



EDUC 5315.060: School Policies and Texas Students

Course Logistics

Term: Fall 2026, 7-week session II, October 12, 2026 – December 5, 2026

Instructor: Dr. Amanda Southerland

Phone: 479-856-5426

Virtual Office Hours: Wednesdays, **3:30–5:30 p.m. (by appointment, as needed)** via Zoom. If you would like to meet during office hours, please email me in advance to schedule a time. If these hours do not fit your schedule, don't hesitate to reach out, and we can arrange an alternative meeting time that works for both of us.

Class: 100% Online

Email: asoutherland@uttyler.edu (Best way to contact)

Communication Policy: Students are welcome to email me whenever questions arise. Email is the best way to reach me, and I typically respond within **24–48 hours** during the work week. Messages sent over weekends or university holidays may take a little longer to receive a response. Please include **EDUC 5315: School Policies** in the subject line of your email.

Last day to Withdraw: November 11th, 2026

Course Overview

Students will explore the national and state policies, including the Texas Education Code, the Code of Ethics, and the Texas school accountability system, to understand the implications state and national policies have on students, teachers and schools. Students will also examine the different student populations and the critical issues associated with diverse students' needs.

Student Learning Outcomes

	INTASC Principles	Texas Educator Standards
1. Identify state and national policies that impact teaching and learning, including state standards, standardized testing, ethics and law.	1	3 (A)(iii)
2. Explore the academic, language, and socio-emotional needs of diverse student populations, and the critical issues related to language, gender, socioeconomic, ethnic, and disability-based diversity and equity.	2, 6	3 (B) (ii)
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact the studied policies and the needs of diverse students have on curricular and instructional decisions by evaluating scenarios.	2, 4, 5, 7	2 (B) (ii) 6 (A) (i) (iii), (D) (i)

Required Textbook:

[Newman, B. \(2019\). TExES PPR EC-12 \(160\) with Access \(6th ed\).](#)

ISBN-10: 0738612545

ISBN-13: 978-0738612546

This book will be used towards the end of the course, and you will need it throughout the remainder of the program. Please do not plan on returning this book at the end of the course!

Course Policies

Canvas

Canvas is the primary platform for this course. Course announcements, assignments, grades, and other course materials will be available through Canvas. Students are expected to check Canvas regularly for updates, due dates, and course materials.

Assignment Expectations

Students are expected to complete all assignments to the best of their ability and in accordance with the stated assignment criteria.

- There is **no extra credit** available in this course.
- Assignments should represent your own original work and your best effort when submitted.
- Quizzes and the final exam may **not** be retaken

Assignment due dates are listed below. Please note that due dates vary throughout the course, so be sure to review each module carefully and check Canvas regularly.

Late Work

Assignments are due by the published deadline. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor or the absence is due to documented extenuating circumstances. Students who anticipate difficulty meeting a deadline should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Communication

Email is the preferred method of communication. Students may contact me through Canvas Inbox or by emailing **asoutherland@uttyler.edu**. I strive to respond to emails within **24–48 hours** during the work week. Emails sent over weekends or university holidays may receive a response on the next business day.

Written Assignments, Quizzes, and Exams

Unless otherwise noted, all written assignments, quizzes, and exams are **individual assignments**. Collaboration is permitted only when explicitly stated. Unauthorized collaboration is considered academic misconduct and will be handled in accordance with UT Tyler's Student Standards of Academic Conduct.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal,

philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

In this course,

*You may use AI programs e.g. ChatGPT to help generate ideas and brainstorm. However, you should note that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. Beware that use may also stifle your own independent thinking and creativity.

You may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own. If you include material generated by an AI program, it should be cited like any other reference material (with due consideration for the quality of the reference, which may be poor). *Any plagiarism or other form of cheating will be dealt with severely under relevant UT Tyler policies

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Unless otherwise stated, all submitted work should represent the student's own original work (or approved group work when collaboration is permitted). If you are unsure whether collaboration is appropriate for a particular assignment, please ask before submitting your work.

Code of Conduct

As graduate students and future educators, students are expected to demonstrate professionalism, respect, and integrity in all course interactions. This includes participating actively in course activities, meeting assignment deadlines, communicating respectfully with classmates and the instructor, and adhering to university policies. Together, we will foster a positive and collaborative learning environment that supports everyone's success.

Grading Scale

Writing Assignments	50%
Quizzes and Class Discussion	25%
Final Exam	25%

Modules, Dates, Topics

Dates	Readings/Assignments
STATE REQUIRED MODULES - ALL DUE Sunday NOV 29th	
ALL DUE Sunday NOV 29th **Upload to EDUC 5315 Canvas Course and GradTeach Canvas Course	- Dyslexia - Suicide Prevention - Mental Health (Part 1) - Mental Health (Part 2) - Mental Health (Part 3) - Substance Abuse Disorder - Texas Behavior Support Initiative (TBSI)
OBSERVATION HOURS AND REFLECTION PAPERS - ALL DUE Sunday NOV 29th (50 HOURS TOTAL - maximum of 15 hours online, the remaining hours must be completed in person)	
ALL DUE Sunday NOV 29th ** Upload to GradTeach Canvas Course ONLY	- Observation logs (virtual/in person) - 5 Reflections
“Start Here” Module	
October 12 - October 18th	<u>Read/View:</u> - About EDUC 5315 - Introduction to the course

