Texas educator shall comply with standard practices and ethical conduct toward students, professional colleagues, school officials, parents, and members of the community and shall safeguard academic freedom. The Texas educator, in maintaining the dignity of the profession, shall respect and obey the law, demonstrate personal integrity, and exemplify honesty and good moral character. The Texas educator, in exemplifying ethical relations with colleagues, shall extend just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession. The Texas educator, in accepting a position of public trust, shall measure success by the progress of each student toward realization of his or her potential as an effective citizen. The Texas educator, in fulfilling responsibilities in the community, shall cooperate with parents and others to improve the public schools of the community. This chapter shall apply to educators and candidates for certification.

Please go to TAC 247.2 – Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators. This can be found at [https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac\\_view=4&ti=19&pt=7&ch=247&rl=Y](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=19&pt=7&ch=247&rl=Y).

### **To complete Certification/Licensing Requirements in Texas related to public education and other professional settings:**

1. Candidates must undergo a criminal history background check prior to clinical teaching and prior to employment as an educator. The public-school campuses are responsible for completing the criminal background check. A person who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a State Board for Educator Certification-approved educator preparation program or planning to take a certification examination may request a preliminary criminal history evaluation letter regarding the person's potential ineligibility for certification due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

A Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation is a non-mandatory, non-binding evaluation of an individual's self-reported criminal history. In addition, the agency obtains your name-based

Texas criminal history information. The service is provided to the requestor for a **non-refundable fee**. The requestor will receive an evaluation letter by email from agency staff advising of potential ineligibility for educator certification.

You are eligible to request a Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation if:

- You enrolled or planning to enroll in an educator preparation program or
- You are planning to take a certification exam for initial educator certification, and
- You have reason to believe that you may be ineligible for educator certification due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

You are not eligible for a preliminary evaluation of your criminal history if you do not have a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

In addition, you must complete the fingerprinting process when you apply for certification. Participation in the evaluation does not preclude you from submitting to a national criminal history review at the time you apply for your educator certification. Your criminal history will be reviewed and you may be subject to an investigation based on that criminal history, including any information you failed to submit for evaluation.

Additional information can be found at

[https://tea.texas.gov/Texas\\_Educators/Investigations/Preliminary\\_Criminal\\_History\\_Evaluation-FAQs/](https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Educators/Investigations/Preliminary_Criminal_History_Evaluation-FAQs/).

2. Provide one of the following primary ID documents: passport, driver's license, state or providence ID cards, a national ID card, or military ID card to take the TExES exams (additional information available at [www.texas.ets.org/registrationBulletin/](http://www.texas.ets.org/registrationBulletin/) <<http://www.texas.ets.org/registrationBulletin/>>). YOU must provide legal documentation to be allowed to take these mandated examinations that are related to certification/licensing requirements in Texas.

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## ***Participation, Personal Responsibility and Professional Dispositions***

### **Stay in Touch with the Instructor**

Teaching well takes serious effort and commitment. You have not chosen an easy job, but you have chosen an important and rewarding job. As a teacher, you are responsible for helping students learn and grow. What you do as a teacher will make a difference in students' lives. There is much to do to prepare for taking on the demands of leading a classroom so we ask you to put in your best effort. This class will require you to stay on top of your work. If you find yourself stumbling, overwhelmed, or generally stressed out, that's a signal to get in touch with me. We will set up a time to meet or talk. I will offer support and try to figure out how to help you balance these demands and learn so that you are prepared to teach.

### **Discussions**

Discussions will take place with class members online, outside of class, and during class. I expect you to share your ideas, listen to and try to understand the ideas of others, ask each other questions about the topic of discussion and ideas shared, build on each other's ideas, cite examples from the texts or your experiences to support your ideas, and treat each other with respect. As a participant in discussions, do what you can to encourage your peers to participate, move the discussion forward, and make the classroom safe for different perspectives. Consider these behavioral practices and cautions to support active listening as you participate in class: Good practice includes looking at the person who is talking to you; making an effort to hear the exact words the speaker is saying; reflecting back what you hear; responding to others' ideas by extending, supporting, or challenging those ideas with your own thoughts; using specific examples from course readings to support your ideas or connect to the ideas of others; use nodding or other signs to show that what a classmate says matters. Some cautions to avoid include interrupting before the person has finished speaking, being preoccupied with other things, conveying immediate disagreement or impatience by how you look at the person, or quickly suggesting other perspectives without understanding those of the speaker.

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