



**MIDWESTERN
STATE UNIVERSITY**

A Member of the Texas Tech University System

Course Syllabus: EDLE 6013 Politics and Community Relations

Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education
EDLE-6013-X10 Politics and Community Relations
Fall Semester 2026: August 24 – December 11, 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Daniel L. Frazier, Ed.D.
Office: Bridwell Hall, Room 222
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 - 11:00 A.M., Wednesday, 1:00
- 2:00 P.M., and by appointment.
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Instructor Response Policy

The best way to contact me is through email. I usually respond quickly. You can expect a response within 24 hours; however, it could be a little longer on weekends or holidays.

Course Description

This course is an in-depth study of political and community relations issues faced by the public school superintendent. Communications, partnerships, consensus-building, media relations, working with diverse groups, and superintendent-board working relationships will be studied.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Fiore, Douglas (2026) *School-Community Relations*, Sixth Edition. Routledge.
ISBN 978103291349. eBook ISBN 978100356274.

Balch, Bradley V. "Brad", and Adamson, Michael T. (2017). *Building Great School Board-Superintendent Teams: A Systematic Approach to Balancing Roles and Responsibilities*. Solution Tree Press. ISBN 10: 1945349131 / ISBN 13: 9781945349133

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

Specific learning objectives for the course derive from the standards outlined below. Satisfactory completion of the course will document that students have demonstrated the ability to satisfy the following standards:

See Appendix A: NELP District Standards

Major Goals of the Course

The major goals of this course are to

- Explore various political aspects and challenges facing the school superintendency. Concepts as power, politics and ethics as they relate to educational reform movements and role relationships will be addressed.
- Develop understanding of the dynamics which directly affect the superintendent's behavior, as well as school board and community relationships.
- Increase need for system thinking as it relates to change leadership.
- Develop an understanding of the dimensions of power, politics and ethics with specific responsibility of the superintendent behavior, understanding special interest groups, and managing resistance to change.

These goals will be achieved through readings, writing, reflection, and application of new knowledge and skills.

Grading/Assessment

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Calculated/Due</u>
Participation: Discussion & Activities	70	(14 mods X 5 pts)
Participation: Online Class Sessions	15	(5 sessions X 5 pts)
Correspondence with Legislators	40	(4 msgs X 10 pts)
News Releases	40	(4 msgs X 10 pts)
Radio and Video Interviews	20	(2 X 10 pts)
Social Media Post	5	Due October 18
Power Structure Diagram & Analysis	30	Due December 6
TOTAL POINTS	220	

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
A	198 to 220
B	176 to 197
C	154 to 175
D	132 to 153
F	Less than 132

Syllabus Changes or Updates

This syllabus is subject to change based on a variety of factors that may impact the hybrid course design.

Exams

Traditional examinations are not a part of this class. Instead, authentic assessments will be utilized. This means grades will be determined based upon submitted projects, performances, and papers.

Projects Required

There will be a weekly online discussion based on assigned readings. Additionally, there are two brief papers and one major paper, along with submissions in support of the major paper. Please see descriptions of each within the course.

Extra Credit

As this is graduate work, extra credit assignments are unavailable.

Late Work

Work should be completed and submitted on time. Any issues that affect your timeliness should be discussed with the instructor.

Attendance/Participation

Regular online participation is required. Please attend to discussions in a timely manner, and watch the proffered videos, and complete the assigned tasks for each module. Professional dialogue opportunities are part of this class; participation will be considered part of the grade.

Attendance Policy

Our projected dates for the Tuesday class meetings are

Tuesday, September 1, 2026:	7:00-8:00 P.M.
Tuesday, October 13, 2026:	7:00-8:00 P.M.
Tuesday, November 17, 2026:	7:00-8:00 P.M.

Class meetings take place online with a video-conference application.

Regular attendance is expected. If a class must be missed, please discuss it with the professor beforehand. If an emergency arises, please either telephone or email the professor, if possible.

