



**EDCI 559**  
**Diversity and Equity in Today's Schools**  
**Summer II 2012**

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**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Text:** Nieto, S. & Bode, P. (2008). *Affirming Diversity: The sociopolitical context of multicultural education* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: Pearson, Allyn & Bacon

Additional readings will be provided by the instructor online.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The goals of EDCI 559 include, but are not limited to providing student the skills necessary to accomplish the course objectives.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Learning outcomes are supported by NCATE **Standard 4: Diversity**

The unit designs, implements, and evaluates curriculum and experiences for candidates to acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to help all students learn. These experiences include working with diverse higher education and school faculty, diverse candidates, and diverse students in P-12 schools.

Moreover, learning outcomes are supported by the Goals and Objectives of The National Association for Multicultural Educators-NAME <http://nameorg.org/names-missio/goals-objectives/>

There are six points of consensus regarding multicultural education that are central to NAME's philosophy, and serve as NAME's goals:

- To respect and appreciate cultural diversity.
- To promote the understanding of unique cultural and ethnic heritage.
- To promote the development of culturally responsible and responsive curricula.
- To facilitate acquisition of the attitudes, skills, and knowledge to function in various cultures.
- To eliminate racism and discrimination in society.
- To achieve social, political, economic, and educational equity.

During this course, the learner will:

1. Reflect on personal and professional life developments as they relate to your beliefs and practices as a teacher. *-Cultural memoir, stepping outside your comfort zone, and discussions*
2. Be familiar with current and classical literature on the effects of diversity on student learning, e.g., socioeconomic status (SES), race, gender, achievement, handicapping conditions, etc. *-Accomplished by book readings and discussion prompts and Cultural Memoir Essay*
3. Become familiar with literature about children in different populations on the topic of diversity and learning. *Accomplished by book readings and discussion prompts*
4. Understand one's own personality (learning styles, intra- and interpersonal characteristics, temperament, child centeredness, etc.) and describe how these traits impact instruction and learning of students in the classroom. *Accomplished by book reading, discussion prompts, and stepping outside your comfort zone.*
5. Identify and implement instructional and management strategies that are successful among diverse populations. *Accomplished by book readings and discussion prompts, and stepping outside your comfort zone.*

## **Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

*This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes/ objectives for the course and instructional units/modules. The following will align the course objectives with the various combinations of assignments, activities, discussions, readings, research, etc. the students will participate in. Each assignments, activities, discussions, readings, research, etc will be worth a specific amount of points. You are expected to spend 3-4 hours completing daily assignments, readings, and discussions.*

### **ASSIGNMENTS & DUE DATES**

**The course is divided into three online Modules. Below is a list of the chapters that will be covered and the dates. All assignments are due by the last day of the Module. More specifically, all assignments including discussions for Module 1 are due by 5/17/2012 @ 11:59 P.M. All assignments including essays and discussions for Module 2 are due by 5/24/2012 @ 11:59 p.m. All assignments including essays and discussions for Module 3 are due by 5/30/2012 @11:59 p.m.**

Module 1 Online 5/14-5/17	Setting the Stage: Multicultural Education within a Sociopolitical Context Nieto & Bode Chapters 1-3
Module 2 Online 5/18-5/24	Developing a Conceptual Framework for Multicultural Education Nieto & Bode Chapters 4-8
Module 3 Online 5/25-5/30	Implications of Diversity for Teaching and Learning in A multicultural Society Nieto & Bode Chapters 9-11

**Please note that ONE letter grade will be deducted for each day the assignments are submitted late. Another letter grade will be deducted for each day the assignment is late thereafter. For example, if your assignment is submitted at 12:00 am, instead of 11:59 p.m. on the date the assignment is due, the highest grade you can earn is a "B". If it is turned in two days late, the highest grade you can earn is a "C" and so on.**

- 1. Complete reading assignments.**
- 2. View the Chapter PowerPoint**
- 3. Assignments (If applicable, check the Assignment sections in eCollege).**
- 3. Discussion Prompts/Questions**

