



On-Campus Course Syllabus

EDU 406

EC-6th Science Instructional Methods

Spring 2023

Class Information

Day and Time: Monday-7:15pm – 10:00pm

Room Number: E202

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Shelby Wilson

Instructor Email: swilson@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 469-583-4588

Instructor Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description and Prerequisites

Emphasizes the instructional strategies specifically used in teaching science content according to EC-6th grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in physical science, life science, earth and space science, and universal processes that are common to all sciences. The course also includes the supervision of labs and activities in a safe and professional way, appropriate assessment practices to monitor science learning, and guided individual and group inquiry. **Nine clock hours of field experience are required for this course. Failure to complete the 9 hours of field observation will result in an automatic failure in the course.**

(Prerequisite: EDU 301)

Course Objectives

1. Survey inquiry learning strategies and techniques to use science to teach thinking.
2. Gain an understanding of the goals and objectives for science instruction in Texas elementary schools.
3. Use the skills understanding of science concepts necessary to be an effective EC-6th grade science teacher.
4. Use appropriate teaching strategies to meet the developmental learning needs of EC-6th grade learners.
5. Become familiar with the names and contributions of scientist and their relevance to students.
6. Plan appropriate and differentiated instruction and assessment based on the developmental characteristics of learners.
7. Plan a unit of science instruction for a selected group of EC-6th grade learners.
8. Incorporate a rich reading and writing experiences in the study of the science through the incorporation of children's literature.
9. Become familiar with safety issues and practices in the EC-6th grade science classroom.
10. Develop a list of scriptures that support various scientific concepts.

Recommended Reading

(DeRosa, D. & Abruscato, J., Teaching Children Science: A Discovery Approach, Ninth Edition, Boston: Pearson Education, 2019. ISBN: 10: 0-13-474287-7

Course Requirements and Assignments

***This course requires a minimum of NINE (9) clock hours of on-site teaching sessions during a Field Experience. *Failure to complete the 9 hours of field observation will result in an automatic failure in the course.**

*****Please be prepared to turn in work at the beginning of class on the due date specified unless otherwise stated by the professor. *****

1. Weekly class notes, Class Participation/Demos, Test Prep Questions and Discussion: You are expected to keep a spiral or electronic notebook of class notes, class discussion, class demonstrations and test prep questions. You are to maintain it throughout the semester.

DUE: 5/1

POINTS: 20 points

2. Scriptural Topic Index: You will be given God's Truth in Science. You are to choose one verse for each topic, type the verse out and include a reference. You are to include the science topic and subtopics. (*Earth/Space Science, Life Science, Physical Science*)

DUE: 2/27

POINTS: 5 points

3. Resource Pack: This assignment is to aid you in developing your own list of resources which are available to you as an educator. You will collect **10 resources** in each of the following categories: museums, children's literature, field trip opportunities, films and videos, internet sites, and computer software or licenses. Your resource pack is to be typed with one category on each page.

DUE: 3/6

POINTS: 5 points

4-9. Unit Plan/ Concept Lesson Plans: You will write a lesson plan for science topics in your text. (*Earth/Space Science, Life Science, or Physical Science*) You must include the TEKS. These are to be typed and you must include formats as reviewed in class. You will **teach** these lessons as part of your 9 hours of field experience. Each lesson is to be student centered, hands-on/inquiry based, incorporate technology and be interactive. You are to incorporate writing or a reading concept as a component of your lesson.

DUE: 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 4/24

POINTS: 10 points each (50 points total)

10. Field Experience Journal: You will keep a field experience journal, recording your observations and responses to your taught science lessons. Focus questions will guide your responses and will be provided by the instructor. You will turn in a total of six (6) entries. The journal will be shared with your peers and the instructor. This assignment is to be typed.

DUE: 5/8

POINTS: 10 points

12. **Final Project:** After investigating what constitutes a quality science program, you will design a science unit of study. You will choose the appropriate grade level for your unit. It may range from K through 6th grade. The unit is to consist of five (5) lesson plans (one plan for each day of the week). All five (5) lesson plans are to follow the form that will be covered in class. You will fully explain your unit and demonstrate one of the lessons at the time of presentation. Your presentation is to be from 15-20 minutes in length. **This project is your Final Exam in the course and is to be presented in class.**
Final day to present: Monday, 5/8 POINTS: 10 points

Course/Classroom Policies and Information

Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC–12 Standard I

The teacher designs instruction appropriate for all students that reflects an understanding of relevant content and is based on continuous and appropriate assessment.

Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC–12 Standard II The teacher creates a classroom environment of respect and rapport that fosters a positive climate for learning, equity and excellence.

Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC–12 Standard III The teacher promotes student learning by providing responsive instruction that makes use of effective communication techniques, instructional strategies that actively engage students in the learning process and timely, high-quality feedback.

Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC–12 Standard IV The teacher fulfills professional roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.

Technology Applications Standard I All teachers use technology-related terms, concepts, data input strategies and ethical practices to make informed decisions about current technologies and their applications.

Technology Applications Standard II All teachers identify task requirements, apply search strategies and use current technology to efficiently acquire, analyze and evaluate a variety of electronic information.

Technology Applications Standard III All teachers use task-appropriate tools to synthesize knowledge, create and modify solutions and evaluate results in a way that supports the work of individuals and groups in problem-solving situations.

Technology Applications Standard IV All teachers communicate information in different formats and for diverse audiences.

Technology Applications Standard V All teachers know how to plan, organize, deliver and evaluate instruction for all students that incorporates the effective use of current technology for teaching and integrating the Technology Applications Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) into the curriculum.