One of the cornerstones to the WCOE Ed.D. experience is the opportunity to interact with colleagues from across other campuses, districts, and professions. To this end, I hold Tuesday meetings three times per semester. Students are expected to maintain a physical and professional engagement in these experiences. However, we do understand some circumstances cannot be avoided. Therefore, we have established the following policy:

- 1 absence = make up required experiences/coursework with colleagues
- 2 absences = final grade will be lowered by one letter and make up required experiences/coursework with colleagues
- 3 absences = Failing

Quality Requirements

"Turning in" all assignments is not enough to ensure an "A" in the course. Quality of work turned in on time is the most important criterion for receiving an "A."

Expectations for Written Work

- Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling are expected on all written assignments (although web discussions are not held to the high standard of a research project or other written assignment).
- Written assignments should be done in Microsoft Word and turned in as an attachment in Dropbox on D2L.
- Discussions should be completed within the D2L discussion space and NOT uploaded as an attachment.
- Due dates should be honored in order to receive the highest grade.
- When referring to the ideas of others, works should be cited using the APA format.

Adhering to Professional Ethics

When using professional sources in your writing, please cite sources you have used or ideas you have adapted when completing assignments. Use of copyrighted materials must adhere to legal and ethical guidelines. If part of an assignment is submitted for credit in more than one course, both professors must pre-approve this dual credit and the dual use should be referenced clearly on both assignments.

Artificial Intelligence

Advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) have now provided generative and creative applications such as Chat GPT, Google Gemini, Claude, Guru, Perplexity, and others. Certainly, these tools can be quite useful in the learning process; however, the content AI generates does not represent the effort and learning of the student. Submitting AI generated work in place of the original and genuine work of the student will be considered a form of academic misconduct.

Online Posts and Mutual Respect

Remember that there are other human beings reading your postings, so treat everyone with respect. Don't post anything you wouldn't be willing to communicate face to face. Distance conveys a degree of anonymity. It is for this reason that we must be cognizant of our postings online. You are provided with Netiquette Guidelines and Rules for Discussion Posts. Please observe them.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. *Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. *Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!! There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations; however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Recording Classes

*Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission. Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law

require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting

Laura Hetrick
Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213
laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at
https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout_id=6

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit
<https://msutexas.edu/titleix/>

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***NOTICE:**

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

Week/Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Module 1 8/24 to 8/30	Read Article: How Social Media Rewards Misinformation Read Paper: Fake news, disinformation and misinformation in social media: a review Read about the News Release at the end of Chap. 7.	Aug. 30
Module 2 8/30 to 9/6	Read Fiore, Chapters 1 & 2: Public Opinion & Taking the Pulse.	Sep. 6
Module 3 9/6 to 9/13	Read Fiore, Ch 3 & 4: Everybody's Role & Everybody's Job. First letter due.	Sep. 13
Module 4 9/13 to 9/20	Fiore, Chapters 5 & 6: Internal Publics; External Publics. News Release #1 Due.	Sep. 20
Module 5 9/20 to 9/27	Chapters 7 & 8, Relationships with the Media. Radio Interview Due.	Sep. 27
Module 6 9/27 to 10/4	Chap. 11 & 12: Saying/ Mean & Communicating in Crisis. Legislator #2 Due.	Oct. 4
Module 7 10/4 to 10/11	Chap. 9 & 10, Social Networks. News Release #2 Due.	Oct. 11
Module 8 10/11 to 10/18	Read Fiore, Chapters 13 & 14. Social Media Post Due.	Oct. 18
Module 9 10/18 to 10/25	Balch and Adamson, Intro & Chap 1 & 2: Legal Perspectives & New Team Orientation Message to Legislator #3 Due.	Oct. 25
Module 10 10/25 to 11/1	Balch and Adamson, Chapters 3 & 4. News Release #3 Due.	Nov. 1
Module 11 11/1 to 11/8	Balch and Adamson, Chapters 5 & 6: Teams. Online Television Interview Due.	Nov. 8
Module 12 11/8 to 11/15	Balch and Adamson, Chapters 7 & 8. Message to Legislator #4 Due.	Nov. 15
Module 13 11/15 to 11/22	Balch and Adamson, Chapters 9 & 10: During Change & Dysfunctional. News #4 Due.	Nov. 22
Module 14 11/22 to 11/29	Work on Power Structure Analysis	Nov. 29
Module 15 11/29 to 12/6	Balch and Adamson, Chapters 11 & 12: Evaluation & The Future. Power Structure Analysis Due.	Dec. 6