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| **EDCI 4070: Teaching Diverse Classrooms**  **Fall 2024** | |
| Instructor | Pronouns |
| Office location | Office hours |
| Contact info | Final Exam date/time/place |

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**DEPARTMENT OF TEACHER EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION: PREPARING TOMORROW’S EDUCATORS AND SCHOLARS**

The **Department of Teacher Education and Administration** seeks to improve educational practice through the generation of knowledge and to prepare education professionals who serve all students in an effective, inclusive and equitable manner. Its focus is on the preparation of highly competent educators, researchers and administrators who employ current theory and research as they fill these important roles.

# **COURSE PREREQUISITES**

N/A

# **COURSE GOALS**

* Critically reflect on your identity as an educator.
* Evaluate and interpret the ways in which schooling influences and is influenced by equity.
* Analyze and interpret the historical, philosophical, economic, legal and sociocultural foundations of education.
* Develop teaching strategies that allow all young people to learn and grow into citizens who will be actively involved in this democracy.
* Understand how cultural groups and students' cultural identities affect language learning and school achievement.

**REQUIRED FIELD HOURS**

NA

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND/OR MATERIALS**

NA

**ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS**

**Attendance**: **We will meet as a whole class via Face to Face ten (10-13) times during the semester**. Your attendance and participation is expected and will be considered in assigning the course grade. **Mondays classes will start at 9:00am and will last between 2 hour to 3 hours.** You are expected to be present throughout. This class recognizes two types of absences; one is excused and the other is unexcused. **In order to receive an excused absence, you must contact me in advance (via email) to explain the reason for the absence.** This course is designed and organized to be highly collaborative and interactive. Our sessions will involve small and whole group activities and discussions. Therefore, your attendance and participation are essential to the learning of everyone in our course. It is very difficult to be enriched by discussions and collaborations if you are not physically present or prepared for class. [University policy 06.039](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.039%20Student%20Attendance%20and%20Authorized%20Absences.pdf) will be followed for attendance problems. If necessary, students may miss one class with a valid excuse (see [university policy for excused absences](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.039%20Student%20Attendance%20and%20Authorized%20Absences.pdf)) and not face penalties related to their grade (yet students are encouraged to save this absence for illness or emergencies that may arise). Students must let the instructor know as soon as possible if they will be missing class. It is the students’ responsibility to obtain all notes and handouts missed during their absence. All assignments are due on dates indicated on the syllabus regardless of student absences. A second absence will result in a loss of points from the total grade. In the event that a student misses four or more classes, they will receive a failing grade. Students who miss more than one hour of class will be considered absent from that class meeting. Chronic tardiness or early departure will result in the lowering of a final grade at the instructor’s discretion (arriving more than 15 minutes late or leaving more than 15 minutes early). Please note: it is the student’s responsibility to drop this course, if necessary.

***For courses offered 1 time per week***

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| **# of Absences** | **Total participation points for the class**  *(out of 30 points)* |
| 0 – 1 | 30 |
| 2 | 25 |
| 3 | 20 |
| 4 or more | You will automatically receive an F for your final grade |

**CLASS SCHEDULE** at a glance

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **CLASS DATE** | **CLASS TOPIC** | **ASSIGNMENTS DUE THIS WEEK** |
| **WEEK 1:** | **Introductions and community building** |  |
| **WEEK 2:** | **Identity: Your Identity** | (Reflective journals) |
| **WEEK 3:** | **Identity: Others Identity** | (Reflective journals) |
| **WEEK 4:** | **Identity: Teacher Identity** | (Reflective Journals) |
| **WEEK 5:** | **Identity: Teacher Identity** | (Reflective journals) |
| **WEEK 6:** | **We are still here** | (Reflective journal) |
| **WEEK 7:** | **Words matter** | (Reflective journal) |
| **WEEK 8:** | **To live at the borderlands** | (Reflective journal) |
| **WEEK 9:** | **Equity** | (Reflective journal due) |
| **WEEK 10:** | **Inquiry** | We’ll take the lead |
| **WEEK 11:** | **Inquiry** | We’ll take the lead |
| **WEEK 12:** | **Inquiry** | We’ll take the lead |
| **WEEK 13:** | **Inquiry** | We’ll take the lead |
| **WEEK 14:** | **Inquiry** | We’ll take the lead |
| **WEEK 15-16:** | **Community/Final Presentations** | **Unlearning presentation due** |