Core Subjects EC-6 Standards:

Science Standard I The science teacher manages classroom, field and laboratory activities to ensure the safety of all students and the ethical care and treatment of organisms and specimens.

Science Standard II The science teacher understands the correct use of tools, materials, equipment and technologies.

Science Standard III The science teacher understands the process of scientific inquiry and its role in science instruction.

Science Standard IV The science teacher has theoretical and practical knowledge about teaching science and about how students learn science.

Science Standard V The science teacher knows the varied and appropriate assessments and assessment practices to monitor science learning.

Science Standard VI The science teacher understands the history and nature of science.

Science Standard VII The science teacher understands how science affects the daily lives of students and how science interacts with and influences personal and societal decisions.

Science Standard VIII The science teacher knows and understands the science content appropriate to teach the statewide curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills [TEKS]) in physical science.

Science Standard IX The science teacher knows and understands the science content appropriate to teach the statewide curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills [TEKS]) in life science.

Science Standard X The science teacher knows and understands the science content appropriate to teach the statewide curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills [TEKS]) in Earth and Space science.

Science Standard XI The science teacher knows unifying concepts and processes that are common to all sciences.

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Instructors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual instructors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

Campus Closure

To ensure the health and safety of students and employees, college administrators may decide it is necessary on rare occasions to close the campus. Once this decision is announced, instructors will contact students to provide

further details regarding the campus closure’s impact on those courses. Students are responsible to watch for communication from their instructors and respond appropriately. (Unless otherwise specified by the instructor in this syllabus, this communication will be sent to the student’s Criswell College e-mail account.)

In order to make progress toward the courses’ objectives, instructors have the freedom during most campus closures to require students to participate in activities as alternatives to meeting on campus. An instructor may, for example, hold class remotely (through Zoom) at the scheduled time, provide a recording of a class or presentation for students to watch independently, or assign other activities that students are to accomplish before returning to campus. Students are responsible for accomplishing these alternative activities as well as any course requirements listed in this syllabus during the period of the campus closure. If, during the period of the campus closure, personal circumstances prohibit a student from accomplishing these alternative activities or course requirements and assignment listed in the syllabus during the campus closure, the student is responsible for communicating with the instructor as soon as possible. Instructors will not penalize students who do not have the means to accomplish the alternative activities during the period of the campus’s closure and will work with students whose circumstances during the campus closure prohibited their timely completion of course requirements and assignments in the syllabus.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-59	0.0 grade points per semester hour

Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An “I” may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their instructors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar’s Office. The “I” must be

removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the close of the term or semester in which the grade was awarded, or the “I” will become an “F.”

Academic Honesty

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

Institutional Assessment

Material submitted by students in this course may be used for assessment of the college’s academic programs. Since programmatic and institutional assessment is done without reference to specific students, the results of these assessments have no effect on a student’s course grade or academic standing at the college. Before submitting a student’s work for this type of assessment, the course instructor redacts the work to remove anything that identifies the student.

Institutional Email Policy

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students’ institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

Disabilities

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the instructor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

Resources and Supports

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at studenttechsupport@criswell.edu.

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or studentservices@criswell.edu. The Student Services Office also works with local counseling centers to ensure that every student has access to helpful mental health resources. More information is located on the college website at [Criswell College Mental Health Resources](#), and students may contact the Director of Student Services if they have any questions.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by contacting or visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu. Offsite login information is available in Canvas in the “Criswell Student Training Course” under “Library Information.”

Tutoring Center: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence in any subject matter taught at the college. Tutors have been recommended by the faculty to ensure that the tutor(s) are qualified to serve the student body. Every tutor brings experience and expertise in an effort to provide the proper resources for the subject matter at hand. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203, or schedule an appointment by emailing tutoringcenter@criswell.edu or by calling 214.818.1373.

Course Outline/Calendar

	Date(s)	Discussion Topic	Reading Assignment	Assignment Due Date (Monday)
January				
	1/23	Introductions Syllabus Explanation		
	1/30	Science Practices and Inquiry Process Skills	Test Preparation Information: https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/certification/educator-testing/test-registration-and-preparation	
February				
	2/6	Planning Units and Lessons	Science of Teaching Reading Examination Framework: https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/tx293_final_framework_markup_3.2020.pdf	
	2/13	Creating Environments for Discovery	New Educator Standards and Test Frameworks Info. : https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/certification/educator-testing/new-educator-standards-and-test-frameworks	
	2/20	Assessment of Understanding and Inquiry		*Scriptural Topical Index
	2/27	Inquiry Lesson Demonstration		
March				
	3/6	Integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, Language Arts and Math	Elementary Science TEKS: https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/ch112a.pdf	*Resource Notebook Due
	3/14	Spring Break – No Class		
	3/20	Earth and Space Science Lab/Lesson	Elementary Science TEKS: https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/ch112a.pdf	*Lesson Plan 1 & Demo Reflection
	3/27	TEKS dig into Earth and Space Science		*Lesson Plan 2 & Demo Reflection

April				
	4/3	Life Science	Elementary Science TEKS: https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/ch112a.pdf	*Lesson Plan 3 & Demo Reflection
	4/10	TEKS dig into Life Science		*Lesson Plan 4 & Demo Reflection
	4/17	Physical Science	Elementary Science TEKS: https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/ch112a.pdf	
	4/24	TEKS dig into Physical Science		*Lesson Plan 5 & Demo Reflection
May				
	5/1			*Weekly class notes, Class Participation/Demo s, Test Prep Questions and Discussion