EDCU 610: The Elementary School Curriculum
Section: S001
Credit Hours: 3

Faculty Information

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Office Hours: Thursday 11am-1pm or by appointment

Course Information

Course Description
The Elementary School Curriculum examines the formal and social school-related experiences of elementary school pupils in the light of the purposes of the school. Students will explore current elementary school curricular practices and alternatives in the light of research in child development, principles of learning, and current culture.

Course Objectives
In this course, students will

- develop social justice perspectives on the elementary school curriculum development;
- explore how to build inclusive classroom community in elementary school settings;
- explore reading and writing toward a more just world;
- examine how to mind media in the elementary school curriculum;
- explore math and science across the curriculum for social justice;
- understand the relationship between the classroom, the school, and the world;
- explore social studies for a better world;
- engage effectively in collaborative curriculum work with diverse stakeholders across developmental levels and content areas, and develop coherent curriculum plans informed by social justice perspectives on elementary school curriculum development.

Course Modality/Structure
EDCU 610 S001 The Elementary School Curriculum is an **in-person,** graduate-level course**.** This course is organized into modules (weekly units), which follow the university's academic calendar. Weekly assignments are typically due **by 11:59 p.m. on Thursdays**.

Course Materials

Sample Texts/Readings:

- Hansen, M., Peterson, B., Schlessman, E., & Watson, D. (Eds.) (2012). *Rethinking elementary education*. Milwaukee, WI: Rethinking Schools.

Details about required readings will be posted and regularly updated on Canvas.

Course Assignments and Assessments

Assignment details, including instructions, relevant readings, due dates, and grading criteria/rubrics, will be posted and updated on Canvas. Please check Canvas regularly to stay informed and on track.

Course Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Range
A	100% - 94%
A-	<94% - 90%
B+	<90% - 87%
B	<87% - 84%
B-	<84% - 80%
C+	<80% - 77%
C	<77% - 74%
C-	<74% - 70%
D+	<70% - 67%
D	<67% - 64%
D-	<64% - 61%
F	<61% - 0%

Table 1 Course Grading Scale

Course Statements and Policies

Attendance and Participation

Because this course does not meet face to face, attendance cannot be graded in the traditional way. Instead, weekly discussion, assignments/projects, and learning activities will be used to measure attendance and participation. To support our class community and meaningful discussion, please complete course tasks each week rather than postponing work until the end of the semester. Full participation is expected in all online course activities. To keep discussions meaningful, each student must post by the assigned deadlines. Regular, timely engagement is essential for both your academic success and the success of the class.

- Graduate-level online courses require self-discipline and good time management. Please make it a habit to check Canvas regularly, follow the weekly modules, and submit work on time. Developing a steady routine will help you stay on top of everything.
- Course communication will take place through **Canvas** and your official **Ball State email**. Please attend to those communication channels consistently.

Assignment Due Dates

In this graduate-level online course, each student is responsible for staying on track and submitting work on time according to the schedule posted on Canvas. Establishing a steady routine is strongly recommended.

- If you anticipate submitting an assignment late for a legitimate reason (e.g., illness, injury, family emergency, late course addition), please email me **as soon as possible**, ideally **before** the due date/time, so we can discuss options.
- Late work may be accepted with advance communication (and documentation when appropriate). Unless otherwise arranged, late assignments will incur a **10% deduction per day**.
- Remember that internet connectivity and technical issues may occur. Submit early when possible and have a backup plan (e.g., library access or borrowing a device).
- Canvas will not accept assignments for grading after **11:59 p.m. on the final day of class**.

Feedback and Communication

- I aim to respond to emails within **24 hours on weekdays (Monday–Friday)** and generally within **48 hours on weekends**, though responses may take longer at times due to scheduling or the complexity of a question. Please avoid last-minute emails when possible.
- I will typically grade assignments and discussions and provide feedback **within one week**.
- If you have questions or concerns about your performance or course assignments, please contact me directly.

University Policies and Statements

University Statement
We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse.

Disability Statement
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services Office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Freedom of Expression
In this course, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that values intellectual diversity, encourages free expression, and promotes open inquiry. As members of the Ball State Community, we treat each person in the Ball State community with civility, courtesy, compassion, and dignity and respect and learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions. Please review Ball State University's Statement on Freedom of Expression, the resources on Ball State's Freedom of Expression webpage, and Ball State's Beneficence Pledge.

Title IX / Sex Discrimination
Ball State University is committed to maintaining an educational environment free from sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, and stalking. Students who experience or witness conduct that may violate University policy are encouraged to seek support and assistance. The Title IX Office can provide information about reporting options, supportive measures, and available resources. Contact the Title IX Office at 765-285-1545 or titleix@bsu.edu.

Please Note: As your instructor, I am a mandatory reporter. If you disclose information to me about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, I am required to notify the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Office will reach out to discuss available resources, supportive measures, and reporting options. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, you may contact the Counseling Center or the Center for Survivor Support.

