EDAD 554.01W Leading the Learning Community

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2012

7-week session (Aug 27, 2012– October 12, 2012)

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COURSE INFORMATION

REQUIRED TEXTS:


Other texts or readings as assigned.

SUGGESTED TEXTS (for the serious student of successful organizations):


Course Description:

This course is the capstone course that develops candidates for school leadership who have the knowledge, dispositions, and performance ability to promote success of all students by exercising visionary, collaborative, instructional, organizational, and political leadership. The focus of this course is on facilitating the development, articulation, implementation, and stewardship of a school vision of learning that is shared by the school community by exercising highly integrated, transformational, and transactional leadership roles for transforming schools into learning communities.

Course Objectives:

Through the activities of TAMU-C Principal Preparation Program and this course, students are prepared to be competent administrators in the following areas:

- Leadership and campus culture,
- Values and ethics of leadership,
- Instructional leadership and management,
• Human resources leadership and management,

• Communication and community relations,

• Organizational leadership and management, and

• Curriculum planning and management.

This course, in particular, is intended to assist students in gaining the professional knowledge and skills needed to:

- Model and promote the highest standards of conduct, ethical principles, and integrity in decision-making.

- Analyze a variety of educational administration positions and functions and the influence each has had on the organization and operation of the school and the district.

- Serve as skilled group leaders, facilitators, and members; as public speakers; and as writers.

- Understand the components of organizational culture, models for culture building and change, and the role of the leader in creating, transforming, and sustaining culture in an organization.

- Define the components of effective school-based decision-making and describe the policies of SBDM in Texas.

- Define the multiple dimensions and necessary skills of campus improvement that lead to increased student achievement.

In addition, students will be challenged and expected:

- To think critically about roles and responsibilities of effective principals;

- To engage in reflective thinking about roles and responsibilities of effective principals;

- To integrate a variety of ideas regarding roles and responsibilities of effective principals, including the active exploration and assimilation of new ideas;
• To be able to synthesize the coursework into a meaningful framework of understanding about roles and responsibilities of effective principals, including exploration, assimilation, and demonstration of new perspectives, and

• To encounter and develop solutions to a real-world, realistic problem situation.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

*Student learning outcomes are what you are able to do as a result of the activities, readings, instruction, etc., that have occurred in this course—these are my expectations of you in terms of academic production and are a concrete representation of the objective stated above.*

**Learning Outcome #1:** The learner will be an active and engaged participant in the class proceedings. Students will demonstrate their participation by engaging in discussions, asking and answering questions, engaging in class activities and group projects, and staying on task.

**Learning Outcome #2:** The learner will think critically; engage in reflective thinking; actively integrate a variety of ideas, including the active exploration and assimilation of new ideas; and synthesize the coursework into a meaningful framework of understanding, including exploration, assimilation, and demonstration of new perspectives. Students will demonstrate these behaviors by analyzing a case, and by means of a presentation, engaging the class in a meaningful discussion of the issues and potential solutions.

**Learning Outcome #3:** The learner will think critically; engage in reflective thinking; actively integrate a variety of ideas, including the active exploration and assimilation of new ideas; synthesize the coursework into a meaningful framework of understanding, including exploration, assimilation, and demonstration of new perspectives; and develop solutions to a real-world, realistic problem. Students will demonstrate these behaviors by working in a collaborative group to create, organize, and produce a campus case study portfolio that illustrates the learning in the course as well as learning from the Principal Preparation Program.

**Learning Outcome #4:** The learner participates in academic-based, qualitative research. Students will demonstrate this behavior by engaging a lead principal in an interview, transcribing the interview, and submitting the interview transcription and findings to the instructor and classmates.
**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Design of the Class:**

This class is designed on constructivist principles. This means that the instructor creates an environment for learning by providing focus and guidance to the content. Assignments are designed to be learning experiences for students, and it is presumed and expected that students actively participate in the class through the construction of their own learning. As a graduate level course, the instructor expects quality work from each student supported by adequate preparation and involvement.

**Class Participation:**

Given the constructivist design of the class, this course will be interactive. It is my expectation that all students participate fully for all activities and assignments in order to maximize their learning experience. This web based course will be made up of several learning activities including (but not limited to) small & large group discussion, student-led learning activities, lecture notes and clarification, reflection activities, individual learning activities, written papers, and reflective, integrative examinations. In order for this class to be interesting and beneficial, each student is expected to have recorded weekly minutes in the eCollege portal. The eCollege reports these minutes to me. In certain circumstances if a student is (inactive) for “0” recorded minutes, they are dropped from the course.

