

EDME/EDEE 4890

Inquiry into Classroom Practice – Student Teaching Seminar

Course Basics



Instructor: Jeannette L. Ginther, Ed.D.

Class Location: Online/Remote

Time of Class: Wed 5:30-8:20pm

Office: Matthews Hall 204F

Office Hours: Zoom By Appointment

Email: jeannette.ginther@unt.edu

Prerequisites

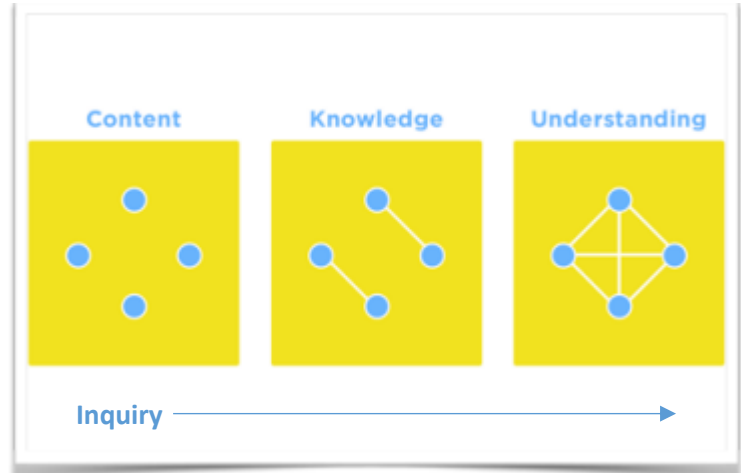
Traditional: Successful completion of PDS1 and current placement in a field site for student teaching.

Non-Traditional: Please be open-minded, flexible, reflective, willing to integrate multiple technologies to support your learning, and willing to talk to other students and actively listen, or have a willingness to develop these traits over the semester.

Optional Books

Johnston, P. H. (2004). *Choice Words*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse Publishers.

Pink, D. H. (2005). *A whole new mind: Moving from the information age to the conceptual age*. New York: Riverhead Books.



Course Description

Inquiry into Classroom Practice is a required component of the PDS2 experience and is taken concurrently with student teaching. The purpose of this course is to provide future teachers with the opportunity to synthesize their student teaching experience through inquiry into their own practice. Through the seminar, student teachers will strengthen the ability to be a reflective practitioner of: content and curriculum knowledge, pedagogy and assessment knowledge, equity for all learners, encouragement of diversity, professional communication, and engaged professional learning as outlined in the conceptual framework.

Student Learning Outcomes

As 21st Century Teachers the Interns will be able to:

- ✓ Develop curriculum that demonstrates strong content knowledge and skills as a decision maker who knows how to adjust the environment, content, materials, and activities in order to address the needs of all students.
- ✓ Exhibit appropriate communication in a variety of settings to a wide array of audiences --- students, peers, mentors, administrators, parents, and other community members.
- ✓ Demonstrate and model the ability to problem solve through classroom research.
- ✓ Establish reflective practices that support lifelong learning.

Transfer Goals

- ✓ Demonstrate a research mindset that supports critical inquiry.
- ✓ Inquire into your own teaching in order to bolster your reflective practices and enhance professional growth.
- ✓ Engage in on-going collegial interactions that model professional learning communities.
- ✓ Exhibit your passion for teaching and learning through an engaging classroom.
- ✓ Gain in-depth experience with identifying and responding to student strengths and needs.

Enduring Understandings

- ✓ Effective instructional design allows for better learning.
- ✓ Everyone needs to be a lifelong learner in the 21st century.
- ✓ Empathy and compassion are at the heart of instructional design and teaching.
- ✓ Metacognition is an ongoing practice that makes you a better learner, teacher, and instructional designer.

Essential Questions

- ✓ What makes someone an effective teacher?
- ✓ What classroom conditions are best for learning?
- ✓ What does it mean to be a professional educator?
- ✓ How should data inform instruction?

Course Structure and Attendance Policy

This is a remote, performance-based, active learning class with limited lecture. Our class will have five (5) Zoom meetings. You will participate in online/virtual learning experiences via Canvas during the alternate sessions. Due to the limited number of Zoom sessions, attendance is **mandatory** with the following exceptions:

- ✓ Contagious or severe illness with documentation.
- ✓ Death of immediate family member or friend.
- ✓ Court ordered appearances/jury duty with documentation.
- ✓ Life-threatening emergency with documentation.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session for these reasons, please schedule a private Zoom meeting with me to make up what you miss.

