MLG 401.001 The Middle Level Learning Community – Spring 2016

Instructor: Dr. D. Michelle Williams
Course Time & Location:
Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45 AM
Office: ECRC 209AA
Credits: 2 hours
Office Phone: 936-468-1597
Email: williamsdm@sfasu.edu
Other Contact Information: 936-554-8510

Office Hours:
Monday: By Appointment
Tuesday: 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Thursday: 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Friday: By Appointment

Prerequisites: Admitted to Teacher Education and enrolled in Field Experience 1.

I. Course Description:

Examination of educational practice in the middle grades (4th - 8th) including trends and issues unique to the middle grades as they relate to the Texas Code of Ethics. Emphasis on broadening understanding of foundational components, organizational patterns, instructional programs and management techniques.

There is one critical assignment in this course that requires you to upload them into LiveText, our College of Education data management system: The Ideal Middle Level Design Project.

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

This course is aligned with the mission of the College of Education (COE), which is to prepare competent, successful, caring, and enthusiastic professionals dedicated to responsible service, leadership, and continued professional and intellectual development. The COE theme is “preparing professional educators who positively impact learning for all students.” In the COE at Stephen F. Austin State University, we are committed to the following core values:

- **Academic excellence** through critical, reflective, and creative thinking
- **Life-long learning**
- **Collaboration** and shared decision-making
- **Openness** to new ideas, to culturally diverse people, and to innovation and change
- **Integrity**, responsibility, diligence, and ethical behavior, and
• **Service** that enriches the community.

The Program Learning Objectives and Student Learning Objectives in this course align with the mission of preparing competent professionals and values of academic excellence, life-long learning, collaboration, openness, integrity, and service as you learn to instruct middle level learners. The Program Learning Objectives are aligned to the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) and the TExES PPR and 4/8 Content Standards. All content and assignments are aligned to these standards; this was assured as faculty aligned the curriculum during 2012-2014.

**PLOs and SLOs and corresponding Assessments**

**PLO 1**: The teacher candidates will understand the major concepts, principles, theories, and research related to young adolescent development, and they provide opportunities that support student development and learning (AMLE 1).

  Element A: Knowledge of Young Adolescent Development
  Element B: Implications of Young Adolescent Development for Middle Level Curriculum, Instruction and Schooling

  o SLO1.1 Candidates will understand human developmental processes and apply this knowledge to plan instruction and ongoing assessment that motivate students and are responsive to their developmental characteristics and needs by understanding the middle level schools philosophy.
    o SLO 1.1.1 Assessment - Shadow Study
    o SLO 1.1.2 Assessment – Journal Entries
    o SLO 1.1.3 Assessment - PLO 1 Middle Level Assessment (Post)(SPA #6)
    o SLO 1.1.4 Assessment - Mid-Term Exam
    o SLO 1.1.5 Benchmark I & PLO 2 Assessment - TExES PPR Exam (SPA #1)

**PLO 2**: The teacher candidates will understand and use the central concepts, tools of inquiry, standards, research and structures of content to plan and implement curriculum that develops all young adolescents’ competence in subject matter.

  Element A: Subject Matter Content
  • SLO 2.1: The teacher candidates will demonstrate knowledge and competency in their content area.
    o SLO Assessment 1: Review for TExES Content Certification Exam
      Benchmark Assessment I: TExES Content Certification Exam

**PLO 3** The teacher candidates will understand the major concepts, principles, theories, and research underlying the philosophical foundations of developmentally responsive middle level programs and schools, and they work successfully within these organizational components (AMLE 3).