Students must be prepared to lead and/or enter into discussions, to ask relevant questions, and to share the results of their study and reflection. This means that each student should be (1) conscious of the class schedule and the requirements for each class (knowing what to be prepared for), (2) self-disciplined (spending time to be fully prepared), and (3) eager to share with your classmates (participating actively by sharing what you have prepared).

**Class Environment:**

Education is both a professional endeavor and a people business. It is my belief that if we call ourselves professionals, then we should act accordingly. I would ask you to keep this in mind as you participate in class. Please practice courtesy, respect the opinions of others, be positive in speech and effort, encourage your classmates, respect confidentiality, and support each other’s learning. If and/or when you make presentations in EDAD 554, please take time to create your presentation and have it in by the due date. I will not accept late work.
**Grading:**

The grading schedule is listed below:

- **Attendance** 10% (eCollege weekly recorded minutes)
- **Participation** 15% (eCollege weekly recorded minutes)
- **Principal Interview** 15%
- **Principal Activity Presentation** 35% (CHAPTER PRESENTATION)
- **Portfolio/Practice TExES Exam** 25%

**Total 100%**

Final grades will be calculated on the following scale:

- 100-90 = A = *Excellent/Outstanding*
- 89-80 = B = *Good/Noteworthy*
- 79-70 = C = *Average/Proficient*
- 69-below = F = *Unacceptable*

**Please Note:** While students may receive numerical grades for various assignments listed in the syllabus based on the criteria provided by the instructor and which contribute to an overall grade average represented in the breakdown listed above, these grades are to provide feedback to students and to guide the instructor in making an assessment of student work. The final grade awarded for the course, however, will be at the sole discretion of the instructor and will be based on several factors, including but not limited to the rubric provided (see Course Grade Rubric attached).

**Assignments:**

**Participation:**

- Each student will work individually and/or with a partner(s) at the direction of the instructor to complete the assignments of the course.

- The participation grade will reflect the successful interaction of students as well as the successful completion of all assignments whether graded or not.
**Principal Interview:**

- Each student will individually interview a lead principal and share the results of the interview with the class.

- The purpose of this assignment is:
  - to gain insight from practicing principals on the job of the principal,
  - to learn the benefit of developing relationships with other principals in order to draw on their experiences and advice.

- To complete the interview, students should do the following:
  - Identify the principal to be interviewed. You should select a lead principal of your campus (or another campus) and get permission to conduct the interview. If your principal will not agree to be interviewed, you will need to seek out a principal from another campus. Be sure to not ask someone who is to be interviewed by another member of the class.
  - Select a time to conduct the interview. The interview should not take very long, but you don’t want to be interrupted if at all possible. Distractions can impact the quality of responses.
  - Conduct the interview. The interview should be conducted live and taped for ease of transcribing. (Be sure to explain why you are taping and that once you have transcribed the interview the tape will be erased.) The questions for the interview will be generated in class (online), and all interviews will use the same questions, which will allow comparison among participating principals.
  - Transcribe the interview. Interviews should be transcribed verbatim into a [MS Word](#) document. Begin with your heading (like your compendium papers) and then include the information about the principal you interviewed: (1) the name of the principal you interviewed, (2) the campus name; (3) the district name, (4) the length of time the principal has been at this campus as a lead principal, and (5) the length of time he/she has been a principal in their career. Following that, record the interview verbatim for each question.
  - Submit the interview. Upon completion of the transcribing the interview and formatting it in the required format, send a copy of the interview to the instructor and your classmates not later than the specified due date.

- The interview is due on the date assigned. (see [Proposed Class Schedule](#) for the due date)

**Principal Activity Powerpoint Presentations:**
Each student will individually (and/or with a partner, if numbers permit) make a presentation to the class based on a selected Book Chapter (Vornberg, Walsh & Kemerer, or Elaine Wilmore) (see Activities/Presentation Schedule for details).

The purpose of this assignment is
- to gain insight and knowledge that will help you master the 068 exam.

