COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2013

Instructor: Sharon M. Anderson, M.Ed., Ellen Oats
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required: Texas TExES Generalist EC-6 (191) w/TestWare by Luis A Rosado

Course Description:
Hours: Three. Explores the integrated nature of learning with science as content focus.
Seminars are conducted in CPDT centers; field-based applications take place in public schools under the guidance of public school teachers and university personnel that comprise the Instructional Leadership Team. Prerequisite EIEd 300; Rdg 350, 370; admission to teacher education program; placement in a NETCPDT center; minimum overall GPA of 2.5 and must have passed TSI.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Objectives for the course will be based upon the Texas Educator Standards so that the students may have the experiences that lead to the knowledge and skills that an entry-level educator in the field of elementary education in the area of science in Texas public school must possess. Domain IV Science comprises approximately 18% of the TExES Generalist EC-6 (191).

Competency 024 (Safe and Proper Laboratory Processes): The teacher understands how to manage learning activities, tools, materials, equipment and technologies to ensure the safety of all students.

Competency 025 (Scientific Inquiry): The teacher understands the history and nature of science, the process and role of scientific inquiry, and the role of inquiry in science instruction.

Competency 026 (Impact on Daily Life/Environment): The teacher understands how science impacts the daily lives of students and interacts with and influences personal and societal decisions.

Competency 027 (Unifying Concepts and Processes in Science): The teacher knows and understands the unifying concepts and processes that are common to all sciences.
Competency 028 (Theory and Practice of Science Teaching): The teacher has theoretical and practical knowledge about teaching science and about how students learn science.

Competency 029 (Assessment in Science Learning): The teacher knows the varied and appropriate assessments and assessment practices for monitoring science learning in laboratory, field and classroom settings.

Competency 030 (Physical Science): The teacher understands forces and motion and their relationships.

Competency 031 (Physical Science): The teacher understands the physical and chemical properties of and changes in matter.

Competency 032 (Physical Science): The teacher understands energy and interactions between matter and energy.

Competency 033 (Physical Science): The teacher understands energy transformations and the conservation of matter and energy.

Competency 034 (Life Science): The teacher understands the structure and function of living things.

Competency 035 (Life Science): The teacher understands reproduction and the mechanisms of heredity.

Competency 036 (Life Science): The teacher understands adaptations of organisms and the theory of evolution.

Competency 037 (Life Science): The teacher understands the relationships between organisms and the environment.

Competency 038 (Earth and Space Science): The teacher understands the structure and function of Earth systems.

Competency 039 (Earth and Space Science): The teacher understands cycles in Earth systems.

Competency 040 (Earth and Space Science): The teacher understands the role of energy in weather and climate.

Competency 041 (Earth and Space Science): The teacher understands the characteristics of the solar system and the universe.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

The field-based component of the course will require students to develop and teach lessons in their assigned classrooms that incorporate and identify the competency and TEKS that are implemented in the lesson.

Through a variety of activities throughout the semester the seminar component of the course will be used to give guidance and assessment of student knowledge of the science standards and competencies and the related Texas Education Association TEKS for grades K-6 as adopted.
In order to become an effective science teacher, the goals of this course are to look at current ideas regarding science instruction; to understand the goals, principles and standards of EC-6 education in Texas; to effectively implement the application of science instruction; to explore creative avenues for teaching that will enhance active learning in science classrooms; and to understand the potential and importance for integrating science instruction into other disciplines.

Students are expected to know and apply the TExES competencies.

Grading
Attendance at seminars is required to maximize learning; therefore attendance and participation will factor into the final grade. Credit for seminar activity will be based on: displaying interest (no unrelated text messaging or web surfing) and good attitude about learning (paying attention to what your fellow interns and the instructor are saying during whole group discussion); active whole and small group participation; staying on topic in group work.

Half of the final grade for this course will be based upon journal scores and a science post-test given in seminar. 5 points will be deducted from this average for each seminar absence when science is the topic. The other half of the final grade will be based upon the quality and timeliness of the completion of the assigned requirements (observations, lessons, etc.) and performance in the public school classroom. Seminar instructors, mentors, liaisons will determine the grade based on the following scale:

A (90 – 100%) = Commendable. Well above average in initiative, thought, organization, reflection, and implementing professional choices. Evidences extensive control of own decision-making and learning processes. Monitors, adjusts, and manages independently. Excellent attitude, attendance, participation and completion of assignments completed by due date

B (80 – 89%) = Developing. Functional, but in need of instruction, in initiative, thought, organization, reflection, and implementing professional choices. Evidences some control of own decision-making and learning processes. Monitors, adjusts, and manages—but requires intervention. Good attitude, attendance, participation and completion of assignments completed by due date.

C (70 – 79%) = Needs Improvement. Some lack of initiative, thought, organization, reflection, and responsibility. Evidences little to no control of own decision-making and learning processes. Does not adequately monitor, adjust, and manage. Sometimes exhibits poor attitude, attendance, participation and completion of assignments by due date.