**YOU MUST USE HEADINGS IN YOUR CULTURAL MEMOIR and STEPPING OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE PAPERS**  
**Please see example paper in Doc Sharing. If you look at the comments in the right margin, I have labeled the headings and sub-headings.**

### **1) Cultural Memoir Essay (75 pts)**

You should collect three to four significant events, objects, photographs, writings, etc. to help you think about your own cultural background. You will write a reflective essay that describes the objects you chose (you may also scan them in) and addresses the following questions, as appropriate and in ways that are meaningful to you. You may substitute other questions if you choose. **YOU MUST USE HEADINGS IN YOUR PAPER.**

- What do the objects in your memoir signify to you in terms of cultural values?
- What have you learned from others in your social context about who you are, what is important to you, what values you hold, how you think about education and yourself as a student and a teacher?
- What life experiences (e.g., cross-cultural experiences, travel, friends who are different from you) have helped you make what is invisible, more visible related to your cultural values?
- What are the connections with the things that you learned about yourself during this assignment and the expectations you have for students in your classroom?
- How have your values and perspectives shaped how you think about others? About difference? About social justice in schools and society?

### **2. Discussion Posts (10 points each)**

You will participate in discussion threads with class members. Each discussion thread pertains to one of the assigned chapters and assignments for the Modules. For each chapter discussion you will participate once with an original idea **AND** respond to another idea. All submissions must show depth of thinking and quality in written expression.

### 3. Stepping Outside Your Comfort Zone (75 points)

Below, I have provided a list of movies or videos available in your local video store for rent, on cable/satellite television, or some may be found in the TAMU-Commerce media library. **You are to attend an event or view two movies from the same category that will help you learn about a topic and/or group different from a group to which you belong. The idea is that you will experience people different from those who are a part of your normal daily circle of family and friends. So you can not submit for credit an experience from your own group.** If you are looking for an event to attend, some can be found on [www.dfwinternational.org](http://www.dfwinternational.org). View the movies or attend the presentation or event. Take note of your interaction with people at the presentation or event, write a brief reflection of your experience. Your reflection should include the following elements: 1) a synopsis or summary description of the movie plot (if you select movies, please make this portion VERY brief), presentation topic, or event; 2) what insights, new information, or attitude changes you gained about the particular social issue or group involved; 3) what implications you think your new insights, information, or attitudes have for your behavior as an educator.

#### Movie/Video List for Reflective Essay Assignment

Select **two** of the movies/videos from the SAME category listed below to view and reflect upon.

<i>Immigration, Assimilation and Acculturation</i>	<i>Issues of Race and Ethnicity</i>	<i>Institutionalized Prejudice</i>	<i>Issues of Sexual Orientation</i>
El Norte Rabbit Proof Fence Lost Boys of Sudan When East meets East (East is East)- -??? Abandoned: The Betrayal of America's Immigrants Ellis Island Farmingville The Gatekeeper	4 Little Girls Do the Right Thing Mi Familia Smoke Signals Beloved In America Joy Luck Club Rosewood American History X White Identity Theory: Origins and Prospect	Amazing Grace To Kill a Mockingbird Sounder Lone Star Come See the Paradise Das Expreiment Held in Trust: The Story of Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper Violence: An American Tradition Black Like Me	Song Catcher Straight from the Heart It's Elementary Flag Wars Different for Girls One Nation under God This Way Out The Brandon Teena Story Southern Comfort A Boy Named Sue The Celluloid Closet Brokeback Mountain

Split Decision Banana split Real Women Have Curves	Real Women Have Curves	The House We Live In	Boys Don't Cry
<i>Issues of Social Class</i>	<i>Issues of Gender</i>	<i>Issue of Social Justice</i>	
Norma Rae  Silkwood Roger & Me The Big One Milagro Beanfield War Matewan Brassed Off  Maria Full of Grace Life & Debt Flag Wars People Like Us The Last Graduation: The Movement for College Programs in New York State Prisons After Attica The Farmer's Wife North Country	Welcome to the Doll House Whale Rider  Maria Full of Grace Sexual stereotypes in Media: Superman and the Bride The Color of Fear: A Film The Young and the Damned: Los Olvidados Gender Issues "In My Country"; An International Perspective on Gender Lives Together, Worlds Apart: Men and Women in a Time of Change Boys Don't Cry North Country  Maria Full of Grace	Bowling for Columbine Dead Man Walking Fahrenheit 9/11 The Control Room In Whose Honor? The Jaundiced Eye Supporting Youth: Their Education an Survival Democratic Promise: Saul Alinsky and His Legacy Who Killed Vincent Chin? Brubaker Mississippi Burning When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts	

