ELED 437.710 SCIENCE IN FIELD-BASED SETTINGS
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2012

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COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook Required:

Nath, J.L., & Ramsey, J. (2010). ***Preparing to Teach Texas Content Areas: The TExES EC-6 Generalist & the ESL Supplement (2nd Edition) [Paperback]***. Prentice Hall
ISBN-13: 978-0137040285

Course Description:

This course will lead the intern toward identifying techniques and strategies that will assist teaching inquiry-based science EC--6. The intern will connect instructional methods to TEKS for students so that students will be able to master the STAAR test. Science methods will be connected to the competencies needed to master the science TExES. A practical approach will be taken to guide the intern through activity-based techniques and methods. It is expected that interns will actively participate in seminar discussions and course assignments in ways that demonstrate their development as professional educators.

Student Learning Outcomes:

DOMAIN IV--SCIENCE

Standard I: The science teacher manages classroom, field, and laboratory activities to ensure the safety of all students and the ethical care and treatment of organisms and specimens.
Standard II: The science teacher understands the correct use of tools, materials, equipment and technologies.
Standard III: The science teacher understands the process of scientific inquiry and its role in science instruction.
Standard IV: The science teacher has theoretical and practical knowledge about teaching science and about how students learn science.
Standard V: The science teacher knows the varied and appropriate assessments and assessment practices to monitor science learning.
Standard VI: The science teacher understands the history and nature of science.
Standard VII: The science teacher understands how science affects the daily lives of students and how science interacts with and influences personal and societal decisions.

Standard VIII: The science teacher knows and understands the sciences content appropriate to teach the statewide curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills [TEKS]) in physical science.

Standard IX: The science teacher knows and understands the sciences content appropriate to teach the statewide curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills [TEKS]) in life science.

Standard X: The science teacher knows and understands the sciences content appropriate to teach the statewide curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills [TEKS]) in earth and space science.

Standard XI: The science teacher knows unifying concepts and processes that are common to all sciences.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Individual Assignments

1. Each intern will complete all reading assignments on time. Assessment of reading assignments will be determined by participation in seminar discussion and group activities.
2. Each intern will develop a lesson plan at an assigned grade level that follows the assigned format and appropriately addresses science objectives at that level. A typed copy of the lesson plan will be submitted to the instructor by the assigned date, and the intern will be expected to present the lesson plan to the class and discuss its merits.
3. Each intern will be expected to complete all hands-on science activities at an appropriate level of mastery.
4. Each intern will demonstrate his or her ability to use technology through research and presentation.
5. Each intern will complete all assignments required for internships.
6. Each intern will attend all scheduled university seminars, school-based class sessions and school-based meetings.
7. Each intern will exhibit consistent professional behavior in all school-based activities.

Group Assignments

Collaborative interaction provides opportunities for interns to exhibit their level of professionalism through sharing sound theories of learning and effective practices that support excellence for all learners. With this in mind, it is incumbent upon each intern to prepare and participate at a level that reflects a growing professionalism.

Evaluation of Course Requirements

Evaluation will be adapted from holistic scoring used for internship as well as successful completion of assignments. The instructor will consider absences, tardiness and evidence of professional behavior shown through effort and respect for both instructor and peers.

A=Exceptional: Well above average in initiative, thought, organization, reflection and professional behavior. Exhibits evidence of mature and informed behavior in the areas of decision-making, desire for professional growth, collaborative spirit and learning processes. Has explored a variety of techniques for teaching science and exhibits an ability to make appropriate decisions related to effective practices for consistently maintaining a learning environment in which all students can learn.

B=Acceptable: Functional in terms of initiative, thought, organization, reflection and professional behavior, but in need of continued supervision/mentoring. Behavior in the areas of decision-making, desire for professional growth, collaborative spirit and acceptance of diversity is developing. Has an understanding of the techniques for teaching science, but is still developing the abilities to effectively use appropriate techniques consistently.

C=Needs Improvement: Lack of initiative, thought, organization, reflection and professional behavior. Behavior demonstrates more concern for self needs than for student needs. There is a lack of collaborative skills and/or attitude. The intern demonstrates intolerance for diversity and for learning-challenged students, and does not show interest in equity in excellence for all learners. Lacks an understanding for the techniques for teaching science and lacks the abilities to effectively use appropriate techniques consistently.

Grading

Your grade in this course will be determined from the following Field experience and seminar criteria

Field Experience	Number	Points Each	Total Points Possible	Student's Actual Points
ILT Evaluations Formal/Informal				
Liaison Evaluation			40	
Mentor Evaluation			40	
Mid-term Progress Report			10	
Summative Evaluation			10	
Journals			15	
Attendance Field Experience *(To include arriving late and leaving early)*			100	
Methods Class				
Attendance Intern Seminar *(To include arriving late and leaving early)*			30	
Assignments	Varies by Class	Varies by Class	60	
Seminar Activities	Varies by Class	Varies by Class	150	
Class Participation			15	
Integrated Projects			200	
Final Exam			30	
TOTAL			**700**	

Point total of: 630 – 700 = A
629 – 560 = B
559 – 490 = C
489 – 420 = D
Below 420 = F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This is a seminar course. In order to complete assignments and lesson plans required, a student in this seminar should have an internet connection. In addition, a word processor program such as MS Word or WordPerfect will be used to write lesson plans.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Communication is vital in this course. Remember that you are responsible for your learning. I will help you as much as possible, but you must let me know that you are having problems or questions that you cannot answer. As your instructor, I am available to help you in any way possible. Students may contact me by phone or email. Please feel free to call me on my cell (before 9:00 p.m. please). I will make every effort to return emails and phone calls within 24 hours during the week. Weekend contacts may not be returned until the following Monday. Please note that you **MUST** use your university issued email account when contacting me for any issue related to this class.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Attendance

It is the prerogative of the instructor to drop students from courses in which they have accrued excessive absences (three or more). However, a student wishing to drop the course should do so. Failure to do so may result in a failing grade.

Academic Honesty Policy

Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate **plagiarism** and other forms of academic **dishonesty**. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

Disciplinary action for these offenses may include any combination of the following:

1. Point deduction on an assignment.
2. Failure for an assignment.
3. A grade of zero for an assignment.
4. Failure for the course.
5. Referral to the Academic Integrity Committee or department head for further action.
6. Referral to the Dean of the College of Education and Human Services, Business and Technology, Arts and Sciences, or Graduate School as appropriate.
7. Referral to the University Discipline Committee.

8. Communication of student's behavior to the Teacher Certification Office and/or Dean of the College of Education as constituting a reason to bar student from entering into or continuing in a teacher certification program. Procedures, A 13.04, 13.12, 13.31, and 13.32

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

Disclaimer:

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule of the class. Any alterations will be announced by the instructor in class, on ecollege, or via email. Students who do not attend class, log into ecollege, or check their email assume full responsibility for missing changes to the course.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

A course calendar will be handed out during the first week of classes. It will include assignments, their due dates, and any other pertinent information related to the course.