Course Syllabus

ED 590: Curriculum Alignment for School Improvement

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Ceretha Levingston
Office: 2901 Leopard Drive Texarkana, TX 75501
Office Phone: 903.832.1535 ext.1226
Email: ceretha.levingston@leisd.net

 Semester Credit Hours

3 credit hours

Course Description

Effective curriculum design and deep alignment are critical factors in maximizing student achievement. This course will focus on the tools that educators need to achieve deep alignment. The purpose of the course is to strengthen the knowledge and skills of educators as instructional designers and managers. Participants in the course will evaluate models for managing curriculum as they identify and research current and emerging issues in curriculum.

Course Delivery Method

ED 590: Curriculum Alignment for School Improvement is a combination of web-based and face to face meetings. Content will be delivered through Blackboard using PowerPoints, webinars, online discussion boards, online modules, video clips, and a variety of synchronous and asynchronous activities.

Required Texts


Student Learner Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will:

1. Identify the pros and cons of high –stakes testing in public schools as evidenced by submission of discussion board questions and responses with an accuracy level of 70% or above.
2. Identify the pros and cons of backloading and frontloading curriculum as evidenced by submission of discussion board questions and responses with an accuracy level of 70% or above.
3. Disaggregate test information using an authentic analysis of a student’s state-testing profile. Utilize proper steps to ensure confidentiality of student.
4. Illustrate their capability of designing curriculum for understanding by authentically designing units of study that link curriculum, instruction, and assessment at an accuracy level of 70% or above.

Methods of Evaluation

Examinations: A midterm and final examination will be administered. The exams will be comprehensive evaluations of all material covered in the course. The exams will include objective and subjective formats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
<th>Earned Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examinations</td>
<td>100 (2 @ 50)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Review (What works in Schools-Manzano, 2003)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Disaggregation Activity</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAAR Research Report</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep Curriculum Alignment Discussion Board</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding by Design Discussion Board</td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep Curriculum Alignment Chapter Review PowerPoints</td>
<td>50 (2@ 25)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pros/Cons High Stakes Testing</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You Tube Assignment</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grading Scale

A= 450-500 points
B= 400-449 points
C= 350-399 points
D= 300-349 points
F= 299 points or less

Student Participation

A. Participation Policy: Students are expected to participate via university website, Blackboard, and during face to face class meetings.

B. Course Etiquette: In the online learning environment students are expected to:
   • act in a professional, respectful manner in all online activities (e-mail, discussion boards, etc.).
   • post respectful responses using standard English composition (correct grammar, spelling, & punctuation).
   • be respectful of other students and the instructor.
   • read, understand, and follow the A&M-Texarkana Code of Conduct.

C. Online Materials:
   • Assignment guidelines and rubrics, lectures, handouts, and articles are available on the course Blackboard. Students are responsible for attempting to solve technology problems independently by reading directions, reading the Blackboard help information, viewing the Blackboard training video, or by asking other students or TAMUT technology staff for assistance.

D. Disability Accommodations: Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

E. Academic Integrity: Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source constitute academic dishonesty and may be grounds for a grade of ‘F’ in the course and/or disciplinary actions. For additional information, see the university catalog.

F. A & M-Texarkana Email Address: Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.
G. Student Technical Assistance:

- **Student Technical Assistance**: Solutions to common problems and FAQ's for your web-enhanced and online courses are found at this link: [http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/index.php?pageid=37](http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/index.php?pageid=37)
- If you cannot find your resolution there, you can send in a support request detailing your specific problem here: [http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/gethelp2.php](http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/gethelp2.php)
- Blackboard Helpdesk contacts:

  Office hours are: Monday - Friday, 8:00a to 5:00p

  Kevin Williams (main contact) 903-223-1356 *kevin.williams@tamut.edu*
  
  Frank Miller (alternate) 903-223-3156 *frank.miller@tamut.edu*
  
  Nikki Thomson (alternate) 903-223-3083 *nikki.thomson@tamut.edu*