TNTX 1100 – Secondary Teacher Education Preparation – STEP 1 Fall 2025

Instructor Information

Name: Ms. Nancy Joykutty **Pronouns:** she, her, hers

Office Location: Curry Hall 309C

Phone Number: 940-565-3351 – It is best to contact me via email or unless previously discussed. **Office Hours:** Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-11:00 am & Wednesday 11:30-1:00 pm or by appointment

Email: Nancy.Joykutty@unt.edu

Fall 2025 Sections:

TNTX1100 – 001 – Section 1 – Tuesday 12:30-1:50 pm

Curry Hall Room 323

TNTX1100 - 002 - Section 2 - Thursday 12:30-1:50 pm

Curry Hall Room 323

TNTX1100 - 003 - Section 3 - Wednesday 2:00-3:20 pm

Curry Hall Room 323

Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

Course Description per the University Catalog

Secondary Teacher Education Preparation I: Inquiry Approaches to Teaching. 1 hour. Introduction to mathematics, computer sciences, and science teaching as a career. Discussions include standards-based lesson design and various teaching and behavior management strategies. Fieldwork consists of planning and teaching three inquiry-based lessons to students in grades 3-5 in local elementary schools. Prerequisite(s): Admission in the Teach North Texas program; see the Teach North Texas advisor for details.

TNTX 1100 is an exploratory course to help you determine if teaching is something you want to do as a professional career. This semester we will be working together to establish some foundational education framework for you to build on as you continue through the Teach North Texas program. All TNT Master Teachers and staff are here to help you be successful as you investigate your calling in to teaching and transition to college life.

This course will provide students with:

- an opportunity to explore teaching in science, mathematics, or computer science as a career.
- early field experiences in teaching.
- an introduction to the theory and practice that is necessary to design and deliver excellent instruction.

Course Structure

The course will be conducted in a face-to-face format, once a week for 80 minutes. The classroom instruction will be held in Curry Hall at the time you signed up for. These classes will be interactive, and they will include a significant amount of discussion among your classmates. The Field Experience portion will be held in Curry Hall (for practice teaches) and in an elementary (Grades 3-5) classroom in one of our local partner districts.

Course Objectives

The following table lists our objectives for TNTX 1100 as well as the evidence of student learning.

| Students will be able to | Evidence of Student Learning | |
|---|--|--|
| Utilize science or mathematics content knowledge to plan and teach three middle or upper elementary grade lessons | implement content accuracy throughout each lesson plan reflect upon observations by the mentor teacher and the master teacher or another assigned observer | |
| Utilize exemplary sources of inquiry-based science or math lessons | participate in model lesson demonstrations in class | |
| Recognize state standards for each lesson plan locate and Identify where and how to find standards | identify grade level TEKS for each lesson taught | |
| Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). | | |
| Describe at least two differences between a | Describe in their interactive notebook. | |
| constructivist and traditional classroom. | Create Traditional vs Constructivist class room posters | |
| Describe constructivism in their own words. | | |
| Identify performance objectives for each lesson and assess objectives to determine measurability | compare and contrast objectives for alignment with TEKS and measurability compare and contrast objectives & learning target. | |
| Define what an educational objective is in an interactive notebook. | compare and contrast objectives & learning target and their purpose in lesson planning | |
| Teach three inquiry-based lessons using the 5E model Explain the role of the teacher & the student at each stage of the 5E | implement three inquiry-based lesson plans reflect upon the written feedback by the mentor teacher and TNT observer for three inquiry-based lessons class cardsort & breakdown of in class lesson demonstrations | |
| Use probing questions to elicit feedback to determine students' acquisition of knowledge | identify question levels using Bloom's Taxonomy | |
| Discuss strategies for achieving instructional equity | discuss, model, and utilize proven techniques for equity in classroom participation explain what equity in the classroom is and what it is not | |
| Demonstrate proficiency in the use of technology for productivity purposes | communicate electronically with instructor and mentor submit and complete canvas assignments as designated in syllabus integrate technology in lesson implementation (as available) | |
| Implement safe classroom practices | review safety practices before beginning each lesson plan reflect upon observations by the mentor teacher and TNT observer | |
| Assess commitment to pursue teaching as a career. | participate in a class discussion on intentions to pursue teaching as a career | |

