Instructor: Dr. Susan Szabo  
Office: use virtual office in eCollege  
Email: use email in eCollege

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Required Textbook(s): We are going to differentiate the textbook. You can choose ONE from the list of three below.

1. Professional Responsibility for Educators and the Texas Code of Ethic written by Dr. David Thompson of the University of Texas at San Antonio, and Dr. JoAnn Franklin Klinker of Texas Tech University. It will take 3-4 days to be mailed to you
   OMNI Publishers, Inc.  
   PO Box 408  
   Bulverde, TX 78163  
   210-778-4437  
   830-438-4645 fax  
   Email: todd@omnipublishers.com  
   Website: EducatorEthicsSeries.com.

OR

   ISBN 0-205-45215-9

OR

   Published by Pearson. ISBN 0-205-48405-0

Supplementary Materials:
   1. Internet  
   2. Your District Policies

Course Description:
   Educators have a responsibility to become familiar with state and federal laws and policies related to education as well as understanding and executing school and district policies. However, professional knowledge sometimes creates ethical dilemmas for today’s educators. A violation of policy based on inadequate knowledge or professional beliefs is not
a justifiable defense. Thus, this seminar investigates policies, laws, and helps educators critically examine their rights and responsibilities.

This class has never been offered before. Doctoral students are required to take at least 2 EDCI 690's as part of their major core courses. This proposed course can be used as a substitution for EDCI 691 so that students close to completing their coursework will not have to wait an entire year or take a master's level course as a substitute.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
1. The student will gain an understanding of court cases that affect schools.
2. The student will gain an understanding of their professional responsibilities as an educator.
3. The students will gain an understanding of how the state affects instruction and curriculum.
4. The students will gain an understanding of due process, student safety, and teacher and school liability.
5. The students will gain a better understanding of their district policies.

- The learner will be an active and engaged participant in discussion forums by analyzing, constructing/creating, and evaluating information presented within the textbook, external readings/resources, student research, and class activities.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Activities/Assessments**

This course is 100% on-line and made up of a series of assignments and assessments to assist you in achieving the course learning objectives. You will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, discussions, readings, research, etc.

1. **Online Class Discussion** – ACTIVE participation on eCollege discussion about the laws and the readings is a MUST do.

2. Each student will investigate 1 assigned court case that has affected school policies. This information will be written up in a word document and then cut-and-pasted into discussion board (Court Case Folder). You should have a ½ to 1 page summary of the case and either examples of how the case has affected schools, your district, or your reaction to the law. You are becoming the expert on this case. (20 points for your well-written summary and examples; please edit before you post it; make sure it says what you want it to say.). In addition, you need to answer all your peers’ questions and respond to all inquiries or comments under your case, as you are the expert (20 points).
   a. This summary of your court case should be put into discussion under the Court Case folder (see calendar). Your title is the name of the Court Case. Everyone must respond at least 1x to each court case. Use calendar to know when to respond.
   b. You will have one multiple-choice test (50 pts) on court cases and how they affect schools. Each student will develop one multiple-choice question for the court case s/he researched. This question will be submitted to Dr. Szabo, via the drop box. A
good question is worth 10 points; a not so good question will only get 3 points. Thus, really think about your question and make it meaningful. Use postings to help you develop your multiple-choice a-d answer choices.

3. Each student will be assigned to a district group. This can be one you teach in, one your children go to, or one you just want to work in. You will go to the district website and read the district policy handbook. This should be down loaded to your desktop. As you read the district policy, you should be able to match ideas to the court cases above. You will have a group discussion about how these policies impact principals, teachers and students. This is on-going throughout the semester. 20 points

4. You will not only read your textbook, but you will complete the developed webquest to help you learn more about
   a. your professional responsibilities as an educator,
   b. how the state affects your instruction and the curriculum you teach
   c. how due process affects student safety, and teacher and school liability.
   The webquest is divided into 5 parts, and everyone will complete the whole webquest. In addition, there will be online discussion questions about the topics on the Webquest. (100 pts)

5. You will complete a pre/post reflection on ethics, policy, and law. (20 points)

Grading = 310 total
93-100 = A
85 - 92 = B

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The following technology is required to be successful in this course.
- Internet connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- Word Processor (Microsoft Office Word – 2003 or 2007)
- Access to University Library site
- Access to an Email

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:
- Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).
- Courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.
- It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the ’myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION
Access and Log in Information

- This course will be utilizing eCollege to enhance the learning experience. eCollege is the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx.
- You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamcommerce.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you experience issues while taking your exams or at any other point, feel free to contact the support desk.
- **Chat Support:** Click on 'Live Support' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- **Email:** helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- **Help:** Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc…).

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Policies

**Participation:**
1. Class participation is mandatory. However, there are numerous elements that go into class participation:
   - Frequent, and preferably intelligent, contributions to class discussion.
   - Being prepared for discussion having read the work and course material.
   - Polite and civil interactions with all members of the class [“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)].

Students are required to participate in online instruction, read textbook, and do research. There is no way presentation material or discussion can be made up. Failure to prepare and participate effectively will negatively influence the learning processes devised for the class. “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment” (Student Guide Book, pp. 67-73).
Readings and Research:

a. You will read your textbook and respond to chapter question in correct discussion folder. As you have the option of purchasing different books, you will have read different material. Thus, we should be learning from at least three different view points.

b. You will research your court case and post to discussion in the Court Case Folder. You will monitor peer responses.

c. As a District group, you will examine your district’s policies and discuss how these policies negatively and/or positively impact principals, teachers, and students.

d. You will provide an affect activity to help the class assimilate your assigned section of the Webquest.

Withdrawal Policy

Every student has the right to drop the course without penalty until the drop-date. Students dropping the course during this period will be given a DP (drop while passing). A grade of DP is GPA neutral, but a grade of DF counts as an F on your transcript. If you choose to stop attending class, you may be dropped from the course due to excessive absences. If you are not satisfied with your grade in the course and wish you to drop, it is YOUR responsibility to drop the course. Once a grade of DP or DF has been registered, I will not be able to change it. A student may drop a course by logging into their myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled 'Drop a class' from among the choices found under the myLEO section of the Web page.

Student Conduct

All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. You are adults and will be treated as such. Discriminatory, rude, and inappropriate language will not be tolerated in this class and students will be asked to leave or drop the class (these same rules apply for online discussions). If a student continues to act in the same manner during future classes, the instructor reserves the right to drop the student from the course.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly work free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of this institution. Texas A&M University-Commerce has explicit rules and regulations governing academic dishonesty and states, “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.”

These policies are stated in detail in the Student’s Guide Handbook. Each student is expected to read this document and abide by the contained policies. These university policies will be followed in this class. The minimum penalty for an act of academic dishonesty will be the assignment grade of 0 on the examination or homework assignment. The maximum penalty is expulsion from the University.

Texas A&M University-Commerce further 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.
If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it. Visit the following websites:

- [http://www.plagiarism.org/](http://www.plagiarism.org/)
- [http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html](http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html)
- [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml)

**University Policies Requests for Special Accommodations**

Requests from students with disabilities for reasonable accommodations must go through the Academic Support Committee. An individual instructor cannot decide to make accommodations for you without that Committee’s approval.

**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](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)
Student Disability Resources & Services

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**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

Before the Holidays you will be doing assigned court case research and reading your district policy. There will be online discussion threads.

After the Holidays you will be reading textbook and webquest plus completing the online discussion threads.

Calendar will be in eCollege.
Ethic and School Law will be in eCollege.