Department of Secondary Education and Educational Leadership  
SED 515  
Current Issues in Secondary Education  
Fall 2020 Covid 19 pandemic

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Office: 201 K ECRC  
Office Hours: Online 10-11 am, M-F  
Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course focuses on contemporary curricular, political and cultural issues that teachers in secondary classrooms will encounter. Students will learn about the theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of critical issues and will apply those understandings to discussions of current events in education.

Course Justification

SED 515 Current Issues in Secondary Education (3 credits; fully online) spans 15 weeks and contains extensive written content that includes the same information acquisition and demonstrable skills that are required of students in a face-to-face classroom; the time requirement for students engaging in online modules is approximately 3 hours or more per week. Students are required to read texts and/or foundational articles, complete writing intensive work that will evaluate their comprehension and ability to think critically about education as well as participating in critical discussions with peers. Students will produce a paper or project as a culminating experience that synthesizes the student learning outcomes for the course. For every hour the student spends engaging with the content, he/she spends at least 2 hours completing associated activities and assessments outside of class.

Intended Learning Outcomes/Goals/Objectives (Program/Student Learning Outcomes):

Program Learning Outcomes:
1. The candidate will develop and adapt content specific instruction based on the needs of diverse students in a global and digital society.
2. The candidate will develop and adapt data-driven assessment based on the needs of diverse students in a global and digital society.
3. The candidate will design an effective classroom management plan for diverse learner centered educational settings.
4. The candidate will demonstrate critical pedagogical strategies and professional dispositions through analyses of contemporary issues in education.

Student Learning Outcomes:
The student will be able to:

a) analyze critical social, educational, cultural, and political issues that influence schools in Texas and the United States in general
b) analyze contemporary issues relevant to teaching and learning in U.S. public schools
c) examine the coverage of educational issues by the popular media
d) advocate for an educational issue or position which affects the English language learner population

GOLAS AND OBJECTIVES:

COMMISSIONER STANDARDS:

http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter149/ch149aa.html

ISTE EDUCATOR STANDARDS
III. Course Assignments, Activities, Instructional Strategies, use of Technology:

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:
There are 1000 points available to be earned in SED 515 through the following assessment strategies:

READING LOGS (6 @ 75 pts each = 450 pts.) (SLO a-b)

CURRENT EVENTS DISCUSSION BOARD PARTICIPATION (5 @ 50 pts = 250 pts.) (SLO a-c)

Each candidate will participate in a discussion board topic in each module. The discussion boards provide a place for you to interact with classmates and with the instructor about the course content.

FINAL PROJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER ADVOCACY PROJECT (1 @ 200 pts. = 200 pts.) (SLO d)
Select a current educational issue that affects English language learners, a rapidly growing population in our public school system. Ideas are provided in the course. Create an artifact in which you advocate for a particular policy, position, or stance that would help promote the needs of the EL population. Submit your proposed topic to me on October 20.

QUALITY OF ASSIGNMENTS:
High professional standards are expected of all assignments. In order to obtain the full credit for an assignment, candidates must demonstrate higher order thinking skills (analyze data by applying theoretical and conceptual tools discussed in the course; construct convincing arguments; integrate information from various sources; evaluate various theoretical perspectives; etc.).

All writing assignments must be typed using 12-point Times New Roman or Calibri font, double-spaced. Please proof read your papers before submitting. Points will be deducted for inappropriate format, style, grammar, and spelling errors.

Poorly written papers, identified by poor grammar, spelling, sentence structure and lack of APA style citations will be returned and resubmitted with appropriate corrections before credit is earned.

All work will be submitted via D2L to the course instructor, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

IV. Evaluation and Assessment (Grading):
Student grades will be determined by the following criteria:
To determine your grade, take the points earned and divide by the number of points possible. Letter grades for the course will be determined as follows: 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, below 60% = F

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Module 2 Reading Log</td>
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<td>Module 6 Reading Log</td>
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<td>Module 1 Discussion Board</td>
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<td>Module 6 Discussion Board</td>
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<td>Advocacy Project Proposal</td>
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<td>Advocacy Project Position Paper</td>
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V. Tentative Course Outline/Calendar:

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<tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>11-15-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advocacy Project Due</td>
<td>12-6-19</td>
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Absences in an Online Course

If you do not complete a module in an online course, it is considered to be two weeks worth of absences, and you will be dropped with an F. If you are having a personal life issue or family emergency that prevents you from engaging in a module’s activities, please notify the instructor immediately.

VI. Readings:

Required text for the course is:

Noll, J. W. (2010). *Taking sides: Clashing views on educational issues*. New York: McGraw Hill. [The course is set up around the 16th edition. If you purchase a newer or older edition, it will be your responsibility to identify the similarities and differences between the edition you buy and the one I assigned.]

