CI 6317 Introduction to Public Schools
Angelo State University College of Education

Summer 2009

San Angelo Class Dates/Hours: July 6, 2009, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
San Angelo Location: CARR 128

Hill Country Class Dates/Hours: June 6, 2009, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Hill Country Location: TBA

Professors: Dr. Kim Livengood Dr. Amy Williamson
Assistant Professor Assistant Professor
Department of Curriculum & Instruction Department of Curriculum & Instruction
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Livengood Office Hours:
Tuesday 9:30 am- 11:00 am
E-Hours: M, W & Th. 9:30 am – 10:30 am
M-Th. 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Williamson Office Hours Summer I:
T, W & Th 8-9, 3-5
E-Hours: M & F 8-9, 4-5

Williamson Office Hours Summer II:
July 6-17 E-Hours (Hill Country)
July 21-August 6
E-Hours: M & F 9-10, 2-3
T, W, & Th 9-10, 4-5

Course Description:

Develop an understanding of the organization and structure of the public school system in Texas. Learn to fulfill the professional role and responsibilities of the classroom teacher, adhering to the legal and ethical requirements of the profession.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, the student will:

b. Compare and contrast major educational philosophies.
c. Articulate professional dispositions and a personal philosophy of education.
d. Relate and critically evaluate educational theories to educational practices.
e. Become informed about teachers, students, school and the law.

f. Reflect on the profession of teaching.

g. Address the complexities of the climate, culture, and context of American schools and connect these phenomena to learner needs.

h. Respond to individual and group diversity in planning for learner-centered instruction and success.

i. Become informed about learners who are at risk for success and apply differentiated instructional strategies.

j. Consider traditional and innovative curriculum development and design.

k. Evaluate instructional practices related to effective schools research.

l. Become informed about the governance structure of schools.

m. Analyze trends in American public education.

n. Consider factors influencing effective communication between home and school and respond to these factors when planning instruction.

**Required Textbook:**


**Expectations:**

1. **The Nature and Purpose of Graduate Study at Angelo State University:**

   The purpose of graduate education is to provide for advanced and specialized training beyond the baccalaureate program. Graduate study is intended to strengthen the academic and professional competence of the student, to develop the student’s capacity for independent study, to familiarize students with past and current research, to train the student in the techniques of research, and to enable the student to relate his or her research to the investigations of other scholars and derive significant implications from the relationships.

   Graduate study presupposes a broad background of knowledge, an adequate preparation in appropriate fields of study at the baccalaureate level, and a command of skills required to carry on intensive research and investigation with a high degree of resourcefulness and self-direction. Generally speaking, only students with superior undergraduate academic records are qualified to pursue study at the graduate level.

   It should be noted that graduate studies differ from undergraduate studies in the following respects: (1) The graduate student is expected to assume greater responsibility and to exercise more individual initiative. (2) More extensive and intensive reading is required. (3) Greater emphasis is placed on productive research, with particular emphasis on the use of primary materials. (4) Seminar methods are employed with greater frequency, as greater class participation by the student is required. (5) Less instruction is provided in content, survey-type lecture courses.
Graduate study thus involves far more than the passing of a given number of courses and the fulfillment of certain minimum requirements. The student cannot be content solely with earning acceptable grades. The student must continually satisfy the Graduate Faculty in the major field by displaying superior intellectual powers and scholarly commitment in order to maintain graduate status and good standing in the school.

2. **Students are expected** to be in attendance for each scheduled class session. No absences are allowed. Only cases of extreme emergency will be considered for exception. Contact the professor for consideration.

3. **Students are expected** to participate actively and enthusiastically in all class discussions and activities both in-class and online. Participation should be informed by readings, class presentations and school experiences.

4. **Students are expected** to have thoughtfully and critically read all assigned readings prior to coming to class.

5. When prompted by learning modules, discussion boards, PowerPoint presentations, or at any other direction for participation, the **minimum response from each student is:** (1) to post a response to the original or initial posting and/or question; and (2) to post a response to another student’s posting. More frequent responses are both allowed and encouraged so that each student can learn from peers and professor’s insights.

**Assignments:**

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Tentative Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historical Timeline</td>
<td>Make a timeline of 20 key events and 10 key people. Justify why you believe they are important to the development of American Education.</td>
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<td>Philosophy of Education</td>
<td>Write your own philosophy of education. Include each theorist(s) that has contributed and how they have influenced your philosophy. The paper must be a minimum of 4 pages.</td>
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<td>Job Descriptions</td>
<td>What qualifications should a person have to be a member of a school board, principal, superintendent, chief state school officer, or U.S. Secretary of Education?</td>
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<td>Civil Rights Statutes</td>
<td>Review the summary of Major Civil Right Statutes Affecting Education. Select one legal case from Texas that exemplifies a lawsuit pertaining to a major civil rights statute. Prepare a brief (1-page) paper that summarizes the case. Include a discussion of how the outcome of the case has impacted education in Texas.</td>
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<td>Chapter Quizzes</td>
<td>Complete an online multiple choice quiz for each chapter.</td>
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<td>School &amp; Community Demographics:</td>
<td>Participate in an online discussion and write a paper. Specific instructions can be found in Blackboard.</td>
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<td>Assessment Discussion Board</td>
<td>Give your response and respond to two others for the following question: How will the increased federal role-through assessment, school report cards, and state accountability affect the development of teaching as a profession and the daily life of a teacher?</td>
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<td>Discussion Board: Professional Organization</td>
<td>Identify 2 professional organizations that would pertain to your position and explain why.</td>
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<td>Discussion Board: Curriculum</td>
<td>Give your response and respond to two others for the following questions in two separate discussion strands: How should the lessons of the hidden curriculum be incorporated into the formal curriculum? How would you describe the curriculum that would best prepare students for the 21st century?</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Multiple Choice</td>
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**Evaluation:** Each assignment will be worth a varying number of points. Grades will be determined by the percentage of the total possible points earned.

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%

**Angelo State University:**

**Honor Code:** Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook.

**Persons seeking accommodations:** Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, in order to request such
accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so appropriate arrangements can be made.