Instructor: Dr. Robynne Lock  
Office Location: STC 230  
Office Hours: W 11-12, Th 3-4, or by appointment  
Office Phone: 903-468-8767  
University Email Address: robynne.lock@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook: There is no required textbook. Readings will be provided throughout the course.

Course Description

University Catalogue Description  
Learning theory and teaching practices for science learning assistants. Topics include questioning strategies, conceptual development, formative assessment, argumentation, metacognition, and nature of science.

Additional Course Description  
This course is intended to provide you with support and community to improve your experience as a learning assistant. You will have the opportunity to reflect on your teaching experience, discuss with other learning assistants, and read relevant science education literature that will inform your teaching.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to reflect on their teaching practice.
2. Students will be able to describe their teaching philosophy.
3. Students will be able to explain findings from science education literature.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Readings and brief lecture will be used to introduce topics. Students are encouraged to ask questions during lecture. However, the primary instructional method for this course will be discussion.

GRADING

Grades will be based on four components:

- Teaching reflections  50%
- Reading reflections  40%
- Teaching philosophy  10%

Grading scale:

- 90% < A <100%
- 80% < B < 89%
- 70% < C < 79%
- 60% < D < 69%
- F < 60%

Teaching reflections: You will turn in a teaching reflection weekly.

Reading reflections: You will turn in a reading reflection weekly.

Teaching philosophy: You will turn in a teaching philosophy the last week of the semester.

Guidelines for the teaching reflections, reading reflections, and teaching philosophy will be provided in a separate document.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

1. Cell phone use is only allowed if used for class activities.

2. **Eating is not allowed.** However, covered drinks are allowed.

3. Attendance will be taken by sign-in sheet and verified by seating chart at the beginning of class.
4. The instructor must be notified by email (robynne.lock@tamuc.edu) about any excused absences **no later than 24 hours after the missed class.** Even if you choose to notify the instructor in person, you **must still follow up with email** within 24 hours of the missed class. If you do not follow this policy, you will not be able to make up missed exams or turn in late work except in extreme circumstances.

5. You are responsible for obtaining notes and class announcements from missed classes.

6. Excessive absences may result in being dropped from the course.

7. When emailing the instructor, include the **course and section number in the subject line.**

9. You are expected to check your email at least once a day for class announcements. Emails will be sent to the email addresses you provided to MyLeo. Notify the instructor if you would prefer to receive emails at a different address.

11. Students should fully participate in class activities.

12. Students are expected to be professional and respectful and take responsibility for their learning. If you find yourself struggling, the instructors are available to provide extra help outside of class.

13. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late work will not be accepted.

**Syllabus Change Policy**
The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

**University Specific Procedures**

**ADA Statement**

**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

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)
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).

Nondiscrimination Notice

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.

Harassment Policy

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here:

University Title IX Contact: Michele Vieira, 903-886-5025, mailto:TitleIX@tamuc.edu

University resource webpages:
http://www.tamuc.edu/facultyStaffServices/humanResources/title-ix/resources.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/universityPoliceDepartment/crimePrevention/sexualAssault.aspx


Campus police: mailto:upd@tamuc.edu, call 911 in emergency situations

External resources:
Crisis center of NorthEast Texas: http://www.ccnetx.org
Know your IX: http://knowyourix.org
End rape on campus: http://endrapeoncampus.org
Clery Center for Security on Campus: http://clerycenter.org
Not Alone: https://www.notalone.gov

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a criminal activity. You must cite all sources of information. Unreferenced copying of material, whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs, or entire articles can result in a score of zero for your assignment and may result in further disciplinary action.
COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1: Open and closed questions
Week 2: Discussion techniques
Week 3: Questioning strategies and Bloom’s taxonomy
Week 4: Learning theory 1
Week 5: Student conceptions and formative assessment
Week 6: Student conceptions – Resource perspectives
Week 7: Motivation and cooperative learning
Week 8: Argumentation and metacognition
Week 9: Learning theory 2
Week 10: LA evaluations and classroom observations
Week 11: Scientific practices
Week 12: Multiple intelligences and differentiated instruction
Week 13: Thanksgiving, no class
Week 14: Qualities of an effective teacher
Week 15: Technology in the classroom