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#### 4. The Interview and Essay (75 points)

Interview an adult or teenager whose first language is not English. The interview should focus on that individual's experiences learning the English language. In particular, focus the interview on: 1) the method by which the person learned or is learning English; 2) what does/did the person find most frustrating or difficult about the experience; 3) what aspects of U. S. society and culture does the person find difficult to understand; 4) why did the person decide to come to the U. S. You are not limited to these questions; however, at a minimum, these questions must be addressed. Write an essay in which you present your interview findings. Discuss what implications you see in your interviewee's response for you as a teacher of children whose first language is not English as well as those whose first language *is* English.

#### 5. Assignments (15 points each)

Each module will include assignments/tasks. For assignments/tasks, please see specifics under the assignment link that aligns with the module.

**YOU MUST HEADINGS IN YOUR CULTURAL MEMOIR ESSAY and STEPPING OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE WRITING ASSIGNMENTS—Please see handouts in Ecollege doc sharing on headings.**

### TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

**Required Technology:** This course will use the online platform Ecollege. Therefore, students are required to have continuous on-line access. All students must have access to email and adequately functioning computer equipment. To use the university's online resources, students need a computer and an Internet service provider (ISP). Students also need an Internet browser, an email program, and a word processing program. A working familiarity with hardware and software is advantageous before entering the program. You must have the most recent computer software and hardware to successfully complete the course.

**Ecollege Technical Concerns:** Please contact the eCollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. By sending an email directly to [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org). You may also reach the HelpDesk by calling (toll-free) 1-866-656-5511.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### Interaction with Instructor Statement:

**Course Concerns:** If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course (e.g., questions about an assignment, exam, about course due dates, etc.), please contact the instructor via email or by phone. Email is the best way to contact me. I check it daily, Monday-Friday.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Specific EDCI 559 Course Policies and Procedures

You are expected to participate in all classes and activities. This is an online course so participation is up to you this includes readings, discussions, and assignments.

**Research:** Research is part of TAMU-C requirements. All faculty members that work at the university must research and publish their research. As action research helps an instructor to determine the worth of the class assignment they develop, I like to do research on assignments and/or activities used in our class. Therefore, any reflective responses to the planned class activities may be used to fulfill my research requirement. However, **all responses used in research articles will be anonymous. That is, no names or any identification about specific students will be used anywhere in my research.** If you disagree to this, I will give you a paper to fill out and I will not use any response I know is from you.

### Policies:

- 1) The publication manual for the American Psychological Association (APA), 6<sup>th</sup> ed., should be used for citations, references, and manuscript style for all written work.
- 2) Written work should be turned in according to the class schedule. Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m on the day indicated, unless otherwise indicated. ***No late work will be accepted or receive any credit. No exceptions will be made.*** Plan ahead and try to complete assignments well in advance to avoid last-minute problems. Computer difficulties will not be accepted as an excuse for late submission. Students are encouraged to check with different browsers, security levels; and, if settings on home computers are not compatible, they are encouraged to use libraries or computer labs on campus or local/private cyber cafes. It is a good idea to allow plenty of time for eleventh-hour adversities.
- 3) All assignments should be the student's own work. Please read the student handbook for information regarding the penalty for plagiarism. ***All documented cases of plagiarism will result in an automatic zero (0) on that assignment and may be forwarded***

*to the Office of Student Life for disciplinary action.* Remember that even copying one sentence without proper citation/quotation constitutes plagiarism!

- 4) Please note remember that late assignments will not be accepted and points will be deducted for incomplete assignments and for those that are not of high quality.