You can get this book on Amazon for around $5-10

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/offer-listing/0078049970/ref=dp_oelp_used?ie=UTF8&condition=used](https://www.amazon.com/gp/offer-listing/0078049970/ref=dp_oelp_used?ie=UTF8&condition=used)
LiveText

Upon your enrollment in this course, if you do not already have an existing LiveText account, you should receive an access code for a free LiveText account. LiveText is a data management system that you will use to submit designated assignments in this course. The access code will come to you directly from the LiveText system to your SFA email account. If you do not receive this code by the end of the first week of class, please check your junk e-mail. If you still do not have the message, please contact the SFA LiveText coordinator at livetext@sfasu.edu. Once you have received the access code, it is YOUR responsibility to activate the account. Failure to activate the account and/or submit the required assignment(s) could result in course failure.

Additional readings will be assigned and/or distributed as the class progresses. These will be provided by the instructor or will be designated as available on-line, in the library or in Course Packet.

VII. Course Evaluations:

Near the conclusion of each semester, students in the Perkins College of Education electronically evaluate courses taken within the PCOE. Evaluation data is used for a variety of important purposes including:
1. Course and program improvement, planning, and accreditation;
2. Instruction evaluation purposes; and
3. Making decisions on faculty tenure, promotion, pay, and retention.
As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Please know that the COE faculty is committed to excellence in teaching and continued improvement. Therefore, your response is critical!

In the Perkins College of Education, the course evaluation process has been simplified and is completed electronically through MySFA. Although the instructor will be able to view the names of students who complete the survey, all ratings and comments are confidential and anonymous, and will not be available to the instructor until after final grades are posted.

VIII. Student Ethics and Other Policy Information:

Attendance

Regular, punctual attendance, documented participation, and, if indicated in the syllabus, submission of completed assignments are expected at all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which the student is registered. Based on university policy, failure of students to adhere to these requirements shall influence the course grade, financial assistance, and/or enrollment status. The instructor shall maintain an accurate record of each student’s attendance and participation as well as note this information in required reports (including the first 12 day attendance report) and in determining final grades. Students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for up to three weeks of absences during a semester or one week of a summer term, depending on the nature of the missed work. Make-up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability-related accommodations and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325 (936) 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/. Location: Human Services Building, room 325. Phone: (936) 468-3004.

Academic Integrity
Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members must promote the components of academic integrity in their instruction, and course syllabi are required to provide information about penalties for cheating and plagiarism, as well as the appeal process.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
- using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam;
- falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment;
- helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
- submitting an assignment as one’s own work when it is at least partly the work of another person;
- submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source;
- incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

**Penalties for Academic Dishonesty**
Penalties may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university.

**Student Appeals**
A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic dishonesty should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals by Students (6.3).

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Acceptable Student Behavior**
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare: Early Alert Program at SFA. Information regarding the iCare program is found at [https://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp](https://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp) or call the office at 936-468-2703.

**Teacher Certification**

To complete Certification/Licensing Requirements in Texas related to public education and other professional settings, you will be required to:

1. Candidates must undergo a criminal history background check prior to clinical teaching and prior to employment as an educator. The public school campuses are responsible for completing the criminal background check. A person who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a State Board for Educator Certification-approved educator preparation program or planning to take a certification examination may request a preliminary criminal history evaluation letter regarding the person's potential ineligibility for certification due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.
A Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation is a non-mandatory, non-binding evaluation of an individual’s self-reported criminal history. In addition, the agency obtains your name-based Texas criminal history information. The service is provided to the requestor for a non-refundable fee. The requestor will receive an evaluation letter by email from agency staff advising of potential ineligibility for educator certification.

You are eligible to request a Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation if:

- You enrolled or planning to enroll in an educator preparation program or
- You are planning to take a certification exam for initial educator certification, and
- You have reason to believe that you may be ineligible for educator certification due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

You are not eligible for a preliminary evaluation of your criminal history if you do not have a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

In addition, you must complete the fingerprinting process when you apply for certification. Participation in the evaluation does not preclude you from submitting to a national criminal history review at the time you apply for your educator certification. Your criminal history will be reviewed and you may be subject to an investigation based on that criminal history, including any information you failed to submit for evaluation.

Additional information can be found at https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Educators/Investigations/Preliminary_Criminal_History_Evaluation-FAQs/.

2. Provide one of the following primary ID documents: passport, driver's license, state or providence ID cards, a national ID card, or military ID card to take the TExES exams (additional information available at http://www.tx.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Tests.html. YOU must provide legal documentation to be allowed to take these mandated examinations that are related to certification/licensing requirements in Texas. If you do not have legal documentation, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

3. Successfully complete state mandated a fingerprint background check. If you have a history of criminal activity, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

For further information, contact the Office of Assessment and Accountability at 936-468-1282 or edprep@sfasu.edu.

IX. Other Relevant Course Information:

Code of Ethics for the Texas Educator:

The Texas educator shall comply with standard practices and ethical conduct toward students, professional colleagues, school officials, parents, and members of the community and shall safeguard academic freedom. The Texas educator, in maintaining the dignity of the profession, shall respect and obey the law, demonstrate personal integrity, and exemplify honesty and good moral character. The Texas educator, in exemplifying ethical relations with colleagues, shall extend just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession. The Texas educator, in accepting a position of public trust, shall measure success by the progress of each student toward realization of his or her potential as an effective citizen. The Texas educator, in fulfilling responsibilities in the community, shall cooperate with parents and others to improve the public schools of the community. This chapter shall apply to educators and candidates for certification.