| Students will be able to | Evidence of Student Learning |
|---|--|
| Correctly list the 6 levels of Blooms taxonomy in order | In students' interactive notebook |
| from lowest to highest and classify questions. | Complete final exam or project. |
| Identify the individual stages of the 5E lesson plan | Complete 5E quiz |
| | describe In students' interactive notebook |
| | complete in lesson demonstration notes page |
| | Complete final exam or project. |

Communication Expectations

This course meets in-person, which means you are expected to arrive in person for all classes either before class begins or on time. As personal concerns or questions arise, contact Ms. Joykutty using the UNT email system.

- **UNT email is the preferred form of communication.** It is my intent to reply to all emails within 24 hours. If you don't hear back from me by that time, please feel free to send me a reminder.
- Mentor Teacher communications All communications with your mentor teacher should be via UNT your email and should have me included in your emailed communication.
- Attendance If you are going to be absent from class email me (nancy.joykutty@unt.edu) before class begins. Attendance DOES count in TNTX 1100. The attendance policy is explained in detail later in the syllabus.
- Emergencies If you have an emergency related to your scheduled practice teach or actual teach, please email your instructor and mentor teacher immediately! Also, call the TNT office at 940-565-2265 to notify the office staff so that accommodations can be made and we can reschedule the time.
- Canvas & Announcements All class announcements, handouts, PowerPoint slides, assignments, and information will be available in Canvas.
- Online Communication Tips The following link Online Communication Tips (https://clear.unt.edu/onlinecommunication-tips) provides some excellent online communication guidelines recommended by UNT. They cover general electronic communications, use of email, and Discussion Board communications. In general:
 - 1. Be professional
 - 2. Be proactive
 - 3. Be respectful
 - 4. Be kind

Teaching Philosophy

There are three primary tenets to my Teaching Philosophy. I will strive to demonstrate and model these beliefs both inside and outside of the classroom. These are:

- 1) All students can Excel Every student can learn and flourish given the appropriate opportunities, support, accommodations, and encouragement.
- 2) Active Learning Students learn best by promoting inquiry and curiosity as well as actively being part of the learning process. I view my role primarily as a facilitator. We will spend a significant portion of our class time "doing and discussing" rather than "reading and listening."
- 3) Relationships Relationships are a key enabler for effective student learning. Active listening is foundational to better relationships. All voices are important! I want to hear my students' voices, thoughts, and opinions. In order to facilitate this, we will utilize the following pedagogy tools in class:
 - **Equity cards** We will use equity cards to give every student a chance to participate in class.
 - Various feedback mechanisms Students will be given several options to ask questions or seek feedback.

• "Open door" policy – I will have weekly scheduled office hours and additional office hours available by appointment. I have an open door policy where if you see me in my office you are more than welcome to come in and talk to me and I will listen to you without judging.

Required/Recommended Materials

This course has digital components. To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System. If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content. Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at Learn Anywhere (https://online.unt.edu/learn).

There is no textbook required for the course. Readings, handouts, and slides will be made available during the semester. However, the student will need access to the following (at a minimum):

- Reliable internet service for access to Canvas and various other technology sites.
- UNT EagleConnect, familiarity with the official university email is crucial as it will be the main source of communication.

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: UIT Student Help Desk site (http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 330 Walk-In Availability: 8am-5pm

For additional support, visit <u>Canvas Technical Help</u> (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

How to Succeed in this Course

Use Your ADA Accommodations

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website (http://www.unt.edu/oda). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Students can connect with the <u>Office of Disability Access</u> to begin the registering process (<u>https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access</u>). This should be done once each semester.

