

EDCI 3800 | FALL 2025

# Professional Issues in Teaching

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Office hours: Students can make in-person or virtual appointments using the Calendly link in Canvas.

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## Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

### UNT Catalog Course Description

Overview of American education, including history, purposes, legal bases, school organization, education as a profession and analysis of characteristics required for professional success.

### Course Prerequisites

None

### Course Learning Objectives

The course is designed in alignment with the TEA Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC-12 standards. The goal of the course is to prepare students for their certification exam and their role as future educators. The course touches on the various professional responsibilities of Texas teachers.

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|--------------|--|
| Standard I   | The teacher designs instruction appropriate for all students that reflects an understanding of relevant content and is based on continuous and appropriate assessment.   |
| Standard II  | The teacher creates a classroom environment of respect and rapport fostering a positive learning, equity, and excellence climate.  |
| Standard III | The teacher promotes student learning by providing responsive instruction that makes use of effective communication techniques, instructional strategies that actively engage students in the learning process, and timely, high-quality feedback. |

Standard IV                      The teacher fulfills professional roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.

## How to Succeed in this Course

### Communication Practices

Connect with me through email and/or by attending office hours. You can make an appointment with me via the calendly link posted at the top of the Canvas page. I am available for both in-person and virtual office hours. During busy times, my inbox becomes rather full, so if you contact me and do not receive a response within two business days, please send a follow-up email. A gentle nudge is always appreciated. However, please be selective in what you choose to email me about. If a peer can answer your question, please reach out to a peer before contacting me. I hope that you will learn to rely more on your colleagues than on me, and that you will develop a professional skillset that will serve you well in your fieldwork and teaching career.

### Attendance and Participation

Because this course involves collaboration, participation is essential to learning. Class activities require you to be actively engaged in discussions and group work. I have a strict policy because you will be entering a profession in which you cannot consistently be absent. For example, most districts provide teachers with about 10 sick days per year out of about 180 teaching days.

The following will be the attendance policy for our course:

# of Unexcused Absences	Deduction from Final Grade
0 – 1	No point deduction
2	3 points (e.g., 100-97)
3	5 points (e.g., 95-90)
4 or more	Failure of course

Whether an absence is excused or unexcused, students can only get the 6 points from the entry and exit tickets by completing and submitting an alternative assignment in Canvas within one week of the missed class.

**According to UNT Policy 06.039, illness is “deemed a matter between the student and their faculty member.” Therefore, you are given one day this semester to take as your sick day unless it is an extenuating circumstance**

**in which you should reach out to Dr. Smith. Please save your one unexcused absence for when you are ill.**

### **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  
(<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>).

You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

### **Academic Success Resources**

UNT strives to offer a high-quality education in a supportive environment where you can learn, grow, and thrive. As a faculty member, I am committed to supporting you, and I want to remind you that UNT offers a range of mental health and wellness services to help maintain balance and well-being. Utilizing these resources is a proactive way to support your academic and personal success. To explore campus resources designed to support you, check out mental health services (<https://clear.unt.edu/student-support-services-policies>), visit [unt.edu/success](https://unt.edu/success), and explore [unt.edu/wellness](https://unt.edu/wellness). To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to [scrappysays.unt.edu](https://scrappysays.unt.edu).

### **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 belonging. 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 Overview

### Course Texts

The UNT Library and course instructors will provide course readings, which will be accessible in Canvas.

### Schedule

The course is broken into three parts. INSTRUCTORS TO ADJUST AS NEEDED

	Topic	Assignments	TEA Primary Standards	TEA Sub Standards
1	Welcome	Entry + Exit Ticket		
2	What are public schools and what is their purpose?	Entry + Exit Ticket <b>Did you review Canvas and the syllabus?</b>	4: The teacher fulfills professional roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.	4.18k
3	How are public schools connected to political systems?	Entry + Exit Ticket	1: The teacher designs instruction appropriate for all students that reflects an understanding of relevant content and is based on continuous and appropriate assessment.  3: The teacher promotes student learning by providing responsive instruction that makes use of effective communication techniques, instructional strategies that actively engage students in the learning process and timely, high-quality feedback.  4: The teacher fulfills professional roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.	1.7k, 1.12k, 1.13k, 1.14k, 1.15k, 1.19k, 1.30k, 3.1k, 4.17k

4	What pressing challenges does U.S. education face today?	Entry + Exit Ticket  <b>District analysis</b>	<p>1: The teacher designs instruction appropriate for all students that reflects an understanding of relevant content and is based on continuous and appropriate assessment.</p> <p>4: The teacher fulfills professional roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.</p>	1.11k, 4.1k, 4.2k
5	How do I create a classroom environment of respect and rapport that fosters a positive climate for learning, equity, and excellence?: SPED/inclusion	Entry + Exit Ticket  <b>Reading discussion 1</b>	<p>1: The teacher designs instruction appropriate for all students that reflects an understanding of relevant content and is based on continuous and appropriate assessment.</p> <p>2: The teacher creates a classroom environment of respect and rapport that fosters a positive climate for learning, equity, and excellence.</p> <p>4: The teacher fulfills professional roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.</p>	1.3k, 2.11k, 4.13k, 4.3s, 4.4s

