

ASU College of Education – Teacher Education Department
ECH 4450 – Instructional Strategies in EC-6 Classrooms
Course Syllabus – Fall 2009
TTH 2-3:20

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Office hours: M- W 11-12, and 2:20-3:20(except on Block class days) T, Th 11-2
9:00- 1:00 F tutoring Taskstream, time dedicated to Int'l Studies trip, NCATE work,
appt by email or appointment

Course Description: This course focuses on understanding and applying pedagogy, research, and content area knowledge to the development of an integrated approach to curriculum including lessons, resources, and units for use with children from preschool through elementary years in diverse and multicultural settings. The role of assessment in curriculum planning is addressed. A 30 clock-hour field experience in public elementary classrooms is required. Prerequisites: ECH 3320, EPSY 3303, and SPED 2361.

Required Text: No text is required for this course at this time. However, completion of relevant readings and supporting assignments is expected.

Course Goals:

ESSENTIAL OBJECTIVES:

- Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories related to children's developmental needs, instructional planning, and assessment of learning through differentiated instruction techniques. Consideration of teacher decision-making related to the "who, what, (so what), (now what), (what next), when, where, why, and how of children's learning and thinking.
- Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions) related to documentation for assessment and instruction utilizing the results of assessment for applying appropriate practices. Practicing teaching skills with peers and in field experiences.
- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view by examining issues related effective instructional decision-making.

IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES:

- Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends) related to assessment forms and formats, recording and interpreting

information, communicating results of assessment, and constructs related to children's thinking.

- Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by teachers related to assessment for instruction and responsiveness to student individual differences in learning and development.
- Acquiring skills in working with others as a member of a team by collaborating with classmates in group projects, sharing resources, and applying course material.
- Learning how to find and use resources for development and differentiation of instruction through information gained from the teaching resource file. Compiling instructional resources in all curriculum areas.
- Acquiring an interest in learning more by asking questions and seeking answers to questions related to formal and informal assessment, while remaining sensitive to children's individual differences in learning style, gender, background, culture, and ethnicity. Reflecting on one's own creative thought, problem solving, and decision-making related to the development of instruction.

TEXES Competencies/Standards: Will be posted in a separate document on Blackboard

IDEA Information: Infused in Course Goals above

Methods of Instruction: Lecture/Discussion/Demonstration/Small Group Collaboration/ Field Observation/Participation

Course Requirements: Students are expected to complete all classroom and out-of-classroom assignments in order to successfully complete the course. Students are expected to check BLACKBOARD and ASU email on a regular basis each day. Students are expected to attend class, complete reading assignments each week, and take tests/exams as scheduled.

Students must access BLACKBOARD for electronic posting of syllabus, assignments, announcements, grading information, etc. Students are to download these documents and bring the copies to class. Contact the ASU Help Desk at 325-942-2911 to learn about BLACKBOARD and accessing it. Do this before the second day of class.

Assignments: See BLACKBOARD for assignment information.

Course Evaluation and Grading:

Weighted percentages are identified on each assignment on BB.

Grades are assigned as: 900-1000, A; 800-899 B; 700-799 C; 600-699 D; below 600 F

Attendance Policy: It is your professional responsibility to attend all classes. You are preparing to be a teacher. You need to begin to exhibit professional behaviors. **You are expected to be in class on time and to attend each scheduled class session.** If you are absent from class you will miss important content and experiences. All class sessions and topics are connected to the course content and competencies. There are no “excused” absences. However, students with no absences may benefit from 40 additional points at the time of the final grade calculation or only one absence will result in additional 15 points. Students with 3 absences or more will have 10 points deducted from the FINAL GRADE for EACH absence, starting with the third absence. This will be enforced. Use your absences wisely. Should you be faced with extenuating circumstances, please discuss your situation with the professor as soon as you are able. Don’t wait until it is too late. There are permanent consequences associated with course withdrawal. Be informed about the withdrawal policy of the university and only utilize this option if you believe that you are unable to complete the course term successfully.

Persons Seeking Accommodations: Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Academic Honesty: 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.

Plagiarism or the use of Internet Web-prepared papers, etc. is strictly forbidden! Faculty utilize Internet search links that assist in identifying plagiarized materials. Faculty may impose serious consequences on students who have plagiarized. This may include, but is not limited to, failing the course.

College of Education Cell Phone/Electronic Paging Device Policy: Cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are to be turned off during class time. While I am very committed to respecting individuals, I will stop class and ask students who are texting or visiting to stop or leave the classroom.

You may not use PDA, MP3, PSP, Blackberry, etc during class time. This constitutes a breach in Departmental Expectations regarding Dispositions.

Class Schedule: A calendar of class session topics, reading assignments, and due dates will be posted on BLACKBOARD.

Web Sites: The following websites may be helpful to you throughout this course and the remainder of your certification program:

http://blackboard.angelo.edu/	Blackboard access at Angelo State University
www.tea.state.tx.us	Texas Education Agency
https://secure.sbec.state.tx.us/	State Board for Educator Certification (Texas)
sbeonline/virtcert.asp	American Psychological Association
www.apa.org	

<http://cms.texas-ets.org/texas/prepmaterials/texas-preparation-manuals/> TExES preparation manuals and lists of competencies for state testing

<https://www1.taskstream.com/> You must be able to use your TaskStream account. This site has important links and information for teacher preparation students.