**Course Assignments**

**A brief description of the course assignments is listed below.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignment & Description** | **Due date** | **Score/Points** | **Turn in by...** |
| **Critical Reading Reflection Journals**  Students need to complete a critical reading reflection journal based on assigned weekly texts. | **Week 4**  **Week 6**  **Week 8** | **15** | ***Submit to Canvas*** |
| **We’ll Take the Lead**  ***We’ll take the lead*** With a small group, you will select one of our class topics and *lead a class discussion* on the topic, *focusing on the class required reading for that topic*. | **Throughout the semester** | **20** | ***Submit to Canvas*** |
| **Inquiry Design Blueprint**  Students will create an inquiry unit plan with activities for their desired content and grade level. | **Week 10** | **15** | ***Submit to Canvas*** |
| **Unlearning Final Project**  Starting from and related to the readings and discussions, reflect on what you have learned this semester. | **Week 15-16** | **20** | ***Submit to Canvas*** |
| **Participation and attendance**  Conduct throughout the semester as well as completing each assignment, module, activity, and readings. Before you complete each module be sure to read the assigned readings for the week. | **This will be assessed throughout the semester** | **30** | ***Complete each module, reading, and activity*** |

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

**Reflection Journals (15%):** During certain class sessions students will need to complete a journal reflection on the readings. Students will also be expected to respond to classmates' reflections and engage in a critical dialogue over course content and discussions. As teachers, we must constantly analyze our society and how it impacts our students. Throughout the semester students will complete critical reading reflections (CRR) that will consist of three parts:

1) critical summaries of the weekly readings/media.

2) your personal reflection and engagement of the readings/media.

3) a discussion question for your colleagues to consider. You will also read and write a response to one of your colleagues CRR.

These three parts need not be separate. You can engage the readings/media/cultural artifact as you summarize and synthesize them.

Your critical reflections do not need to be extensive, but they should cover the required readings/media for the week. You should cover the main points of the readings, including the main arguments/theses in them. I am not interested in extensive paraphrasing of what the authors wrote about, but your engagement of the readings. What was your general perception of the authors’ perspectives? What questions were raised and/or answered for you in terms of your own interests? How do the readings help you, or not, to formulate your own ideas about the topics presented?

Your Reflective Journals need to be submitted to canvas and need to be about 300-500 words.

**We’ll Take the Lead (20**%): With a small group, you will select one of our class topics and *lead a class discussion* on the topic, *focusing on the class required reading for that topic*. This will require you to deeply read the assigned articles for that session in order to generate questions and activities to enhance your classmates’ understanding of the readings, and their application to schools and society. Think of other sources – be it media, print, art, etc. – you can use as supplements to the readings, enhancing your classmates' understanding or offering a nuanced way to think about the topic. You should expect to facilitate approximately 30-45 minutes of discussion via questions, supporting activities, or other creative means of engaging the class in the readings. It is *critical* that you ENGAGE the class for this assignment!

**Inquiry Model Blueprint (15%)**

You will create a novel (meaning new and not copied from the Internet or any other source) comprehensive resource inquiry unit that reflects a theme or topic appropriate for your content area and grade level. The inquiry unit should be coherent and unified in concept, not disparate lessons “stuck” together. It must be in the template provided. It must include your compelling and supporting questions, featured sources, formative and summative performance tasks, and the taking informed action component for the unit. You must first select the grade level, and then pick a topic or theme that is appropriate for your selected audience.

**Final Un-learning Project (20%):** Robin D.G. Kelley contends that “Any revolution must begin with thought, with how we imagine a New World, with how we reconstruct our social and individual relationships, with unleashing our desire and unfolding a new future on the basis of love and creativity rather than rationality”. Maxine Greene adds that “to commit to imagining is to commit to looking beyond the given, beyond what appears to be unchangeable. It is a way of warding off the apathy and the feelings of futility that are the greatest obstacles to any sort of learning and, surely, to education for freedom… We need imagination.”