6	What strategies best support students with a specialized education plan?: SPED/inclusion	<p>Entry + Exit Ticket</p> <p><b>Reading discussion 2</b></p>	<p>1: The teacher designs instruction appropriate for all students that reflects an understanding of relevant content and is based on continuous and appropriate assessment.</p> <p>2: The teacher creates a classroom environment of respect and rapport that fosters a positive climate for learning, equity, and excellence.</p> <p>3: The teacher promotes student learning by providing responsive instruction that makes use of effective communication techniques, instructional strategies that actively engage students in the learning process and timely, high-quality feedback.</p> <p>4: The teacher fulfills professional roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.</p>	1.3k, 2.7k, 2.22k, 3.5k, 3.9k, 3.17s, 4.3s, 4.4s
7	How do I create a classroom environment of respect and rapport that fosters a positive climate for learning, equity, and excellence?: Bilingual/ESL education	<p>Entry + Exit Ticket</p> <p><b>Reading discussion 3</b></p>	<p>1: The teacher designs instruction appropriate for all students that reflects an understanding of relevant content and is based on continuous and appropriate assessment.</p> <p>4: The teacher fulfills professional roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.</p>	1.5k, 1.6k, 4.3s, 4.4s
8	What strategies best support emerging bilinguals?: Bilingual/ESL education	<p>Entry + Exit Ticket</p> <p><b>Reading discussion 4</b></p>	<p>1: The teacher designs instruction appropriate for all students that reflects an understanding of relevant content and is based on continuous and appropriate assessment.</p>	1.5k, 1.6k

9	How do I create a classroom environment of respect and rapport that fosters a positive climate for learning, equity, and excellence?: Classroom management	Entry + Exit Ticket  <b>Reading discussion 5</b>	2: The teacher creates a classroom environment of respect and rapport that fosters a positive climate for learning, equity, and excellence.	2.11k, 2.15k, 2.18k, 2.23k,
10	<b>MURSION VISIT AND LEARN</b>			
11	What strategies are considered best practices for classroom management?: Classroom management	Entry + Exit Ticket  <b>Reading discussion 6</b>	2: The teacher creates a classroom environment of respect and rapport that fosters a positive climate for learning, equity, and excellence.  3: The teacher promotes student learning by providing responsive instruction that makes use of effective communication techniques, instructional strategies that actively engage students in the learning process and timely, high-quality feedback.  4: The teacher fulfills professional roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.	2.2.k, 2.9k, 2.13k, 2.14k, 2.18k, 2.19k, 2.20k, 2.23k, 3.1k, 3.2k, 4.1k, 4.2k, 4.2s,
12	What does it mean to be a professional?	Entry + Exit Ticket  <b>Reading discussion 7</b>	1: The teacher designs instruction appropriate for all students that reflects an understanding of relevant content and is based on continuous and appropriate assessment.  4: The teacher fulfills professional roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.	1.18k, 4.5k, 4.6k, 4.9k, 4.10k, 4.12k, 4.13k, 4.14k, 4.16k
13	<b>COMPLETE MURSION ASSIGNMENT</b>			

14	What do students need to succeed?: Feedback, assessment, data tracking, and planning instructional interventions.	Entry + Exit Ticket  <b>Reading discussion 8</b>	1: The teacher designs instruction appropriate for all students that reflects an understanding of relevant content and is based on continuous and appropriate assessment.  3: The teacher promotes student learning by providing responsive instruction that makes use of effective communication techniques, instructional strategies that actively engage students in the learning process and timely, high-quality feedback.	1.25k, 1.26k, 1.27k, 1.28s, 3.12k, 3.13k, 3.14k, 3.17s
15	<b>FALL BREAK</b>			
16	How will I be evaluated as a teacher?	Entry + Exit Ticket  <b>Exam study plan</b>	4: The teacher fulfills professional roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.	4.11k
12/7	<b>Classroom community plan</b>			

\*I reserve the right to change the course plan. All changes will be communicated promptly.

\*Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class. Please refer to the campus closures policy (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-006>).

## Assessing Your Work

### Grading and Assessment

Letter grades will be allocated on the following percentage scale:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	50-59

Course instructors' approach to assessments aligns with UNT policies concerning academic integrity (UNT Student Academic Integrity Policy, 06.003).



## Assignments

In addition to course readings, class activities, and participation, the instructor will use the following assignments as indicators of progress and understanding over the semester. Additional details will be provided at the beginning of the semester and/or before each assignment due date. All assignments will be submitted through Canvas.

- Accountability Tasks (21%): Throughout the semester, students will complete individual tasks to demonstrate their progress in the course.
- Reading Discussion (13%): Students will have one opportunity during the semester to facilitate a reading discussion for their learning community.
- District Analysis (13%): Students will identify a district in the metroplex and complete an analysis using a template provided in class.
- TExES Content Study Guide (13%): Students will develop a study plan for their content exam.
- Mursion (18%): Students will complete an activity with UNT's avatar-based teaching simulation.
- Building a Classroom Community Plan (25%): Students will use a template provided in class to outline their plan for building a classroom community. The plan will demonstrate students' understanding of TEA PPR standards 2-4.

## Academic Integrity and AI

In this course, the use of GenAI tools is **NOT PERMISSIBLE**. No matter the approach, any attempt to represent GenAI output as a student's own work will be considered fabrication, cheating, and/or academic dishonesty as determined on a case-by-case basis. The instructor reserves the right to verify students' work through in-person meetings and/or proctored in-person assignments. The instructor also reserves the right to adjust course grades according to violations and report students to the Academic Integrity Office for further review. Any use of GenAI tools by the professor will be disclosed. The only tools that are permissible are Grammarly, spellcheck, predictive text, speech-to-text, and translation tools.