#### Plagiarism Policy:

Professionals are careful to include appropriate citations of all sources. Without citations, you are presenting ideas or words as your own. Paraphrasing another's work calls for a citation to give credit to the author. Even when you cite accurately, you need to use your own words; use direct quotes very sparingly. It is imperative that you create your own work and use your original words. Cutting and pasting from another source is not acceptable.

#### ACADEMIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT:

Academic integrity is the foundation of the academic community. Because each student has the primary responsibility for being academically honest, students are advised to read and understand all sections in this handbook relating to standards of conduct and academic life.

#### Definitions

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, falsifying academic records and other acts intentionally designed to provide unfair advantage to the student or the attempt to commit such acts. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, intentionally giving or receiving unauthorized aid or notes on examinations, papers, or class assignments intended to be individually completed. Cheating also includes the unauthorized copying of tests or any other deceit or fraud related to the student's academic conduct. Plagiarism occurs when a student obtains someone else's work and presents those ideas or words as her or his own academic work. Falsifying academic records includes, but is not limited to, altering grades or other academic records.

Honesty in completing assignments is essential to the mission of the university and to the development of the personal integrity of the student. Cheating, plagiarism, or other kinds of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in appropriate sanctions that may include failing an assignment, failing the class, or being suspended or expelled. Suspected cases in this course will be reported. The specific disciplinary process for academic dishonesty is found in the TAMU-C Student Handbook.

Please see the Student Handbook for additional information on academic dishonesty.

#### Professionalism Component

You are expected to demonstrate a professional attitude at all times. This includes respecting the thoughts of your peers as well as your instructor. Also included is the following: participating in small and large group discussions, being on time, staying the entire time, accepting constructive criticism, listening, turning in high quality work, and understanding that this is a growth experience. Students who

come into class expecting an A need to rethink their reason for being here. ***If you want an A, then you must work to earn the A.*** The Professional Behavioral Standards Evaluation Form will be used at such a time as it is warranted due to non-compliance with these expectations. "All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

### **Online discussions and Chat rooms**

You will be expected to participate in online discussions and some chats. Post to discussion boards answer the questions thoroughly. There is no, "I agree with her" and that's it. You must respond in a professional manner. The discussions will be explained further under course requirements.

### **ONLINE CLASS EXPECTATIONS**

Online courses are a lot of work, more so than a face to face meeting. You have to be disciplined to be successful. If you are not, this may not be the course for you. Do not get behind in this course. If you do, you will not succeed. **Your readings and assignments are critical to your success in this course.** This ensures that you are keeping up with your assignments. You also need to have computer equipment that works. I understand storms cause power outages. However, you are still responsible for completing all assignments by the due date. If you are having technical difficulties, you need to get it corrected a.s.a.p. I do not suggest waiting until the last minute to complete your assignments.

All students are expected to maintain high standards of quality of work and integrity. All written assignments are to be word processed, double-spaced and in 12 pt. font. All students are expected to maintain high standards of integrity; any use of the writing of others, must be quoted and cited.

**Final Grade:** Your final grade is a percentage of total possible points. You can figure your grade at any time by knowing the total possible points to date and computing the percentage. You have the right to appeal your final grade.

### **University Specific Procedures:**

**Other Questions/Concerns:** Contact the appropriate TAMU-C department relating to your questions/concern. If you are unable to reach the appropriate department with questions regarding your course enrollment, billing, advising, or financial aid, please call 903-886-5511 between the hours of 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Student Code of Conduct:** The A&M-Commerce Student [Guidebook](#) (page 55) details student rights and explains grievance procedures. The guidebook includes the Student Code of Conduct.