Your task is to reflect on what you have learned during the course, and how it has affected your thinking about schooling in a multicultural society. While you will engage with specific course concepts, theories, and readings that have made a difference to you, the assignment is subjective in nature, and asks you to describe, from your own perspective, your intellectual and emotional growth in relation to this material. Please make sure that you cite authors, theories, frameworks, and ideas that were discussed throughout the course.

In this assignment you are expected to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the course material, capacity to apply different theoretical frameworks to your analysis and synthesis, and clearly communicate your stance.

**Participation and Attendance (30%):** Conduct throughout the semester as well as completing each assignment, activity, and readings.

## **STUDENT EVALUATION**

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| --- | --- |
| Reflection Journals | 15% |
| Inquiry Design Blueprint | 15% |
| We’ll take the lead | 20% |
| Final Un-Learning Presentation | 20% |
| Participation and Attendance | 30% |
| **Total** | **100%** |

**NOTE**: This Syllabus is provided for informational purposes regarding the anticipated course content and schedule of this course. It is based upon the most recent information available on the date of its issuance; it is as accurate and complete as possible. I reserve the right to make any changes I deem necessary and/or appropriate.

**Teacher Education & Administration Departmental Policy Statements**

**Gender Pronouns.** All people have the right to be addressed and referred to in accordance with their personal identity. In this class, we will share the name we prefer to be called and, if we choose, share the pronouns with which we would like to be addressed. As instructors, we will do our best to address and refer to all students accordingly and support classmates in doing so as well.

**Survivor Advocacy.** UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT’s Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim’s compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

**ADA Accommodations.** UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

**Food/Housing Insecurity.**​ ​Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students, Suite 409 at the University Union (or by calling 940-565-2648). The UNT Food Pantry is a useful resource for students who may need it. Please visit the website for more details, or feel free to come see me about this:​ ​<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>

**Title IX Services.**​ Sexual discrimination, harassment, & assault: UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, etc. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are civil rights violations.

UNT’s Dean of Students’ website offers a range of resources to help support survivors, based on their needs:http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources​. Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT’s Student Advocate and she can be reached via email at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students’ office at 940-565-2648.

**University Mental Health Services.** ​I recognize that it is not easy to be a student. The demands for economic, intellectual, social, and emotional stability are often in competition, and it can grow weary. School is one aspect of your busy life, and while it’s important to stay the course, it’s also important to acknowledge when you may need more support. UNT’s Counseling Center, as well as the Student Health and Wellness Center, offer support through counseling, care for your well-being and psychiatric health, workshops for socio-emotional challenges, etc. These services are confidential, and most of these services are covered by your tuition. Feel free to see me for more support on this, call 940-565-2333 and/or refer to the following website:​ h​ ttps://speakout.unt.edu/content/mental-health-resources

**UNT Career Connect**​: All undergraduate students are expected to participate in “UNT Career Connect.” Each student needs to set up a UNT e-portfolio for this purpose. As a UNT student engages in real-life, career-related experiences in curricular and/or co-curricular settings, s/he should upload documentation of these experiences into his/her UNT e-portfolio. Course instructors will help students identify appropriate experiences and accompanying documentation/artifacts for inclusion in the e-portfolio. Through their respective e-portfolios, students are able to make connections across their student experiences and reflect upon their learning and skills in order to prepare them with marketable skills for careers and graduate degrees. The e-portfolio also serves as a useful device for future job interviews. Career Connect places emphasis on important job skills such as communication, teamwork, and critical thinking. For students seeking teacher certification, these on-the-job skills will be evaluated during student teaching using the North Texas Appraisal of Classroom Teaching (NTACT) or its successor instrument. Follow this link to learn more and to set up your personal e-portfolio: http://careerconnect.unt.edu/default .

**Disabilities Accommodation**​: “The University of North Texas complies with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The University of North Texas provides academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities, as defined under the law. 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 believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please see the instructor and/or contact the Office of Disability Accommodation at 940-565-4323 during the first week of class.” Dr. Barbara Pazey is the compliance officer and contact person for the Department of Teacher Education & Administration.