  Element A: Middle Level Philosophical Foundations
Element B: Middle Level Organization and Best Practices
  o SLO 3.1 Candidates will understand ethical guidelines and district policies/procedures for managing behavior and know how to establish a classroom climate that fosters learning, equity, and excellence and uses this knowledge to create a physical and emotional environment that is safe and productive by creating a positive climate utilizing strategies for creating an organized and productive learning environment and for managing student behavior by a) establishing routines and procedures, b) designing appropriate schedules and use of time, 3) Understanding and practicing effective classroom management, d) effectively monitoring of students, 4) time management, 5) transitions, 6) managing/monitoring behavior, 7) safe physical spaces and accessibility (EC12 Texas PPR ST II)
  o SLO 1.1.1 Assessment - Shadow Study
  o SLO 1.1.2 Assessment – Journal Entries
  o SLO 1.1.3 Assessment - PLO 1 Middle Level Assessment (Post)(SPA #6)
  o SLO 1.1.4 Assessment – Quizzes and Exams
  o SLO 1.1.5 Benchmark I & PLO 2 Assessment - TExES PPR Exam (SPA #1)

PLO 5 The teacher candidates will understand the complexity of teaching young adolescents and they engage in practices and behaviors that develop their competence as professionals. (AMLE 5).

  Element A: Professional Roles of Middle Level Teachers
  Element B: Advocacy for Young Adolescents and Developmentally Responsible Schooling Practices
  Element C: Working with Family Members and Community Involvement
  Element D: Dispositions and Professional Behaviors
  o SLO 5.1 Candidates will understand and adhere to legal and ethical requirements for educators including PDAS, IDEA, FERPA, Discipline, child abuse, homeless, student records, and know the structure of education in Texas (EC12 Texas PPR ST IV).
    o SLO 5.1.1 Assessment - School Law Quiz
    o SLO 5.1.2 Assessment – Journal Entries
    o SLO 5.1.3 Assessment – Quizzes and Exams
    o SLO 5.1.4 Assessment - Professionalism grades

  o SLO 5.2 Candidates will enhance professional knowledge and skills by understand their non-instructional duties, effectively interacting with other members of the educational community (including the types of interactions among professionals, ways to contribute to schools, roles of paraprofessionals and volunteers), and participating in various types of professional activities to understand the importance of professional development (EC12 Texas PPR ST IV).
    o SLO 5.2.1 Assessment - Classroom Management Plan
    o SLO 5.2.2 Assessment – Journal Entries
    o SLO 5.2.3 Assessment – Quizzes and Exams
III. Course Assignments, Activities, Instructional Strategies, use of Technology:

Participation and Professionalism
- Five points given for each class active, professional participation in the activities and discussions. 20 points for joining and participating in CMLA or other professional or service organizations and 10 points for participation in one service learning activity. 140 points (PLOs 1, 3, 5 and SLOs SLOs 1.1, 3.1,2, 5.1,2,3)
- Letter to Mentor Teacher (20 points)

Practicum Journal Entries
- Due each week when you come to class 10 pts each – 100 points total (PLOs 1,3, 5 and SLOs 1.1, 3.1,2, 5.1,2, and 3)

Assignments (50 points each for 150 pts.)
- Classroom Management Plan – 50 points (PLOs 1, 3, 5 and SLOs 1.1, 3.1,2, 5.1,2,3)
  Shadow Study – 50 points (PLOs 1, 3 and SLOs 1.1 and 3.1,2)
- Ideal Middle School Design – 100 points (PLOs 1, 3, 5 and SLOs 1.1, 3.1,2, 5.1,2,3)
- Review for TExES Content Certification Exam (SLO Assessment 1) 50 pts.

Exams
- Mid-Term Activity – project draft – 50 points (PLOs 1, 3, 5 and SLOs 1.1, 3.1,2, 5.1,2,3)
- Post Middle Level Assessment 20 points (PLOs 1, 3, 5 and SLOs 1.1, 3.1,2, 5.1,2,3)
- School Law Quiz 20 points (PLO 5 and SLOs 5.1.1)
- Final Reflection 20 points (PLOs 1, 3, 5 and SLOs 1.1, 3.1,2, 5.1,2,3)

TeXes Review for content exam (PLO 2) 50 points
Students will use technology in the class to make presentations and also at their practicum sites as they work with their mentor teachers.

* This assignments must be submitted into LiveText for accountability and accreditation purposes. Failure to submit into LiveText will result in loss of credit for the assignment.

IV. Evaluation and Assessments (Grading):

Grading Scale:
- A (100-90%)
- B (89-80%)
- C (79-70%)
- F (69% or below)

If you do not upload the required documents into LiveText, you will not receive credit for those assignments.

