

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA/RED DEER COLLEGE

Ethics and Law in Teaching



EDPS 410
Winter Term, 2010

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Time & Room:	M/W/F 9:00 – 11:50 Room 2301	Office Hours:	Drop in anytime or by appointment.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will examine the ethical and legal responsibilities of teachers. Among the topics addressed will be the following: ethical decision making; child abuse; freedom of speech and academic freedom in schools; parents' rights and teachers' professional autonomy; issues of equality such as inclusive education; teachers' private lives and public obligations; indoctrination and the teaching of values.

PREREQUISITE

Successful completion of the Introductory Professional Term.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

EDPS 410 will contribute to the knowledge, skills and attributes (KSAs) required for interim certification by helping you:

- understand the legal and ethical contextual variables that affect teaching and learning.
- understand the legal structure of the Alberta educational system.
- understand the importance of respecting students' human dignity.
- develop your personal overall vision of the purpose of teaching.

Refer to link for full list of KSAs

<http://education.alberta.ca/departments/policy/standards/teachqual.aspx>

REQUIRED TEXTS

EDPS 410. Ethics and Law In Teaching – Manual available in Bookstore

Young, J., Levin, B., & Wallin, D. (2007). Understanding Canadian schools (4th ed.). Toronto: Thomson Nelson.

PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE

Participation is one key to your success! Participating will help you to reflect upon your learning in a meaningful way. During the semester, you will be asked to participate in groups, discuss readings you have completed, etc.

- * Participation requires regular attendance . . .
- * Prepare for class by completing the assigned readings. Thinking about the course and relating it to others you are taking will also help you to gain the most from this course.
- * Learn with and from fellow students and talk with the instructor outside of class; these methods of participation may help you to internalize what you have learned.
- * Participate actively (and positively) in group discussions.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Midterm Exam	30%
Assignment	30%
Participation and Attendance	05%
Final Exam	35%

Note: The final grade is based on the University of Alberta Grading System. (See below.) For EDPS 410, the distribution marking system will be used.

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION GRADING POLICY for UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

In accordance with university regulations, instructors in courses offered by the Department of Elementary Education may use the absolute measures system, the distribution system, or a combination of the two for calculating final course letter grades. In the Absolute Grading System, students are not marked on a curve but attain their letter grade on the basis of the absolute raw score total they have earned through completion of the course. Under the absolute measures system the chart below will be used to convert raw scores to letter grades (e.g., 65% converts to a letter grade of C). Under the distribution or relative scoring system, the final grade is determined by the distribution of scores achieved by all of the students in the class. It could be that under this arrangement a score of 65% may be a letter grade other than C depending upon the score distribution of other students in the class. Under the combination system, the instructor uses a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in class to determine course letter grades. Instructors are required to announce at the beginning of the course the manner in which the official University grading system is to be implemented in the course.

Please note that in all instances, 50% is required for a minimal passing letter grade of D.

A+	exceptional performance with respect to course learning objectives; exhibits original, creative thinking and demonstrates a capacity to analyze critically and synthesize information; normally would only be achieved by a very small percentage of a class if at all
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- A excellent performance combined with strong evidence of critical thinking and would normally be achieved by relatively few students
- A- excellent performance with respect to course learning objectives and normally would be achieved by relatively few students but more than the number assigned a letter grade of A
- B+ very good achievement of course learning objectives
- B good to very good achievement of course learning objectives
- B- good achievement of course learning objectives
- C+ satisfactory to good achievement of course learning objectives
- C satisfactory achievement
- C- acceptable achievement but somewhat less than the normal expectation of course learning objectives
- D+ poor achievement with respect to course learning objectives
- D** *minimal pass*
- F unsatisfactory performance and considered a failing grade

Normally, the class median for courses will be the following:

- 300 level courses = B
- 400 level courses = B+

Evaluation Procedure for the Absolute Grading System

If the Absolute Grading System is being used and the entire course is based on a total of 100 raw score points, the following criteria will be used to determine a student's letter grade at the conclusion of the course:

Raw Score	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value (used to calculate GPA after final letter grades have been submitted)	Description
96-100	A+	4.0	excellent
92-95	A	4.0	
87-91	A-	3.7	
83-86	B+	3.3	
78-82	B	3.0	good
73-77	B-	2.7	
69-72	C+	2.3	satisfactory
64-68	C	2.0	
60-63	C-	1.7	

55-59	D+	1.3	poor
50-54	D	1.0	minimal pass
Less than 50	F	0.0	failure

“This course outline acts as an agreement between the student and the instructor of this class regarding the details of the course. These details, as listed in Section 61.6 of the GFC Policy Manual, may be changed only with the written unanimous consent of the class members.”

Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar.

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation or aiding and abetting any of these offences. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Article 26 – Code of Student Behaviour

- (2) **Plagiarism:** No student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the student’s own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, research project or assignment in a course or program of study.
- (3) **Cheating:** No student shall:
- c. submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project or assignment for which credit has previously been obtained by the student or which has been or is being submitted by the student in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.
 - d. submit in any course or program of study any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project or assignment containing a statement of fact known by the student to be false or a reference to a source which reference or source has been fabricated.

The Faculty of Education is committed to providing an environment of equality and respect for all people within the university community, and to educating faculty, staff and students in developing teaching and learning contexts that are welcoming to all. The Faculty recommends that students and staff use inclusive language to create a classroom atmosphere in which students’ experiences and views are treated with equal respect and value in relation to their gender, race, sexual orientation, and ethnic backgrounds.

A deferred final examination is a privilege extended to students meeting the criteria listed in Section 23.5.6(1) of the University of Alberta Calendar.