Communication practices

You are not alone in this course; I'm here to navigate you to success. Please communicate ALL your concerns or questions to me. It helps me make better decisions on how to support your learning journey. "I can't help you if I don't know you need help"

How can I reach you outside of class? UNT email is the most efficient medium of communication, when we're not face-to-face. You may also message me through Canvas. Canvas forwards all messages to our UNT emails; however, your comments on Canvas will NOT be forwarded. If you have time-sensitive information, please email me. Also, though email is the most efficient, I prefer that we make arrangements to meet whenever possible.

How long does it take you to respond to my emails? You can expect to receive a response to your emails (during the weekdays) within 24 hours. Emails sent over the weekends (i.e. Friday afternoon to Sunday) can expect a response as early as Sunday evening or Monday morning. If your email requires a response and you don't receive one within 48 hours, please don't be afraid to send me a follow-up email. The semester can get pretty busy, and my inbox becomes rather full. A gentle nudge is appreciated.

Proactive communication with me and your mentor teacher is critical and it is also an essential component of being an effective teacher. If you are struggling or having difficulties, please reach out to me as soon as possible so that we can get them resolved.

Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please stop by my office and let me know. We are all learning together.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

There are no academic prerequisites for TNTX1100. However having an interest in exploring teaching STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) as a career is strongly recommended.

Course Requirements

In this course students must be able to:

- Travel to Curry Hall on campus a minimum of three times during the semester to conduct practice teaches outside of class time.
- Travel a minimum of 6 times to observe and teach lessons at an assigned elementary classroom in the North Texas area.

If assistance is needed to meet these requirements, please see the instructor immediately. Help is available upon request.

Course Schedule

This calendar is tentative and subject to change based on the needs of students and instructor.

| Class Scheduled | Topics Covered: | |
|---|---|--|
| Week 1: Aug 19 - 21 | Topics: Course Orientation, Forms, & Syllabus | |
| Week 2: Aug 26 - 28 | Topics: Interactive Notebooks & Exploring Inquiry Learning | |
| Monday Sept 1 st | No classes – LABOR DAY | |
| Week 3: Sept 2 - 4 | Topics: Field Experience Overview & Scheduling | |
| Week 4: Sept 9 - 11 | Topics: Model Teach 1 and Practice Teach Scheduling | |
| Week 5: Sept 16 – 18 | Topics: Inquiry and the 5E's | |
| Week 6: Sept 23 – 45 | Topics: Teach 1 Reminders, 5E, Wait Time, & IAN Update | |
| Week 7: Sept 30 – Oct 2 | Topics: Teacher Voice | |
| Week 8: Oct 7 – 9 | Topics: Model Teach 2 and Practice Teach Scheduling | |
| Week 9: Oct 14 – 16 | Topics: Student and Teacher Roles in the 5E Model | |
| Week 10: Oct 21 – 23 | Topics: Traditional vs Constructivist classrooms | |
| Week 11: Oct 28 – 30 | Topics: Designing Directions & Team Accountability | |
| Week 12: Nov 4 – 6 | Topics: Purpose of Questions & Intro to Bloom's | |
| Week 13: Nov 11 – 13 | Topics: Bloom's Taxonomy | |
| Week 14: Nov 18 – 20 | Topics: Finish Blooms & Intro to Standards | |
| THANKSGIVING BREAK - November 24 – 28 th | | |
| Week 15: Dec 4 – 6 | Topics: Standards, Objectives, Learning Targets, and Q&A | |
| Friday Dec 5 th | No classes – Reading Day | |
| Finals Week December 6-11 th | TNTX 1100 Final Exam on designated Day - Wednesday Dec 10 th 1:30 – 3:30 pm - Thursday Dec 11 th 10:30 – 12:30 pm | |

Grading/ Assessing Your Work

The following is a summary of the assignments and activities in this course. These assignments are a guide and may be modified based on needs and assessments throughout the semester.