To complete the assignment, students should:
- Read the chapter carefully. Students will select one of the assigned book chapters (any chapter will be sufficient) (and become very familiar with the details of the chapter). The chapter—presented in your text—includes a bulk of information that needs to be thoroughly reviewed prior to taking your TExES exam.
- Analyze the chapter. Students should break the chapter down to make sure they understand the information embedded in the chapter. Identify and elaborate this information for your presentation.
- Propose a real world scenario that relates to your book chapter. Propose a solution (or solutions) to the chapter using the TExES Domains & Competencies as a basis for your proposed solutions. Students should carefully review the chapter in light of the skills and behaviors presented in the TExES Domains & Competencies and create a solution(s) with these in mind. We want to know what an exemplary principal would do in this situation—what is he/she thinking and doing? Think expansively on this chapter. Include any other relevant information or artifacts to supplement your proposed solutions.
- Prepare a Powerpoint presentation of the chapter. Make sure you have at least 15 slides of details, solutions, reasoning, evidence, and any additional material pertinent to your chapter.

The Principal Activity Presentation chapter will be graded on several points, including your analysis, your proposed solutions, the fit with the TExES Domains & Competencies, and the overall synthesis and integration of the chapter into a review tool for the web based EDAD 554 course.

Principal Activity Presentations are due on the date assigned. By the first week of class and after self introductions (by July 2) you will identify your book chapter presentation and if you have decided to work with a partner on the campus portfolio. I need this information sent to me no later than (July 2).
**Campus Case Study Portfolio:**

- Each student, working in groups of no more than 2 persons, will analyze a campus case study of a selected campus in need of improvement. This assignment will reflect the successful understanding, integration, synthesis, and application of the content/activities of this course as well as the knowledge and content gained in the principal preparation program as a whole.

- The purpose of this assignment is
  - to analyze data in the form most available to schools and districts
  - to apply theoretical perspectives to a real life situation
  - to formulate ideas that address the needs of students, faculty, and staff with the goal of improving a campus
  - to organize and communicate effectively through a written report
  - to tackle a “messy” problem with limited parameters and guidance (that is, “a real life problem”); in other words, to engage in higher order and critical thinking

- To complete the assignment, students should:
  - Select a campus. Students will select one campus from the following list. You can choose any level and any school from the list. All schools are located in Lubbock ISD, Lubbock, Texas

  - Bozeman Elementary Acceptable rating
  - Hodges Elementary Acceptable rating
  - Parkway Elementary Acceptable rating
  - Alderson Middle School Unacceptable rating
  - Atkins Middle School Acceptable rating
  - Slaton Middle School Acceptable rating
  - Lubbock High School Acceptable rating
  - Monterey High School Acceptable rating
  - Estacado High School Acceptable rating

  - Analyze the AEIS report for the selected campus. Students will obtain the latest AEIS report for the campus they have selected and analyze the data from the report to determine the needs of that particular campus. Needs should not be limited to only academic or instructional issues. Students will so want to gather other information on the campus and district to help them understand the campus as much as possible in this limited timeframe and proximity to the campus.
Create a plan to deal with the identified needs of the campus based on the TEXES Domains & Competencies and the skills and behaviors of effective principals. Students should also consider the concepts and ideas presented in other courses in the Principal Preparation Program.

Submit a portfolio (your collection of electronic artifacts) that demonstrates student learning with regard to campus improvement and the content of this and other courses in the Principal Preparation Program. The portfolio should be professional in appearance and design and be suitable for presentation to campus interview committees.

Optional: The portfolio should be bound in a three ring binder (not too big or too small) with appropriate cover art (eye catching, but professional). The cover art should be labeled "Campus Case Study Analysis" and include the campus name as well as names of the members of your group. Separate each section inside the portfolio with labeled tab dividers.

ALL PORTFOLIOS:

Portfolios should have at least these sections:

1. Title page: with information as specified by APA style manuals (exception: no running heading is needed) and includes “Date Submitted: with date” at bottom of the page.
2. Introduction: a brief formulation of your thoughts regarding the assignment, highlighting what is coming in the portfolio, and other important information you deem necessary to introduce the project.
3. District Background and other relevant information: relevant information about the district/campus that will help provide an understanding of the context for school improvement
4. AEIS Reports: a copy of the current AEIS report for the campus being considered
5. Needs Analysis: identification of major school wide issues determined from analysis of the AEIS report to be addressed
6. Vision Statement and Model: An overall vision statement that describes a future state of success of the campus and a model that illustrates the process to be used to move the campus forward.
7. Plan of Action: a plan of action (use a District or Campus Improvement Plan format) which addresses the needs of the campus, represents the skills and behaviors of effective principals as demonstrated in the TEXES Domains & Competencies, and represents the characteristics of effective schools as demonstrated in research by Lezotte and Edmonds. You should consider short, medium, and long term goals—think beyond a single year, in other words. You should also consider how you would implement your ideas—that is, what needs
to be done for the idea to become a part of the school climate and culture? Finally, how will you know when you have succeeded in moving the campus toward improvement?