In order to receive an “A” in this course, ALL assignments must be completed. Failure to complete any assignment will result in a zero for that particular assignment and an automatic reduction of the course grade earned by one letter grade for each missed assignment, regardless of the total number of points earned.

V. Tentative Course Outline/Calendar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jan. 19</th>
<th>Morning Meeting, Introduction to the course, syllabus, procedures, etc.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>Practicum Orientation 9:00 a.m. ECRC Room 211</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 25</td>
<td>Practicum Orientation at schools with principals (times to be announced)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 26</td>
<td>Morning Meeting - Chapter 1 School Law, Introduction to Middle Level Education, Read This We Believe Chapters 1 and 2. Journal 1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 27</td>
<td>First Day at Field Experience site from 7:45-11:45</td>
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<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>Chapter 2 School Law, Introduce Middle Level Project and form groups.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>Morning Meeting - School Law Chapter 3 and 4 This We Believe (remaining chapters) Journal 2.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 4</td>
<td>Read assigned middle level concept article to share.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 9</td>
<td>Morning Meeting - Read and present assigned articles on middle level concept. Journal 3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>Read School Law Chapters 5-6 – Brainstorm with Groups.</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Morning Meeting - School Law Chapters 7-8. <strong>Journal 4.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 18</td>
<td>Read <em>School Law</em> chapters 9-10. Law Scenarios.</td>
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<td>Feb. 23</td>
<td>Morning Meeting Setting up your classroom Read Wong – pages 80-123. <strong>Journal 5.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 1</td>
<td>Morning Meeting - Read <em>Working with Students</em> (Payne) Chapters 1, 3 and 4. <strong>Take Quiz on School Law in D2L. Journal 6.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 3</td>
<td>Behavior Situations – and scenarios. Read Behavior Position cards and bring to class with you.</td>
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<td>Mar. 8</td>
<td>Morning Meeting - Read Payne’s Working with Parents – Handling Difficult Conversations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 10</td>
<td>Ideal Middle Level School Design Draft Due.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 15 and 17</td>
<td>Have a great Spring Break!!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 22</td>
<td>Morning Meeting - Working with Parents – Read Working with Parents (Payne) Role Play <strong>Journal 7.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 24</td>
<td>Happy Easter!!!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 29</td>
<td>Morning Meeting – Classroom Management Plan Activity - <strong>Journal 8.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 31</td>
<td>School Climate. Read Wong pages 37-68.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 5</td>
<td>Morning Meeting - <strong>Classroom Management plan</strong></td>
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<td>Apr. 7</td>
<td>Intro to RTI - Read assigned chapter of Response to Intervention and be ready to present to class.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 12</td>
<td>Morning Meeting - RTI Presentations. <strong>Journal 9.</strong></td>
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<td>Apr. 14</td>
<td>RTI scenario activity.</td>
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<td>Apr. 19</td>
<td>Morning Meeting - ELL Students and RTI. <strong>Journal 10.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 21</td>
<td>ELL and RTI continued – <strong>Shadow Study Due.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 26</td>
<td>Morning Meeting - Middle Level Activity – Work on Ideal Middle Level Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 28</td>
<td>Review for Post Middle Level Assessment and work on Ideal Middle Level Project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Ideal Middle Level School Design Project Presentations.</td>
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</tbody>
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May 5
Ideal Middle School Design Project Presentations. **Ideal Middle School Design Project due in LiveText, D2L, and in class. Take Post Middle Level Assessment in D2L. Final reflection is due.** Last Class Day

May 10 & 12
No Final Exam in this Class.

VI. Readings (Required and recommended—including texts, websites, articles, etc.):

7. LiveText account, ISBN# 978-0-979-6635-4-3. This may be purchased at the bookstore or purchased online at [www.livetext.com](http://www.livetext.com). If you have already purchased LiveText, you will use that account and do not need to buy it again. Note: if you plan to use financial aid to purchase this account, you must do so by the date set by financial aid (**Required**).

In this course you must purchase and activate the LiveText add-on, Field Experience Module (FEM), PRIOR to your first day of field experience/clinical teaching. Failure to purchase and activate the account and/or submit the required assignment(s) within the FEM system may result in course failure. FEM must be purchased from [www.livetext.com](http://www.livetext.com) for a fee of $18.00.