| Assignment | |
|---|-----|
| Syllabus Quiz | 5 |
| 5E Quiz | 5 |
| Teacher Voice Poster | 3 |
| Traditional vs Constructivist Classroom Poster | 3 |
| Attendance (See Attendance policy elsewhere in the syllabus) | 10 |
| Professionalism (See professionalism policy in the syllabus) | 10 |
| Observation Reflections – 4 TOTAL • 4 points each & to be completed after mentor observation | 16 |
| Practice Teaches – 2 TOTAL • 4 points each & to be completed prior to scheduled teach | 8 |
| Teach Reflection - 2 TOTAL • 5 points each & to be completed after scheduled teach | 10 |
| Interactive Notebook (IAN) Check – 2 TOTAL • 10 points each, collected at Week 7 or 8 & 15 | |
| STEP 1 Final Exam | 10 |
| Total Points | 100 |

The grading scale will be assigned on percentage of total points accrued. The scale is listed below.

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

Field Experience Overview

TNT believes that students learn to teach by teaching. To provide you with the support you need to develop your love for teaching and your ability to have successful teaching experiences, the following describes our Field Experience in STEP 1.

"Field experience" is defined as an opportunity for pre-service teachers to apply knowledge gained in the classroom with supervised practice in a Pre/K-12 classroom setting.

Students of this course, i.e. pre-service teachers, can expect to do the following (this is an overview):

- 1. Complete a background check. You will not be allowed on your assigned campus until yours has cleared. (See "Background Check" policy.)
 - For security reasons, all schools require that you sign in at the front office of the school each day that you visit. Be sure to wear your visitor badge that identifies you as a Teach North Texas (TNT) student.

- 2. Model Teaches TWO times during the semester, you will participate/experience exemplar elementary science lesson demonstrations in class as a student.
 - These in class demonstrations will cover the lessons that will be teaching students on your Actual Teach days.
- 3. With or without teaching partner(s), prepare (and teach) TWO hands-on science/mathematics/ computer science lessons in an elementary school classroom.
 - Decide exactly how you and your partner(s) will share the teaching responsibilities and divide the lesson.
 - Arrive at least **20 minutes** before your scheduled teaching time.
 - Ensure that all materials are collected and classroom space is clean after the lesson.
 - Learn and use the names of your students.
 - Be open and receptive to verbal and written feedback provided by the observing Master Teacher (or adjunct faculty member) and your mentor.
- 4. Perform a minimum of ONE "practice teach" PER TEACH in the presence of a Practice Teach Observer to demonstrate field readiness.
 - A "practice teach" is similar a dress rehearsal of a theatre production; the lesson is taught (with materials) as it would be in a real classroom to real students.
 - Feedback from the practice teach will be used to give approval for teaching in the field.
 - Practicing prior to the practice teach is required and very beneficial. Note: The instructor can and will require you to complete as many practice teaches as needed before giving approval. The expectation is that you complete a successful practice teach the first time.
- 5. *Observe* mentor teacher's classroom at least **FOUR** times during the semester.
 - An observation is required to receive approval to teach.
 - Evidence of the observation will be submitted as an observation form.
- **6.** Reflect on each observation and teach by answering reflection questions.
 - There is a different reflection guide for each of the observations & teach reflections.
- 7. Complete self/peer evaluation after each teach.

IMPORTANT:

- o Report immediately to the instructor and/or appropriate team members any problems you have, including the need for additional supplies.
- If a Practice Teach or Actual Teach needs to be rescheduled, you must inform your instructor via email in advance. You may not reschedule a teaching date without the permission of a Master Teacher. Doing so will result in the loss of significant professionalism points.
- If an emergency arises and you have to miss your scheduled teaching day, notify your partner, your mentor teacher and your instructor as soon as you know. Your partner should teach the lesson alone if necessary.