**Dropping a course online:** If you are considering dropping an online course please e-mail your instructor stating that you desire to drop the course. The instructor will reply back to you via e-mail with an acceptance of your drop and forward your request to the Office of the Registrar. The Office of the Registrar will process the drop. You may check the status of your drop through MyLeo. Dropping a course may affect your financial aid (<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/home/finAid/default.asp>) and/or your scholarships (<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/scholarship/>). Please check with them before proceeding, if necessary.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*** This procedure is for dropping an online course only. It does NOT apply to a withdrawal from the university. If you are dropping ALL of your courses, a withdrawal must be completed. <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/registrar/pdfs/studentwithdrawal.pdf>

### **Appeal of Final Grade**

Any student who is not satisfied with their final grade and believes he or she can justify why the final grade should be different is welcome to participate in the process of appeals. The policy for appealing a semester grade is available through the office of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Texas A&M University-Commerce. Generally, the student must first make an appointment with his or her professor and present in writing the reasons why he or she believes a higher grade was earned. The professor is obliged to hear and read the case and provide an answer to that appeal with a reasonable time. If the student continues to be dissatisfied with the decision of the professor, the student may contact the head of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and continue the appeal at that level.

### **Written Assignments**

All written assignments are expected to exhibit professional quality. You should demonstrate mastery of organizing, structuring, and editing in your writing.. Begin that practice now! Therefore, if you need extra help, the **Writing Center in the Hall of Languages, Room 103 (903-886-5280)** can assist you.

Written Assignments should be:

- \*double spaced
- \*1" top and left side margins, 1" bottom and right side margins
- \*12 point font size, Times New Roman or Arial
- \*referenced in APA current edition style
- \*revised for clarity and meaning

\*edited for accuracy in grammar and mechanics

\*saved on flash drive or copied on paper for your records

**Writing Assistance-**The Writing Center in the Communications Skills Center is dedicated to helping writers take advantage of all opportunities for learning inherent in the writing process. Tutors are available to assist you with any area of writing. **Plagiarism of writings and/or other materials in any form will result in a grade of "F" for the course and may result in your dismissal from the program. Please cite your references carefully and consistently! Remember, you could be asked to leave or drop out completely, if you are caught plagiarizing.**

Suggested sites:

<http://www.plagiarism.org>

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

### **Academic Integrity/Honesty Statement**

This course demands a high level of scholarly behavior and academic honesty on the part of students. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: (1) turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or instructor without obtaining permission from this instructor in advance; (2) turning in another person's work, in part or in whole, as your own; (3) copying from professional works without citing them; and (4) any form of cheating on exams. Violations of academic integrity/honesty while carrying out academic assignments may, at the discretion of the instructor, receive a zero on the particular work in question, receive an "F" in the course, or be brought before a higher level of governance for possible dismissal from the university.

**NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus, including course assignments, grading system and due dates as circumstances may warrant.**

### **ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. 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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**  
**Texas A&M University-Commerce**  
**Gee Library 132**  
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**  
**Fax (903) 468-8148**  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)  
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

### *Student Conduct*

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

**NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus, including course assignments, grading system and due dates as circumstances may warrant.**

<b>COURSE GRADING SYSTEM</b>
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A "A" will be given for 90%-100% of the total points earned or work that is exceptional quality  
A "B" will be given for 80%-89% of the total points earned or work that is above average quality  
A "C" will be given for 70%-79% of the total points earned or work that is average quality.  
A "D" will be given for 60%-69% of the total points earned or work that is below average quality.  
A "F" will be given for 59% or fewer of the total points earned or work that is poor quality.

The final course grade will be based upon the chart listed below:

**\*Please note the assignments and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.**

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 59% and below

## COURSE CALENDAR/OUTLINE

The course is divided into three online Modules. Below is a list of the chapters that will be covered and the dates. All assignments are due by the last day of the Module.

More specifically, all assignments including discussions for Module 1 are due by 7/17/2012 @ 11:59 p.m.

All assignments including essays and discussions for Module 2 are due by 7/27/2012 @ 11:59 p.m.

All assignments including essays and discussions for Module 3 are due by 8/8/2012 @11:59 p.m.

Module 1 Online July 9-July 17	Setting the Stage: Multicultural Education within a Sociopolitical Context Nieto & Bode Chapters 1-3
Module 2 Online July 18-July27	Developing a Conceptual Framework for Multicultural Education Nieto & Bode Chapters 4-8
Module 3 Online July 30-August 8	Implications of Diversity for Teaching and Learning in A multicultural Society Nieto & Bode Chapters 9-11