8. Conclusion: a brief statement bringing your thoughts (and portfolio) to a meaningful conclusion

9. References: a list of references of sources used to construct your portfolio

- Your Campus Case Study Portfolio will include narrative commentary for each section, but you might want to supplement your commentary with evidentiary artifacts to support your thinking and your analysis.

- Your Campus Case Study Portfolio will be graded on several criteria; however, overall your portfolio should reflect quality in depth and breadth. That is, your portfolio should encompass the content of the class (and the Principal Preparation Program) by demonstrating your ability to synthesize and integrate the concepts discussed and indicate a depth of understanding of the related topics and literature while demonstrating the ability to package information in a cogent and scholarly manner. That is to say, the content is just as important as its presentation.

- In addition, the process of creating the portfolio is another key component of the assignment. Your ability to work together equitably to produce a quality produce is of utmost importance to the success of the assignment and your grade. It is expected that all group members will participate fully, actively, and equitably in every aspect of the portfolio assignment. NOTE: One grade will be awarded for the project and all members will receive the same grade.

- The Campus Case Study Portfolio is due on the date assigned. (see Proposed Class Schedule for the due date)

Format for Papers to be submitted:

1. All papers are to be type written.

2. Papers should be clearly and cogently written using proper grammar and punctuation.

3. A title page is not necessary (unless otherwise specified). Each paper should have a single spaced heading in the top left corner of the first page only and include the following information:

   Example

   o Name                  Johnny Student
   o Class/section         EDAD 554
4. Papers should be formatted in 12 point, “Arial” or “New Times Roman” font only.

5. Papers should have 1 inch margins on all four sides, a double-spaced body, and be numbered beginning on the 2nd page (the page number should be in the top right corner).

6. Papers should use APA format.

7. Papers should be written in MS Word and sent to the instructor as an attachment to an e-mail.

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

This course is an on-line class. You will need a minimum of technology to successfully complete the course. You will need access to an email account on a daily basis. I will be emailing during the course to communicate information, assignments, and other addenda. You need to check your MyLeo email each day for these communications. You will also need to communicate often with your classmates. Please use MyLeo email accounts in this course. In addition, begin the course by introducing yourself and locating a classmate “buddy.” Exchange phone numbers and contact information. Please respect the privacy rights of your classmates and use this information for class purposes only unless you have specific permission from each class member to do otherwise. In order to complete your assignments, you will need to be proficient at MS Office programs, such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Publisher. All assignments submitted electronically must be in MS Office formats.

**ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

Course Concerns: If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course, please contact me via email, or by phone (urgent issues only please), or visit with me before or after class. If you need an appointment outside of class, please visit with me to set up a time.

Other Questions or Concerns: Contact the appropriate TAMU-Commerce department relating to your questions or concerns. Contact information for individual departments is available by navigating the information on the university web page (www.tamu-commerce.edu). Phone numbers are available by clicking on “Contact Us” link at the bottom left corner of the university web main page. If you are unable to reach the appropriate department with questions regarding your course enrollment, billing, advising, or financial aid, please call 903.886.5520 (Martha Moore, Educational
Leadership department secretary) between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

The best way to contact me is via email or text (214-842-3187). You can use either of my two email accounts as I check them regularly every day of the week. Please limit phone calls to urgent situations.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Cell Phones: If you’d rather text than email me, please identify yourself. I teach 5 classes and receive hundreds of emails/texts per day. Some messages go unanswered because I do not know who you are or what you are asking. Texting: Do we have a test tomorrow? Is not a text that I enjoy receiving. First of all, I don’t know what class you are in, who you are, etc. Please identify who you are, which class you are in, and what your question is.