Call our office phone numbers or email your instructors ASAP! Also, call the TNT office at 940-565-2265 to notify the office staff. Keep calling the TNT office until you get a real person.

• A minimum of 6 hours of Field Experience will be required over the course of the semester.

• All required materials for each teach will be provided to you by TNT.

Attendance and Participation

You are preparing for a profession in which your daily presence is imperative to the success of your students and your attendance in this class represents that commitment. This course is designed and organized to be highly collaborative and experiential. Therefore, your attendance and participation are essential to your learning. It is not possible to be enriched by discussions and collaborations if you are not present or prepared for class.

What is the attendance policy? Your presence is welcomed and expected for every class session. Attendance is taken every day. Life happens. If you cannot attend class for any reason, including for the observance of a **religious holy day**, please:

- 1. Contact Ms. Joykutty at Nancy. Joykutty@unt.edu before class.
- 2. Use your resources to access all announcements, assignments and information presented or discussed in class, amid your absence. (Keep in mind that illness-related absences may require a doctor's note.)

Whether poor or late attendance, not attending for the full class time will adversely affect your grade for this course. Students missing more than 10 minutes of a class will be counted as absent. Below is the attendance policy.

- 3 absences = final grade in the course will be lowered by one full letter grade.
- 4 or more absences = F in the course

What about tardies? Due to the short amount of class time, it is imperative that you come on time, ready to participate. Tardies will adversely affect your attendance grade. Please keep in mind that:

3 tardies = 1 absence. This means arriving to class late and/or leaving class early.

What is the participation policy? Your participation in class is required. The content taught is best learned by doing and discussion. Participating in class enhances student learning and growth. A reduction in the Professionalism portion of the final grade occurs when you do not actively and responsibly participate in the course.

How do I report an absence for my field experience coursework? Follow these procedures if you cannot make a practice teaching, an observation of your Mentor Teacher, or a teaching event:

- Missing a practice teaching event for any reason, you must:
 - ✓ Contact your partner via phone or email;
 - ✓ Contact Ms. Joykutty at Nancy.Joykutty@unt.edu
 - ✓ Contact the Practice Teach Observer assigned to observe you and your partner; AND
 - ✓ Contact the TNT front desk at 940-565-2265 and leave a message.
- Missing an observation of your Mentor Teacher for any reason, you must:
 - ✓ Contact your teaching partner via phone or email;
 - ✓ Contact Ms. Joykutty at Nancy.Joykutty@unt.edu; AND
 - ✓ Contact your Mentor Teacher via email and call the school to leave the mentor teacher a message.
- Missing a teaching event at your Mentor Teacher's campus for any reason, you must:
 - ✓ Contact your partner via phone or email;
 - ✓ Contact your Mentor Teacher ASAP via email and call the school to leave the mentor teacher a message;
 - ✓ Contact Ms. Joykutty at Nancy. Joykutty@unt.edu and 940-565-3351 and leave a message.
 - ✓ Contact the assigned Master Teacher assigned to observe your teaching event; AND

✓ Contact the TNT front desk at 940-565-2265 and leave a message.

COURSE POLICIES

Student Field Experience Policy

The two lessons you will teach in the elementary setting this semester have been written. You are required to complete a practice teach that has been approved by the coach assigned prior to teaching it before K-12 students. If you do not pass the practice teach, you will be scheduled for an additional practice teach to demonstrate knowledge of the lesson and familiarity with the teaching model (5E). It is highly likely you will fail the practice teach if you come unprepared and unfamiliar with the lesson. Students who fail 3 practice teaches for the same lesson will be required to cancel and then reschedule their teaching event using the electronic system for scheduling the field experience. Finally, students who receive consistent evaluations below expectations will meet with the Co-Directors to determine how to proceed in the course.

Professionalism

In this course, you are given the opportunity to acclimate in the professional education community. Therefore, professionalism will be assessed in the following ways.

