

## EDEE 1010: Teaching as Advocacy for Equity

<b>Instructor</b> Professor Juan de la Cruz, Ph.D ABD	<b>Pronouns</b> he/him/his
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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.

#### **Mission**

The Department of Teacher Education and Administration integrates theory, research, and practice to generate knowledge and to develop educational leaders who advance the potential of all learners.

#### **Vision**

We aspire to be internationally recognized for developing visionary educators who provide leadership, promote social justice, and effectively educate all learners.

#### **COURSE PREREQUISITES**

N/A

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#### **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

This course is devoted to exploring the relationships between education, culture, and society. It will focus on structures of social and educational inequality, as they relate to race, class, and gender; processes of power and control in education, as they are expressed in curriculum, policy, and pedagogy; education as a process of social and cultural reproduction; and teaching as a form of intervention in these processes.

#### **COURSE GOALS**

- Critically reflect on your identity as an educator.

- Evaluate and interpret the ways in which schooling influences and is influenced by equity issues.
- Develop teaching strategies that challenge unjust social structures and allow all young people to learn and grow into citizens who will be actively involved in this democracy.

## **REQUIRED FIELD HOURS**

N/A

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND/OR MATERIALS**

*This Book Is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do The Work* by Tiffany Jewell

*Stamped (For Kids): Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Sonja Cherry-Paul (Adapter), Jason Reynolds (Author), Ibram X. Kendi (Author), Rachelle Baker (Illustrator)

*Unearthing Joy: A Guide to Culturally and Historically Responsive Curriculum and Instruction* by Gholdy Muhammad.

## **ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS**

**Attendance:** 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](#) will be followed for attendance problems. If necessary, students may miss one class with a valid excuse (see [university policy for excused absences](#)) 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**

# of Absences	Total participation points for the class (out of 10 points)
0 – 1	10
2	7
3	3
4 or more	You will automatically receive an F for your final grade

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## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

- **Reflection digital 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.
- **Book Club** (15%): Students will form book clubs and will meet throughout the semester to discuss the book.
- **We'll take the lead** (20%): With a small group (2-4 members), 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!
- **Educational Autobiography** (20%): In this assignment, you will be doing an autobiography on your educational experiences (elementary school to university).
- **Final Un-learning Presentation** (15%): Starting from and related to the readings and discussions, reflect on what you have learned this semester.

- **Dispositions inventory** (0%): Students will complete a dispositions inventory reflecting on their dispositions as a future educator.
- **Attendance and Active Participation** (15%): Conducted throughout the semester as well as completing each assignment, activity, and readings.

STUDENT EVALUATION	points
<i>Reflection Digital Journals</i> (5 @ 3 pts. each)	15
<i>Book Club</i> (5 @ 3 pts. each)	15
<i>We'll take the lead</i> (2-4 members)	20
<i>Final Un-Learning Presentation</i> (individual)	15
<i>Educational autobiography &amp; writers workshop</i>	20
<i>Dispositions inventory</i>	0
<i>Attendance &amp; Active Participation</i>	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

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**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.

**Land Acknowledgment.** The University of North Texas occupies the ancestral, traditional and contemporary lands of the Wichita and Caddo people. We recognize Texas' federally recognized Native Nations, historic Indigenous communities in Texas, Indigenous individuals and communities who live here now, and those who were forcibly removed from their homelands. In offering this land acknowledgment, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty, history, and experiences.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:Coordinator@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](http://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](mailto: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: <https://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](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. Also, laptops should be turned off, unless they are being used to take class notes and/or participate in class activities. Similarly, earpieces should never be in use while instruction is conducted.

**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 curriculum and instruction activities which infuse technology throughout the K-12 curriculum.

