EDCI 597: SCIENCE INSTRUCTION FOR 21\textsuperscript{ST} CENTURY LEARNERS
COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer II, 2015

According to State of Texas HB 2504, this course syllabus must be submitted for review prior to the course’s scheduled start date. Therefore, the instructor has the right to modify this syllabus and course calendar at any time between submission for publication and the first day of class. Furthermore, the instructor has the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the course itself provided that (1) such changes do not increase expectations or requirements beyond a reasonable equivalent and (2) students are given ample notification.

Instructor: Dr. Becky Sinclair
Office Location: Education South 228, Commerce Campus
Office Phone: 903.468.3237
Office Fax: 903.886.5581
University Email Address: becky.sinclair@tamuc.edu
(The best way to contact me in the summer.)

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:
Textbook(s) Required: None. Readings will be assigned from online sources and handouts provided by the instructor.

Course Description: This course will focus on effective elementary science classroom instructional practices supporting mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and the Next Generation science standards. The course content and activities address the inquiry process in instruction, resources for teaching science, strategies that support student-centered and constructivist-based pedagogical design and technology applications.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Students will learn effective teaching strategies for elementary science classrooms connected to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and the Next Generation Science Standards.

2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of 21\textsuperscript{st} Century skills and their connection to effective science instruction.

3. Students will develop strategies and activities to effectively integrate 21\textsuperscript{st} Century skills into their science classroom.

4. Students will create a plan of action for implementing ideas learned through the course into their classroom(s).
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments
This course consists of varied readings with related reflective assignments, online activities, and E-College threaded discussions.

Grading
1. **Unit Science Journal Assignments** – 30%
   Each unit will require thoughtful written comment on unit assignments based on online readings, activities and websites.

2. **E-College Threaded Discussions** – 20%
   Each unit will have several embedded discussion questions with posting requirements described in the course shell.

3. **Sharing of Strategies and Activities** – 20%
   Each unit will require the finding and/or modifying of activities/strategies and sharing these with classmates.

4. **Final Project - Learning Application into the Classroom** – 30%
   A final project will demonstrate the ability to apply ideas learned from the course in your own classroom by developing an action plan describing how you will use strategies/ideas from each unit. Details for this assignment will be provided in the course shell.

Points students’ receive from the previously described requirements will be totaled and the following course grades will be assigned:

- A – 90 - 100 points
- B – 80 - 89 points
- C – 70 - 79 points
- D – 60 - 69 points
- F – below 60 points

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR
This online course will be divided into 5 units. Details for each activity will be provided in the eCollege course shell. For summer semesters, all units will be open on the first day of class to allow more flexible work times for students (i.e. You can work ahead of the schedule.) However, specific due dates will be followed.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

**Computer with Internet Connection.** High speed internet connection needed. Dial up connections are so slow that students tend to get timed out on a regular basis. This tends to be too frustrating for use in online courses.

**Browser Testing.** 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 ‘My Courses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

**Access and Navigation.**
This course will be facilitated using eCollege, 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@tamu-commerce.edu. Technology support at 903-468-6000 is available 24 hours a day/ seven days a week.

**COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

**Interaction with Instructor Statement:**
The students will be able to communicate with instructor via email: becky.sinclair@tamuc.edu, which is checked frequently throughout the day during weekdays and occasionally on weekends. Although rare, email problems occur. If you have emailed me and not received a response within 24 hours (Monday-Friday), send the email again. If you do not receive a response within 24 hours, call the EDCI Office (903-886-5307) and ask an office manager to contact me.

**UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

**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. Suggested sites for reference regarding what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it: [http://www.plagiarism.org/](http://www.plagiarism.org/) or [http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html](http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html) or [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml) Plagiarism will result in a grade of “F” for the course and may result in your dismissal from the program.

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

Non-discrimination Policy
A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.