- a. Be on Time Being on time for class commitments, including all practice and actual teaches and our weekly classes;
 - i. Arriving at Curry Hall at least 15-20 minutes prior to your scheduled Practice Teaching time.
 - ii. Arriving at your mentor teacher's classroom a minimum of 20 minutes prior to your scheduled time for observations and Actual Teaches.
- b. Be Prepared Being prepared for the three actual teaches and practice teaches. This means you will have all required notes and materials;
- c. Professional and Timely Communication Documenting electronic communication with your TNT personnel and your instructor confirming teach dates, and any changes that may crop up over the semester.
- d. **Dress Appropriately** Dress appropriately and professionally when conducting all Actual Teaches. If any student needs professional clothing, please contact your instructor as soon as possible, and we can connect you with resources provided by UNT.
- e. Self/Peer Evaluations Completing a self/peer evaluation form after each lesson taught.

Student Late Work Policy

Assignments are due on or before the assignment due date as published in Canvas. After that date, if the assignment is turned in within a week of the published due date, a maximum of 70% may be received for the late assignment. After one week, no credit will be given for the late assignment.

Scenarios Prompting Unsuccessful Course Completion

Unless a student withdraws from the course in accordance with UNT deadlines, the following actions will result in failure of the course:

- Not completing required district background check by the designated due date
- · Missing an arranged teaching date without prior approval or notification of mentor teacher and
- Not <u>successfully</u> completing **all** teaches, observations, & practice teaches
- Missing more than 3 class sessions without prior email to instructor. Please see Attendance Policy elsewhere in the syllabus.

TNT Background Check Policy

Along with Teach North Texas, our school district partners establish deadlines for the completion of background checks that permit teacher education candidates to conduct observations and teaching events in public schools. For this reason, each student must provide evidence of a completed background check by Wednesday, September 10, 2025.

Students who do not successfully complete the background check will be unable to complete mandatory course requirements and will receive a grade of "F" in the course unless the student drops or withdraws from the course according to UNT deadlines. Students that drop or withdraw from classes may become ineligible for financial aid.

Texas House Bill 1508 requires Educator Preparation Programs to notify all applicants and enrollees that a felony conviction may make you ineligible for certification upon program completion. The law requires that this information be provided without regard to whether the person has been convicted of a criminal offense. You may review current TEA criminal background checks guidelines, and also, you have the right to request a criminal history evaluation letter from TEA, at https://tea.texas.gov/Texas Educators/Investigations. It is possible that some school districts will not permit individuals with misdemeanor or felony convictions to complete fieldwork on their campuses. The University of North Texas shall not be held liable should you be ineligible for certification because of a criminal offense.

UNT POLICIES

Eagle Alert

Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class and describe that the calendar is subject to change, citing the Emergency Notifications and Procedures Policy (PDF)

Academic Integrity Policy

Every student in my class can improve by doing their own work and trying their hardest with access to appropriate resources. For example, students who use other people's work without citations will be violating UNT's Academic Integrity Policy. Please read and follow this important set of guidelines for your academic success (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003).

Academic dishonesty breaches the mutual trust necessary in an academic environment and undermines all scholarship. Our standard for academic integrity is a preponderance of evidence, a standard of review in the student appeal process that evaluates whether allegations are more likely to be true than not true. Consequences may include but not limited to, no credit for an assignment, lower course grade, course failure, etc. Violations will be filed with the Academic Integrity Office.

Other UNT Policies

The official UNT policies for the following are contained in this link, Student Support Services & Policies. You will be help responsible for these policies and procedures and well, so please take the time to review them as well.

- Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation
- Academic Integrity Policy Full Description of the policy
- ADA policy
- Retention of Student records
- Course safety procedures (for Laboratory Courses) This course does not contain a lab, but you should familiarize yourself with this policy as it will apply to your science courses.

The following topics, policies, and procedures are also contained in this link:

- **Student Expectations and Preferences**
- Student Wellness and Academic Records
- Communication