D – (less than 70%) = not able to be certified as a teacher

5 points will be deducted from the averaged final grade for each seminar absence when science is the topic.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS
Must be able to regularly access email and internet for purposes of communication and research of topics.

The following sites will be required to use:
Important resource:

ELL: http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter074/ch074a.html#74.4

TExES preparation resources:
Practice questions: http://www.texas.ets.org/prepMaterials/
Released TAKS: http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=3839&menu_id=793
TEKS link: http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6148

Documentation of Technology use in the classroom will be shown in the intern portfolio.
**COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

**Interaction with Instructor Statement:**
The instructor(s) of this course will be available to students before, during, and after seminar. They also may be contacted through email and phone.

**Instructor(s):** Sharon M. Anderson, M.Ed 
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**US Mail:** C&I Dept., A&M University-Commerce, P.O. Box 3011, Commerce, TX 75429

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**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

**Course Specific Procedures**

**How to be Successful in This Class:** The ability to convey an understanding of and development of strategies and inquiry activities that promote thinking in students will be considered when grading. Active learning and questioning of ideas is encouraged. This is a field-based course. Be sure that you are documenting for your portfolio your efforts to teach science and integrate science in various activities/lessons.

**Additional Information:**
You should also make a habit of reviewing the list at this web site before the 12th class day of each semester to be sure you remain in compliance with graduation and certification requirements.

http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/registrar/pdfs/UndergradChecklist.pdf

**University Specific Procedures**

**Students with Disabilities:**
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**
**Room 132**
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**
**Fax (903) 468-8148**

http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/studentLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/assistiveTestingRequestForm/default.aspx

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)

For weather related information regarding class cancellations enroll in the IRIS alert system on your myleo page, visit the TAMU-C website, listen to KETR, 88.9 FM, or call 886-5005.

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**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

The first seminar session is Friday, August 16th, 2013 beginning at 9:30. All other seminar meetings will meet on Wednesdays. The day will be divided into blocks of time beginning at 9:30 and ending at 3:00. There will be a 30 minute break to go to purchase lunch and bring it to seminar for a working lunch period.

Field-based dates for your assigned public school campus are: 5 days a week August 15th or 19th depending on what district you are working with – August 30th. Two days a week
September 2nd – December 6th. Each liaison will discuss with the students what days they should plan to attend for their field experience.

A holiday is considered a day off for students only if their public school is closed that day. Students should plan to attend teacher in-service days and work days that fall on their chosen field experience days unless they get other instructions from their liaison.

Reflection journal guidelines:
As you read:
Think about your thoughts and ideas regarding the concepts presented in the text. Consider what you have learned about teaching science, how you learned science yourself and how the ideas in the text relate to these. Also consider what you are experiencing in your field placement and the implication this has on your own future classroom.
As you write:
What important things do you want to remember and what questions do you still have? How are the things you learning important to the classroom and your teaching?

The journals will be scored on at 3 – 1 scale with 3 being the highest level of understanding, thought and reflection and 1 being little understanding, thought and reflection shown. The rubric score will be translated into a percentage score to be averaged with the test grade: 3 (100), 3- (95), 2+ (90), 2 (85), 2- (80), 1+ (75), 1 (70), 1- (65)

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are required to document 6 hours of TExES preparation outside of seminar. Be sure to document the hours you spend on this and all assignments related to TExES preparation.

Another source of information for TExES competency review is the curriculum library on the second floor of the TAMU-C library. Document time spent outside seminar in study there to apply toward your 6 hours.

Science Journal #1 Due:
Read competencies 024 - 029.

Groups in seminar will create charts showing the important things about each of these competencies patterned after The Important Book. Example: “The important thing to remember about competency 024 is ______.” Then make two or more additional brief summary statements about your assigned competency. End with, but the important thing to remember is ______.
Present your patterned page to the group.

Journal: tell several important things you learned about science instruction and how it will impact your preparation for teaching.

Complete a self awareness analysis of your attitude toward teaching and learning science. Describe how you think your attitude will impact the success or failure of your students to enjoy and learn science.

Science Journal #2 Due:
Prepare yourself for teaching your students and for the TExES exam by studying competencies 030 – 033 (physical science). Highlight or make note of the information and vocabulary you need to continue to study. Using Preparation Manual 191 in your reading handbook, answer the questions associated with these competencies.

Journal: tell how you have improved and on what you still need help.

Science Journal #3 Due:
Prepare yourself for teaching your students and for the TExES exam by studying competencies 034 – 037 (life science). Highlight or make note of the information and vocabulary you need to continue to study. Using Preparation Manual 191 in your reading handbook, answer the questions associated with these competencies.

Journal: tell how you have improved and on what you still need help.
Science Journal #4 Due:

Prepare yourself for teaching your students and for the TExES exam by studying competencies 038 – 041 (Earth and space science). Highlight or make note of the information and vocabulary you need to continue to study. Using Preparation Manual 191 in your reading handbook, answer the questions associated with these competencies.

Journal: tell how you have improved and on what you still need help.

Complete a re-analysis of your attitude toward teaching and learning science. Describe how your attitude has changed or remained the same and tell how you think your attitude has affected your students.