



Course Syllabus: EDLE 6063 Advanced Education Law

Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education
EDLE-6063-DX1/EDLE-6063-X10
Spring Semester 2024: January 16 - May 10, 2024

Contact Information

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Instructor Communication

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.

Syllabus Changes or Updates

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

Required Textbooks

James, B. (2020). *Education policy and the law: cases and commentary* (2nd Ed.). Lake Mary, FL: Vandeplas Publishing. ISBN 978-1-60042-518-9.

Course Description

Focuses on legal and policy issues of particular concern to top-level educational policymakers and administrators. Topics include such complex issues as the role of the state in education, parental rights, school choice and vouchers, privatization, religion on campus, and legal liability for constitutional wrongs.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

The purpose of this course is to provide graduate level students in educational administration the opportunity to expand their knowledge and appreciation for fiscal and legal issues affecting education. The goal of the course is to introduce the student to concepts and issues beyond the beginning level courses in school finance and school law. Basically, this course should help you understand how

our schools have arrived at their current condition and what the future holds for them both legally and financially.

Grading/Assessment

Multiple opportunities present themselves for a student to present knowledge and understanding of key legal issues that affect public schools today. This course is delivered through a Socratic/traditional law school style modified to meet delivery methods of today. In addition, some topics are presented for discussion posts. Credit is awarded for case briefs (online) along with participation in discussions.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment.

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Calculated</u>
Weekly Case Briefs	250	(25 briefs X 10 pts)
Discussion Post Participation	45	(9 posts X 5 pts)
Saturday Class Participation	15	(3 X 5 pts)
Saturday Class Case Presentations	40	(2 X 20 pts)
Midterm Examination	50	Due March 10
Final Examination	100	Due May 5
TOTAL POINTS	500	

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
A	450 to 500
B	400 to 449
C	350 to 399
D	300 to 349
F	Less than 300

Attendance Policy

Our projected dates for the Saturday courses in the spring are:

Saturday, January 20, 2024:	1:00-4:00 P.M.
Saturday, March 2, 2024:	1:00-4:00 P.M.
Saturday, April 27, 2024:	1:00-4:00 P.M.

Locations of the Saturday sessions are yet to be determined.

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, we hold Saturday classes three times per long 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

COVID policy – if a student is quarantined due to COVID, that student may Zoom a Saturday class. Under these circumstances a student will be required to provide documentation of quarantine requirements from his/her public health district or health care provider.

Attendance/Participation

Regular online participation is required. Please attend to discussions in a timely manner. Professional dialogue opportunities are part of this class; participation will be considered part of the grade.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2023-24](#)

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](#).

Artificial Intelligence

Advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) have now provided generative and creative applications such as Chat GPT, Google Bard, Google Sparrow, and others. Certainly, these tools can be quite useful in the learning process; however, the content they generate do 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.

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.

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.

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.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: January 19, 2024. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: February 12, 2024. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" March 25, 2024. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

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) exists 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 Clark Student Center, Room 168, (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](#).

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 MSU TEXAS. 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 [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). 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."](#)

Notice

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

Course Schedule

<u>Week or Module</u>	<u>Activities/Assignments/Exams</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Week 1 1/16 to 1/21	Read the syllabus and explore the course content. Have three cases ready for Saturday class.	January 20, 2024
<i>Saturday Class</i> <i>1/20/2024</i>	<i>Class meets 1:00 to 4:00 (apprx.).</i>	
Week 2 1/22 to 1/28	Parental Rights. School Choice: Home School, Charter Schools, and Voucher Programs.	January 28, 2024
Week 3 1/29 to 2/4	Students and Procedural Due Process, On and "Off-Campus".	February 4, 2024
Week 4 2/5 to 2/11	Faculty and Staff Procedural Due Process, pp. 263-280.	February 11, 2024
Week 5 2/12 to 2/18	The Fourth Amendment: Searches and Seizures, pp. 282-336.	February 18, 2024
Week 6 2/19 to 2/25	Safe Schools, pp. 401-418.	February 25, 2024
Week 7 2/26 to 3/3	Discrimination, pp. 471-540.	March 3, 2024
<i>Saturday Class</i> <i>3/2/2024</i>	<i>Class meets 1:00 to 4:00 (apprx.).</i> <i>Case Presentations:Discrimination.</i>	
Week 8 3/4 to 3/10	Interrogations and Excessive Force, pp. 419-470.Midterm Exam.	March 10, 2024
<i>3/10 to 3/17</i>	<i>No School. Enjoy Spring Break.</i>	
Week 9 3/18 to 3/24	Title IX, pp. 545-598.	March 24, 2024
Week 10 3/25 to 3/31	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), pp. 624-670	March 31, 2024
Week 11 4/1 to 4/7	Student Free Speech, pp. 671-700.	April 7, 2024
Week 12 4/8 to 4/14	Faculty and Staff: Free Speech, pp. 721-740.	April 14, 2024
Week 13 4/15 to 4/21	Sundry Others: FERPA, HIPAA, California Teachers Assc (2016), Janus v. AFSCME (2018)	April 21, 2024
Week 14 4/22 to 4/28	The Establishment Clause, pp. 778-805.	April 28, 2024
<i>Saturday Class</i> <i>4/27/2024</i>	<i>Class meets 1:00 to 4:00 (apprx.).</i> <i>Case Presentations: Establishment.</i>	
Week 15 4/29 to 5/5	Final Examination.	May 5, 2024

Appendix A: Standards/Competencies

Course Objectives or Student Learning Outcomes	Standard or Competency
Student will respond to a district level issue within legal boundaries	NELP Standard 2 (2.1-2.3), Standard 3 (3.1-3.2), Standard 5 (5.1-5.3), Standard 6 (6.1), Standard 7 (7.1-7.4)

Appendix B: Standards/Competencies

Assignment/Module/ Course Activities	Standard or Competency
Final Examination	NELP Standard 2 (2.1-2.3), Standard 3 (3.1-3.2), Standard 5 (5.1-5.3), Standard 6 (6.1), Standard 7 (7.1-7.4)

NELP district-Level Standards:

<https://www.npbea.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/NELP-DISTRICT-Standards.pdf>