Citizenship: All students enrolled in the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (see Students Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

Courtesy: It is my belief that if we call ourselves professionals, then we should act accordingly. I would ask you to keep this in mind as you participate in class. Please practice courtesy, respect the opinions of others, be positive in speech and effort, encourage your classmates, respect confidentiality, and support each other’s learning.

Late Work: All assignments are due on the date assigned.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism WILL NOT BE TOLERATED and will result in an automatic “F” for the course. Various versions of your work and papers may be run through TurnItIn software to verify authorship authenticity, as well as to assist you in seeing possible areas that might be unintentionally plagiarized and allow for editing your work.

Scholarly Expectations: All work submitted for credit must be original works created by you—the scholar—for this class setting. All work that is created by another that you use in your work must be cited appropriately using APA Publication Manual (6th edition)
formatting. It is my expectation that any work you produce for this class be of high quality and represent the skills and behaviors of an excellent academic scholar demonstrating passion for the field (see the *Rubric for Course Grade* for a listing of those behaviors)

**University Specific Procedures:**

**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@tamu-commerce.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*).
COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Proposed Class Schedule:

WEEK 1  
Self Introductions

Review EDAD 554 syllabus and pose questions early

Read-The Educator’s Guide to Texas School Law (Chapters 3 & 5)

DISCUSSION:  
Post your original response to the Discussion Questions, then respond to at least 2 of your peers. (Total of 3 postings per discussion question) If you have two discussion questions, then you have a total of 6 postings.

ASSIGNMENT:  
(Reflection #1 and Reflection #2) over Chapters 3 & 5.

QUIZ:  
Complete Quiz #1 by Sunday, midnight.

(ALL ASSIGNMENTS IN WEEK 1 DUE on Sunday by midnight)

WEEK 2  
Read-The Educator’s Guide to Texas School Law, Chapters 7&8

DISCUSSION:  
Post your original response to the Discussion Questions, then respond to at least 2 of your peers. (see week one for details)

ASSIGNMENT:  
CompleteReflection #3 and Reflection #4 over chapters 7&8.

QUIZ:  
Complete Quiz #2 by Sunday, midnight

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS:  
(10 TEA practice exam questions distributed by Dr. Hinojosa)

(ALL ASSIGNMENTS IN WEEK 2 DUE Sunday by midnight)

WEEK 3 
Read- The Educator’s Guide to Texas School Law, Chapters 2 & 6

DISCUSSION:  
Post your original response to the Discussion Questions, then respond to at least 2 of your peers. (see week one for details)
ASSIGNMENT: Complete Reflection #5 and Reflection #6 over chapters 2 & 6.

QUIZ: Complete Quiz #3 by Sunday, midnight

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS: (10 TEA practice exam questions distributed by Dr. Hinojosa)

(ALL CHAPTER PRESENTATIONS and assignments from this week ARE DUE by Sunday, midnight!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)

WEEK 4 Vornberg: Texas Public School Organization and Administration 2010 Read (Chapters 13 and 14, Reflections 7&8)
READ- Passing the Principal TExES (pages 1-17). Assignment due by Sunday, midnight(10 TEA practice exam questions)

WEEK 5 READ- Passing the Principal TExES (Elaine Wilmore) (pages 18-48)
Principal Interview Due by Sunday, midnight

WEEK 6 READ- Passing the Principal TExES (pages 49-85) Due by Sunday, 12 midnight.
READ -Passing the Principal TExES (pages 85-126) Due by Sunday, midnight.

WEEK 7 Download the TExES 068 practice exam from online (SBEC website) and complete the practice exam during week 6. Complete this exam to prepare you for the EDAD 554 FINAL EXAM. During this week, you will look at the questions missed and code according to domain/competency. Review the domain and competency that you need help with.

Complete this project by Sunday, midnight. (If needed make google plus or skype appointments with me for tutoring).

October 11, 2012 is the Course FINAL EXAM: 068 practice exam given online. You have 5 hours to complete the exam. The exam is timed.

******Students will not be allowed to take the TEA principalship exam without scoring at least an 80% on this 068 practice exam.******
DO NOT ASK ME TO RESCHEDULE YOUR EXAM. IF YOU CANNOT MAKE THIS EXAM DATE, PLEASE CONSIDER TAKING THE EDAD 554 COURSE AT ANOTHER TIME.

Campus Case Study Portfolio due no later than the last day of class October 12, 2012

Please Note: The proposed class schedule is tentative. All assignments and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.