8. All other required reading is located in the content modules of the course (**Required**).

VII. Course Evaluations:

Near the conclusion of each semester, students in the College of Education electronically evaluate courses taken within the COE. Evaluation data is used for a variety of important purposes including:

1. Course and program improvement, planning, and accreditation;
2. Instruction evaluation purposes;
3. Making decisions on faculty tenure, promotion, pay, and retention.
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In the COE, 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.

You will receive 5 bonus points for completing this important evaluation.

VIII. Student Ethics and Other Policy Information:

Attendance

Active participation in classroom activities is very important in this class. Students who are absent (for any reason) do not receive the five points for the classes session missed. You cannot make up the activities that you miss in class. Mid-term and final activities must be completed on the day scheduled during the regular class session. No points will be awarded for the mid-term and final. Students who have more than two unexcused absences will have their final grade reduced by one letter grade.

Regular class attendance and participation is required of all students. Students must be in attendance from the beginning of all courses to qualify for financial aid. Students reported for non-attendance or non-participation in any or all of their courses could have their financial aid withdrawn. This is due to federal financial aid requirements. Students reported as not attending when your census day course rosters are submitted may lose their financial aid.

See also: http://www.sfasu.edu.upp/pap/academic_affairs/CLASS_ATTENDANCE_AND_EXCUSE.html

It is extremely important to be in class and on time. Two tardies (more than five minutes late) will equal one absence and 5 points will be deducted from the professionalism grade.

Late Work
Assignments are due as assigned. **Late work will not be accepted except with prior arrangements from the instructor.** All work must be completed to receive an A in the course.

**Students with Disabilities (policy 6.1 and 6.6))**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 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/disabilitieservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilitieservices/).

**Academic Integrity (policy 4.1)**

Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students.

**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; and/or;
- 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; and/or,
- 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 6.5)

At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, 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, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, 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 (Policy 10.4)

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. 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 policy 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 or call the office at 936-468-2703.

Additional Information:

To complete Certification/Licensing Requirements in Texas related to public education and other professional settings, you will be required to:
1. Undergo criminal background checks for field or clinical experiences on public school campuses; the public school campuses are responsible for the criminal background check; YOU are responsible for completing the information form requesting the criminal background check. If you have a history of criminal activity, you may not be allowed to complete field or clinical experiences on public school campuses. At that point, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

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 www.texas.ets.org/registrationBulletin/ <http://www.texas.ets.org/registrationBulletin/>). 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 concerning this matter, contact Katie Snyder 936-468-1740
or snyderke1@sfasu.edu.

LiveText Statement:

This course uses the LiveText data management system to collect critical
assessments for students who are Perkins College of Education majors
(undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral) or majors in other colleges seeking
educator certification through the Perkins College of Education. Students who
do not have an existing LiveText account will receive an access code via the
SFA email system within the first week of class. You will be required to register
your LiveText account, and you will be notified how to do this via email. If you
forward your SFA e-mail to another account and do not receive an e-mail
concerning LiveText registration, please be sure to check your junk mail folder
and your spam filter for these e-mails.

If you have questions about obtaining or registering your LiveText
account, call ext. 1267 or e-mail SFALiveText@sfasu.edu. Once LiveText
is activated, if you have technical questions, call ext. 7050 or e-
mail livetext@sfasu.edu. Failure to activate the account and/or submit the
required assignment(s) within the LiveText system may result in course failure.

IX. Other Relevant Course Information:

Professionalism:

Enthusiastic completion of the course activities is of utmost importance in demonstrating
commitment to becoming a responsible teacher. Mastery and professional products
reflect quality work and reflect on the work you will produce as a teacher. Attitude and
confidentiality are essential in determining the teacher’s potential as a successful
educator. Gossiping is a reflection of negativism, lack of maturity, and integrity. If
problems occur, go to your university professor: you will find that others’ attitudes are
easily influenced through negativity.

Cell phones should be turned off during class. Texting during class is not a
professional behavior. Violations of this policy will result in a reduction of your
professionalism grade (Conduct in class).