Required Assignments

Assignment	Points
Teacher Research Project You will be completing a project in which you seek to deeply understand the contextual factors that impact teaching, learning, and assessment. The timeline for this project is outlined in the course schedule, and you will receive instructor support throughout the semester.	40
Online Learning Experiences On weeks when we do not meet face-to-face, you will participate in online learning experiences via Canvas which may include a short assignment or Discussion Board Post. To earn full credit, you must complete five out of six possible experiences by the designated due date in Canvas.	25
Planning for Success Project The goal of this assignment is to present yourself to a variety of audiences. In this assignment you will develop a resume and letter of introduction for future employers. You will also create a portfolio style website and introduction video. Your format should appeal to a wide range of audiences and clearly demonstrate who you are as an educator.	20
Letter of Advice When you have completed PDS2, write about the experience you had in a letter of advice to incoming PDS2 students. Guidelines and examples will be provided in Canvas.	15
Total	100

Class Schedule and Assignments (Subject to Change as Needed)

Week	Class Preparation/Activities	To Do
Week 1 August 26 Cultivating an Environment for Learning	Canvas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and Welcome to the Course • Overview of Expectations 	Due: Touch Base Assignment in Canvas by midnight on 8/26.
Week 2 September 2 TRP Overview	Zoom: 7:45-8:20pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Teacher Research Project (TRP) 	No assignments due this week!
Week 3 September 9 Classroom and Behavior Management	Canvas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Learning Experience • How do you ensure that children are safe in your classroom and that learning happens? 	Begin: Teacher Research Project Due: Online Learning Experience in Canvas by midnight on 9/9.
Week 4 September 16 Classroom and Behavior Management, continued	Canvas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Learning Experience • What classroom conditions are best for learning? 	Due: Online Learning Experience in Canvas by midnight on 9/16.
Week 5 September 23 Inclusivity and Social Justice	Zoom: 7:45-8:20pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does cultural responsiveness look like in your classroom? Are you being inclusive? 	No assignments due this week!
Week 6 September 30 Meaningful Assessment	Canvas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Learning Experience • How should we assess students? 	Due: Online Learning Experience in Canvas by midnight on 9/30.
Week 7 October 7 Data and Assessment Literacy	Canvas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Learning Experience • How should data inform instruction? 	Due: Online Learning Experience in Canvas by midnight on 10/7.
Week 8 October 14 Formative Feedback	Zoom: 7:45-8:20pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes you an effective teacher? • How do you analyze student learning? 	No assignments due this week!
Week 9 October 21 Teacher Research Project	Canvas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on completing TRP this week! 	Due: TRP in Canvas by midnight on 10/21.
Week 10 October 28 Professionalism in Education	Canvas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Learning Experience • What are examples of professionalism? • What non-examples have you seen? 	Begin: Planning for Success Project Due: Online Learning Experience in Canvas by midnight on 10/28.
Week 11 November 4 Professional Identity	Zoom: 7:45-8:20pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker TBD • What does it mean to be a professional educator? What is your identity? 	No assignments due this week!
Week 12 November 11 Reflective Teaching	In Canvas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Learning Experience • What does a reflective teacher do? 	Due: Online Learning Experience in Canvas by midnight on 11/11.
Week 13 November 18 Planning for Success	In Canvas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for Success • How should I prepare for interviews? 	Due: Planning for Success Project in Canvas by midnight on 11/18.
Week 14 November 25 Holiday Week	Enjoy this time with your family and friends!	No assignments due this week!
Week 15 December 2 Paying it Forward	Zoom: 7:45-8:20pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Letter of Advice • How will you pay it forward? 	Due: Letter of Advice in Canvas by midnight on 12/2.
Week 16 Finals	No Final for this Course	I will miss you!



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.

Food/Housing Insecurity. The UNT Food Pantry is currently closed, but this website will direct you to alternate locations that are providing food at this time:

<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>. A student with difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, is urged to contact the Dean of Students, Suite 409 at the University Union.

University Mental Health Services. The Student Health and Wellness Center Clinic is open. You can contact the center at 940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu. For mental health resources, please refer to the following website: <https://speakout.unt.edu/content/mental-health-resources>.

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Accommodation Statement. 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.

