

# 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](mailto:jeannette.ginther@unt.edu)

### Prerequisites

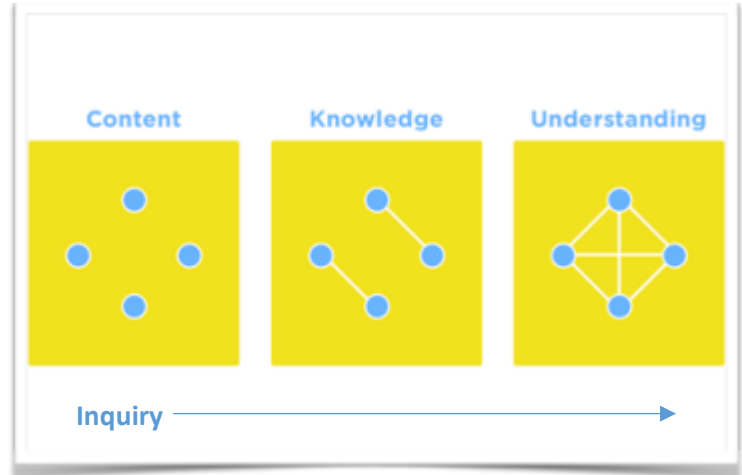
**Traditional:** Successful completion of PDS1 and current placement in a field site for student teaching.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 (6) 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 let me know as soon as possible.

## Required Assignments

Assignment	Percentage
<b>Teacher Research Project</b> 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.	30%
<b>Zooms and Online Learning Experiences</b> We will have 6 scheduled Zooms in which your attendance and participation is required. On certain weeks when we do not have a Zoom, you will complete a brief yet powerful online learning experience which will be submitted in Canvas.	40%
<b>Planning for Success Project</b> 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%
<b>Letter of Advice</b> 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.	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

**Class Schedule and Assignments (Subject to Change as Needed)**

Week	To Do
<b>Week 1</b> January 13 <b>Welcome to our Class!</b>	<b>Review:</b> Course material in Canvas <b>Complete:</b> Touch Base Assignment in Canvas by midnight on Wednesday, 1/13
<b>Week 2</b> January 20 <b>Semester Overview and TRP</b>	<b>Preview:</b> Discussion Questions for Zoom in Canvas <b>Required Zoom: Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> @7:30pm</b>
<b>Week 3</b> January 27 <b>Classroom and Behavior Organization</b>	<b>Watch:</b> Top 5 Strategies for Classroom Management Video <b>Complete:</b> Week 3 Online Learning Experience in Canvas by midnight on Sunday, 1/31
<b>Week 4</b> February 3 <b>Creating Positive Learning Environments</b>	<b>Preview:</b> Discussion Questions for Zoom in Canvas <b>Required Zoom: Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> @7:30pm</b>
<b>Week 5</b> February 10 <b>Meaningful Assessment</b>	<b>Read:</b> Assessing Student Learning <b>Complete:</b> Week 5 Online Learning Experience in Canvas by midnight on Sunday, 2/14
<b>Week 6</b> February 17 <b>Data and Assessment Literacy</b>	<b>Preview:</b> Discussion Questions for Zoom in Canvas <b>Required Zoom: Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> @7:30pm</b>
<b>Week 7</b> February 24 <b>Virtual/Remote Learning</b>	<b>Listen:</b> Podcast and Blog in Canvas <b>Complete:</b> Week 7 Online Learning Experience in Canvas by midnight on Sunday, 2/28
<b>Week 8</b> March 3 <b>Work Week</b>	<b>Please use this week to catch up on missing work and/or to complete your TRP which is due on Sunday, 3/21.</b>
<b>Week 9</b> March 10 <b>Professionalism in Education</b>	<b>Preview:</b> Discussion Questions for Zoom in Canvas <b>Required Zoom: Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> @7:30pm</b>
<b>Week 10</b> March 17 <b>Professional Identity</b>	<b>Read:</b> Teacher Interview Tips – Start preparing answers!!! <b>Review:</b> Links to Apply for Teaching Positions <b>No assignments due this week!</b>
<b>Week 11</b> March 24 <b>Planning for Success</b>	<b>Begin:</b> Planning for Success Project <b>No assignments due this week!</b>
<b>Week 12</b> March 31 <b>Reflective Teaching</b>	<b>Preview:</b> Discussion Questions for Zoom in Canvas <b>Required Zoom: Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> @7:30pm</b>
<b>Week 13</b> April 7 <b>Work Week</b>	<b>Please use this week to work on your Planning for Success Project due in Canvas by midnight on Sunday, 4/11.</b>
<b>Week 14</b> April 14 <b>Paying it Forward</b>	<b>Complete:</b> Letter of Advice to Future Students in Canvas by midnight on Sunday, 4/18.
<b>Week 15</b> April 21 <b>Last Week of Class</b>	<b>Preview:</b> Watch short film (link in Canvas) prior to our last Zoom <b>Required Zoom: Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> @7:30pm</b>
<b>Week 16</b> April 28 <b>Finals Week</b>	<b>Please be sure you have completed ALL assignments prior to midnight on Sunday, 4/25! Your TRP must be submitted to Foliotek in addition to Canvas!</b>

**\*Please note that in order to receive a final grade of A in this course, ALL assignments must be completed and submitted before Sunday, April 25, 2021.**

**Grading**

90-100 = A   80-89 = B   70-79 = C   60-69 = D   0-59 = F

## Professionalism and Engagement

Teachers must exhibit a high degree of professional behavior to best meet the needs of their students. As a preservice teacher, it is essential to begin practicing what will be expected of you as an in-service teacher including reliability, responsibility, flexibility, punctuality, integrity, and ability to work efficiently and productively with your colleagues. ***This includes engagement and participation during all learning activities, online discussions about content and readings, performance tasks, informal presentations, interaction/communication with peers, professors, and guest speakers, cultural responsiveness, awareness of impact on others, and overall professional behavior.***

## Pandemic/COVID-19 Considerations

We are currently in the midst of an unprecedented global pandemic with COVID-19 at this time, and as faculty, we recognize that this can place you or others you know in uncertain positions. Some of you may be caring for your children. Some of you might be caring for your siblings and/or elders. Your schedules and jobs may be unpredictable, and finances may be strained. Some of you may be doing okay right now, and if that is the case, I want it to remain that way for you. All I ask that you PLEASE STAY in communication with me if things get tough, especially if I reach out to check on you via Canvas or email. I will do the best I can to support you (or direct you to the support you need), and I will ALWAYS be compassionate, caring, understanding, and patient.

## 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>.

## Department and University Policy Statements

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.

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**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](http://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.

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**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](mailto: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](http://www.spot.unt.edu) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.

**TEExES Test Preparation.** To meet state requirements for providing 6 hours of test preparation for teacher certification candidates, the UNT TEExES Advising Office (TAO) administers the College of Education TEExES 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 TEExES 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 TEExES practice exam information and registration, go to:

<http://www.coe.unt.edu/texes-advising-office/texes-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](mailto:coe-tao@unt.edu).

The TAO website is [www.coe.unt.edu/texas](http://www.coe.unt.edu/texas). Additional test preparation materials (i.e. Study Guides for the TExES) are available at [www.texas.ets.org](http://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.