## UNT TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM COMMITMENTS

While teaching has always been a relational and intellectual endeavor, we acknowledge that *teaching is also both an ethical and a political act*. We recognize that many of the practices and traditions in schools today perpetuate long-seated historical and social oppressions. These social inequities are structural *and* socially constructed along dimensions of intersecting identities, including, but not limited to, race, color, ethnicity, national origin and identity, dis/ability, gender identity and expression, sex, sexual orientation, religion, immigration status, language, social class, age, and genetic orientation.

It is through our radical imaginations that we can create spaces for critical inquiry and engagement in schools at multiple levels: intellectual, ethical, physical, social, emotional, ecological, and aesthetic. We envision classrooms to be inclusive places that serve as complex and just ecosystems that allow for multiple identities, modes of expression, and ways of engagement to thrive together. We do this because we are committed to dismantling oppression. Teachers play an important role in this movement. Our teacher education program supports the development of core values related to:

**Identity.** Preparing teachers who have agency and critically reflect on their lived experiences and identities as a way of informing their professional knowledge and humanizing pedagogies.

**Inquiry.** Preparing teachers who value and inquire into the complex identities, as well as intellectual and transformational capacities, of children and youth.

**Activism.** Preparing teachers who create curriculum that responds to children's and youth's inquiries and identities, as well as the sociopolitical and socioeconomic conditions of the world outside of schools—in neighborhoods, communities, and society-at-large.

**Community.** Preparing teachers who recognize and honor the unique sociocultural experiences and communities of children and youth with whom they work.

We commit to teaching and teacher preparation that takes a transformative stance toward school change. We believe—acting in solidarity with teachers, children, youth, school leaders, and communities—we can radically reimagine and reconstruct schools and, thus, our society.

**Teacher Preparation at The University of North Texas**  
**Core Commitments**

<b>Commitments</b>	<b>As Teachers</b>	<b>Children and Youth</b>	<b>In our Practice</b>	<b>To Radically Imagine</b>
<b>Identity</b>	<b>We are</b> individuals with cultural histories, knowledge, talents, and interests that we use as resources in our teaching.	<b>We value</b> and nurture the love, grace, humor, compassion, creativity, patience, joy, and peace young people bring into our teaching spaces.	<b>We practice</b> humanizing pedagogies that are asset-based, equitable, and appreciative of who we are and who we are becoming.	<b>We imagine</b> schools as spaces where teachers are encouraged and given space to be different in what they do with young people and their communities.
<b>Inquiry</b>	<b>We are</b> intellectuals with a deep understanding of academic content, curriculum development, and flexible pedagogies.	<b>We value</b> young people's knowledge, creativity, curiosity, aesthetics, imagination, and embodied ways of being as essential, educative and liberating.	<b>We practice</b> curriculum as critical inquiry and research where children and youth are positioned as capable, knowledgeable and social agents for change.	<b>We imagine</b> a curriculum in schools that is shaped by societal goals and influenced daily by events unfolding in the world around us.
<b>Advocacy &amp; Activism</b>	<b>We are</b> activists working against injustice for young people, teachers, and communities rooted in racism and other forms of discrimination.	<b>We value</b> and embody caring in all its forms- personal, social, cultural, linguistic, and ecological as essential to growing a positive learning and living environment.	<b>We practice</b> activism in the curriculum by engaging children and youth in work that contributes to the creation of a more just, more caring, and more peaceful world.	<b>We imagine</b> metaphors for schools as nurturing spaces for the whole individual rather than as efficient factories or businesses that produce products and profit.
<b>Communities</b>	<b>We are</b> members of multiple communities- connected in ways that make our successes intertwined.	<b>We value</b> inclusive learning communities that connect us within and outside of our classrooms.	<b>We practice</b> humility throughout vulnerability; hope in the face of adversity; and resilience in	<b>We imagine</b> schools as sustaining intersecting ways of being, knowing, and languaging.



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## DEPARTMENT SYLLABUS STATEMENTS

### 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.theccb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=EADF962E-0E3E-DA80-BAAD2496062F3CD8>

## **TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS**

[Technology Applications \(All Beginning Teachers, PDF\)](#) 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.