**Observation of Religious Holidays**​: If you plan to observe a religious holy day that coincides with a class day, please notify your instructor as soon as possible.

**Academic Integrity**​: Students are encouraged to become familiar with UNT’s policy on Student Standards of Academic Integrity: http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student\_Affairs-Academic\_Integrity.pdf. Academic dishonesty, in the form of plagiarism, cheating, or fabrication, will not be tolerated in this class. Any act of academic dishonesty will be reported, and a penalty determined, which may be probation, suspension, or expulsion from the university.

**Acceptable Student Behavior**​: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>.

**Attendance**​: See the instructor’s attendance policy.

**Eagle Connect**​: All official correspondence between UNT and students is conducted via Eagle Connect and it is the student's responsibility to read their Eagle Connect Email regularly.

**Cell Phones and Laptops**​: Students should turn off cell phones when they are in class unless the phones are being used for learning activities associated with the course. Similarly, laptops should be turned off, unless they are being used to take class notes and/or participate in class activities.

**SPOT**​: The Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is expected for all organized classes at UNT. This brief online survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class.

**Comprehensive Arts Program Policy**​. The Elementary Education program area supports a comprehensive arts program to assist preservice and inservice teachers to design and implement curricular and instructional activities which infuse all areas of the arts (visual, music, theater, and movement) throughout the elementary and middle school curriculum.

**Technology Integration Policy**​. The Elementary, Secondary, and Curriculum & Instruction program areas support technology integration to assist preservice and inservice teachers to design and implement curricular and instruction activities which infuse technology throughout the K-12 curriculum.

**EDUCATOR STANDARDS**

The UNT Educator Preparation Program curriculum includes alignment to standards identified by the Texas State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) for beginning educators. These standards are addressed throughout your preparation and assessed through the TExES Certification exams required for your teaching certificate. Additionally, the Commissioner of TEA has adopted these rules pertaining to Texas teaching standards:

**Texas Teaching Standards:**

Standards required for all Texas beginning teachers fall into the following 6 broad categories:

Standard 1--Instructional Planning and Delivery. Standard 1Ai,ii,iv; 1Bi,ii (Lesson design)

Standard 2--Knowledge of Students and Student Learning

Standard 3--Content Knowledge and Expertise

Standard 4--Learning Environment

Standard 5--Data-Driven Practice

Standard 6--Professional Practices and Responsibilities

**EC-12 Professional Pedagogy and Responsibilities (PPR) Standards**

The beginning EC-12 teacher knows and understands:

* **Competency 001:** human developmental processes and applies this knowledge to plan instruction and ongoing assessment that motivate students and are responsive to their developmental characteristics and needs
* **Competency 002:** student diversity and knows how to plan learning experiences and design assessments that are responsive to differences among students and that promote all students' learning
* **Competency 005:** how to establish a classroom climate that fosters learning, equity and excellence and USES this knowledge to create a physical and emotional environment that is safe and productive
* **Competence 007:** principles and strategies for communicating effectively in varied teaching and learning contexts.

**EC-12 Tech Apps Standards**

The beginning EC-12 teacher knows and understands how to:

* **Standard I.** use and promote creative thinking and innovative processes to construct knowledge, generate new ideas, and create products
* **Standard II.** collaborate and communicate both locally and globally using digital tools and resources to reinforce and promote learning.
* **Standard III.** make informed decisions by applying critical-thinking and problem solving skills.

# **ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STANDARDS (ELPS)**

This course incorporates the ELPS in lesson planning and instructional delivery in order to improve language acquisition and content area knowledge of students who are English learners. The ELPs will be implemented by teacher candidates during instruction of the subject area for students who are English learners. The ELPs can be accessed via the Texas Education Agency using the following link: <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/ch074a.html#74.4>.

# **TEXAS COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS STANDARDS**

The Texas College and Career Readiness Standards can be accessed at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Web site using the following link: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=EADF962E-0E3E-DA80-BAAD2496062F3CD8>

# **TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS**

[Technology Applications (All Beginning Teachers, PDF)](https://tea.texas.gov/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=51539612985) The first seven standards of the Technology Applications EC-12 Standards are expected of **all** beginning teachers and are incorporated in to the Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) test.