Course Safety Procedures (for Laboratory Courses). Students enrolled in laboratory courses are required to use proper safety procedures and guidelines as outlined in UNT Policy 06.038 Safety in Instructional Activities. While working in laboratory sessions, students are expected and required to identify and use proper safety guidelines in all activities requiring lifting, climbing, walking on slippery surfaces, using equipment and tools, handling chemical solutions and hot and cold products. Students should be aware that the UNT is not liable for injuries incurred while students are participating in class activities. All students are encouraged to secure adequate insurance coverage in the event of accidental injury. Students who do not have insurance coverage should consider obtaining Student Health Insurance. Brochures for student insurance are available in the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center. Students who are injured during class activities may seek medical attention at the Student Health and Wellness Center at rates that are reduced compared to other medical facilities. If students have an insurance plan other than Student Health Insurance at UNT, they should be sure that the plan covers treatment at this facility. If students choose not to go to the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center, they may be transported to an emergency room at a local hospital. Students are responsible for expenses incurred there.

Emergency Notification & Procedures. UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course.

Foliotek ePortfolio (where applicable). Foliotek is a software data management system (DMS) used in the assessment of your knowledge, skills, and dispositions relevant to program standards and objectives. You will be required to use your Foliotek account for the duration of your enrollment in the College of Education in order to upload required applications, course assignments, and other electronic evidences/evaluations as required. This course may require assignment(s) to be uploaded and graded in Foliotek. The College of Education will track your progress in your program through this data to verify that you have successfully met the competencies required in your program of study. All students must register in the program portfolio that aligns with their degree plan. Registration codes and tutorials can be found on this site: <https://coe.unt.edu/educator-preparation-office/foliotek>

Student Evaluation Administration Dates. Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention. UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as 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. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648.

Ethical Behavior and Code of Ethics: The Teacher Education & Administration Department expects that its students will abide by the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators (Chapter 247 of the Texas Administrative Code www.sbec.state.tx.us) and as outlined in Domain IV: Fulfilling Professional Roles and Responsibilities of the Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES); and as also addressed in codes of ethics adopted by professionals in the education field such as the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

Submitting Work: All assignments will be submitted via Canvas. Assignments posted after the deadline will be considered late and points will be deducted from the final grade.

Grading and Grade Reporting: Grading rubrics for all assignments can be found on the course Canvas website with the assignment. Students are encouraged to review the grading rubrics to guide them in successfully completing all assignments.

Writing Policy: Teachers are judged on the accuracy of everything they write, whether it is a letter to parents or an email to a principal or a worksheet for students. Your written products – including, but not limited to, papers, lesson plans, and emails – should include appropriate and accurate spelling, grammar, punctuation, syntax, and format. You should expect that all assignments will be evaluated on these writing skills, in addition to any other expectations of a particular assignment. The UNT Writing Lab (Sage Hall 152) offers one-on-one consultation to assist students with their writing assignments. To use this resource, call (940) 565-2563 or visit <https://ltc.unt.edu/labs/unt-writing-lab-home>.

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.

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.

Collection of Student Work: In order to monitor students' achievement, improve instructional programs, and publish research findings, the Department of Teacher Education and Administration collects anonymous student work samples, student demographic information, test scores, and GPAs to be analyzed by internal and external reviewers.

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.

TEXES Test Preparation. To meet state requirements for providing 6 hours of test preparation for teacher certification candidates, the UNT TEXES Advising Office (TAO) administers the College of Education TEXES Practice Exams. Students who want to take a practice exam should contact the TAO (Matthews Hall 103). Students may take up to two exams per session that relate to their teaching track/field at UNT. Students should also plan accordingly, as they are required to stay for the entire testing period. Current students must meet the following criteria in order to sit for the TEXES practice exams: Students must (1) be admitted to Teacher Education, (2) have a certification plan on file with the COE Student Advising Office, and (3) be enrolled in coursework for the current semester. For TEXES practice exam information and registration, go to: <http://www.coe.unt.edu/texas-advising-office/texas-exams>. If you need special testing accommodations, please contact the TAO at 940-369-8601 or e-mail the TAO at coe-tao@unt.edu. The TAO website is www.coe.unt.edu/texas. Additional test preparation materials (i.e. Study Guides for the TEXES) are available at www.texas.ets.org.

“Ready to Test” Criteria for Teacher Certification Candidates. Teacher certification candidates should take the TEXES exams relating to their respective certification tracks/teaching fields during their early-field-experience semester (i.e. the long semester or summer session immediately prior to student teaching).

Six Student Success Messages. The Department of Teacher Education & Administration supports the six student success messages on how to succeed at UNT: (1) Show up; (2) Find support; (3) Get advised; (4) Be prepared; (5) Get involved; and (6) Stay focused. Students are encouraged to access the following website: <https://success.unt.edu>. The site contains multiple student resource links and short videos with student messages.