	- Grad Teach Handbook <u>Assignments:</u> 1) Introduction Quiz - DUE Sunday Oct. 18th 2) Introductions Discussion Post - DUE Sunday Oct. 18th
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MODULE 1: Understanding Texas Schools	
Oct 12 th -Oct 25th	<u>Read/View:</u> - Introduction to Texas Schools - Understanding Texas School Lecture - (TEA Pocket Edition) - Texas Administrative Code - Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) - Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS) - Texas Principal Evaluation and Support System (T-PESS) <u>Assignments:</u> 1) Understanding Texas Schools Quiz - DUE Sunday Oct. 25th
MODULE 2: School Accountability	
Oct 26 th – November 1st	<u>Read/View:</u> - Introduction to Texas School Accountability - 2025 Chapter 1 Accountability Overview - 2025 Academic Accountability System Framework - No A-F Grades for Texas Schools as Judge Temporarily Blocks Release

	<u>Assignments:</u> 1) School Accountability Quiz - DUE Sunday Nov. 1st
MODULE 3: State Standards, Teaching & Learning	
November 2nd – November 15th	<u>Read/View:</u> - Standards-Based Instruction - Standards-Based Instruction Videos - Lesson Plan Assignment Instructions <u>Assignments:</u> 1) Standards-Based Lesson Plan - DUE Sunday Nov. 8th 2) Standards-Based Lesson Plan Peer Reviews - DUE Sunday Nov. 15th 3) Standards Based Quiz - DUE Sunday Nov. 15th
MODULE 4: School Law (2 parts)	
November 16 th – December 1st	<u>Part 1:</u> <u>Read/View:</u> - Introduction to School Law - Understanding Civil Rights and Education Law - Special Education - IDEA Fact Sheet - Accommodations vs. Modifications <u>Assignments:</u> 1) Mod 4 Part 1 Quiz - DUE Sunday Nov. 22nd <u>Part 2:</u> <u>Read/View:</u> - More Texas School Law - Student Records and Confidentiality - Child Abuse

	- Title IX - Copyright Assignments: 1) School Law Class Discussion Original Post - DUE Tuesday Dec. 1st 2) School Law Class Discussion Respond to at least 3 colleagues - DUE Thursday Dec. 3rd 3) School Law Class Discussion Updated Your Thinking - DUE Saturday Dec. 5th
Module 5: Professional Responsibilities	
November 16 th – December 5 th	Read/View: Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Assignments: 1) Diagnostic Exam - DUE Thursday Dec. 3rd 2) Learning Plan - DUE Thursday Dec. 3rd
November 29 th	- All Required State Module Certificates - DUE Sunday Nov. 29th - Observations Time Log & Observation Reflection Papers - DUE Sunday Nov. 29th
December 5 th	- Final Exam - DUE Saturday Dec. 5th

Note: This tentative schedule is subject to change as necessary. However, I pledge to adhere to it as much as possible. In the unlikely event of a prolonged university closing or an extended absence from the University, adjustments to the course schedule, deadlines, and/or assignments will be made based on the duration of the closing and the specific dates missed.

Observation & State-Required Modules

As required by the Texas Education Agency, students in initial teacher certification programs must complete a set of state-required modules and conduct hours of classroom observations early in the certification program. If you have not already done so, you must contact Mrs.

Sherman for additional information about the observation requirements and placement in a school to complete the observations. You may NOT reach out to a school on your own to conduct these observations.

The state-required modules are included in this course. While the completion of the state-required modules, observation, and reflections will not add points to your final grade, documentation that you have completed the state modules, have conducted the observation, and have written the 5 reflection papers must be submitted. Observation hours and reflection papers are only required to earn credit for this course if you have been placed at a school for the observations.

NOTE: Failure to submit the module certificates will result in an 'incomplete' in this course until the required documents are submitted.

NOTE: Failure to complete and document observation hours will prevent us from recommending you for a teaching certificate. These modules and observations are required by the Texas Education Agency, not a university requirement. The observations must be completed prior to starting clinical teaching or an internship.

School of Education (SOE) Mission

Mission: The School of Education prepares educators and leaders who transform lives through learning. Through excellence in teaching, scholarship, innovation, and partnership, we strengthen the educator workforce, advance educational opportunity, and improve outcomes for learners, schools, and communities across East Texas and beyond.

UT TYLER'S SCHOOL OF EDUCATION STANDARDS FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Texas Education Standards: The School of Education are committed to teaching and implementing the Texas Educator Standards at the highest level. The School of Education faculty use the Texas Education Standards, along with the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) standards used by educator preparation programs throughout the United States.

The list of Texas Education Standards can be accessed [here](#).

Access the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators can be accessed [here](#).

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

For a full list of university policies including information related to the topics listed below, click [here](#).

- Students Rights and Responsibilities
- Campus Carry
- Tobacco-Free University
- Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies
- State-Mandated Course Drop Policy
- Disability Services
- Student Absence due to Religious Observance
- Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities
- Social Security and FERPA Statement
- Emergency Exits and Evacuation
- Student Standards of Academic Conduct

UT Tyler Resources for Students:

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu, <http://www.uttyler.edu/writingcenter/>
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu, <https://www.uttyler.edu/tutoring/>
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, This is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254) <https://www.uttyler.edu/counseling/>

[University Guidelines, Links and Policies](#)