Pregnancy and Related Conditions
Ball State University provides reasonable modifications for students affected by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. Students seeking academic, housing, or other modifications are encouraged to contact the Title IX Office as early as possible to discuss available options and support. For assistance, contact the Title IX Office at 765-285-1545 or titleix@bsu.edu.

University Grade Appeal Policy
If you believe you received a final course grade that does not reflect your performance due to fairness or a procedural issue, you have the right to file an appeal within 5 school days after final grades are posted by the Office of the Registrar. Review the University Grade Appeal Policy and Process.

Student Academic Ethics Policy
Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the university community. Academic dishonesty and other forms of academic misconduct threaten the foundation of an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and will not be tolerated. To maintain its credibility and reputation, and to equitably assign evaluations of scholastic and creative performance, Ball State University is committed to maintaining a climate that upholds and values the highest standards of academic integrity. Visit the VPAA's academic integrity website (Students tab) for resources on understanding academic integrity, citing sources properly, and avoiding inadvertent academic dishonesty. To learn about BSU's academic integrity expectations and students' rights, please read the University Student Academic Ethics Policy.

Academic integrity violations include giving or receiving an unfair academic advantage (cheating), presenting someone else's ideas or work as your own (plagiarism), and falsifying academic records. Unless otherwise indicated, you must work independently by yourself. Check with me if you are unsure whether something constitutes academic dishonesty. Examples of academic integrity violations include but are not limited to:

- Using resources not authorized by the faculty member (including devices, AI tools, hidden notes, and open books).
- Using a generative AI system or a person to complete academic assignments such as response papers, discussion posts, essays, or any other assignment when such use is not explicitly permitted by the assignment instructions or the instructor.
- Utilizing another person or a generative AI system to take a quiz, examination, or similar evaluation in place of oneself.
- Using a generative AI system for research, creative work, theses/dissertations, grant proposals, IRB-regulated work, or publication-bound work in violation of university AI policies, funder/publisher rules, IRB requirements, or discipline-specific standards.
- Presenting as one's own work the ideas, representations or words of another person or of a GenAI system without customary and proper acknowledgment of sources or of the AI tool(s) used.
- Using generative AI systems to analyze data, conduct research, or generate content that is included in an assignment (images, graphs, charts, tables, etc.) without proper documentation, citation, and attribution of this AI use.

- Using commercial study websites to find answers to graded assignments (Chegg, Course Hero, StudyPool, OneClass, etc.).
- Without the instructor's written permission, giving away, buying, or selling graded assignments class notes, exams, study guides, or other course materials to other students or to third-party vendors (Course Hero, Chegg, 24HourAnswers, etc.).
- Working with another person on any assignment other than authorized group projects.
- Sharing or allowing others to access your files, whether done with permission or not.
- Reusing your own work from another semester, course, or section.
- Sharing answers with others during exams (passing notes, texting, whispering, gesturing)
- Discussing exam questions and answers with students who have not taken the exam.
- Soliciting others to complete work for you.

Generative AI Statement

Artificial intelligence is continuously changing and evolving, so we encourage you to keep up to date with learning resources and tools to stay on the precipice of innovation and development. More resources can be found here.

Generative AI (GenAI) refers a class of AI tools that can create text, images, audio, video, and other similar media from existing training datasets. This may include user-prompted tools or tools running autonomously (aka, "agentic AI"). Note that some AI tools are becoming embedded in platforms that students use to create their assignments (e.g., Grammarly, Microsoft Word, Excel, Adobe Acrobat, Canva, OneNote, and Evernote). The mere presence and use of AI-assisted features in such tools, such as grammar suggestions, predictive text, formatting help, or auto-completion, would not normally be considered GenAI.

All work conducted and/or submitted in this course must be your own, completed in accordance with Ball State University's Student Academic Ethics Policy. Students may use applications with built-in AI features, but use AI only for editing and/or proofreading written assignments.

Canvas and Student Privacy

Canvas Accessibility
Canvas provides a user experience that is easy, simple, and intuitive. Special attention has been paid to making Canvas screen-readable. The Rich Content Editor encourages users to create accessible content pages (i.e. text formatting is accomplished using styles). Canvas is designed to allow limited customization of colors and schemes to be accessible for all users. The National Federation of the Blind granted Canvas the Gold Level Web Certification in 2010. **Find more information by visiting the Canvas Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT).**

FERPA and Privacy
As a student, your educational records are considered confidential. Under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), your records are confidential and protected. Under most circumstances, your records will not be released without your written and signed consent. However, some directory information may be released to third parties without your prior consent unless a written request to restrict this is on file. You can learn more about student rights to privacy by reading **Ball State's FERPA and Privacy and Protection.**

Video Conferencing Recording
In this class, software may be used to record live class discussions. As a student in this class, your participation in live class discussions may be recorded. These recordings typically will be made available only to students enrolled in the class, to assist those who cannot attend the live session or to serve as a resource for those who would like to review content that was presented. Students who prefer to participate via audio only will be allowed to disable their video camera so only audio will be captured. Students who prefer to listen only must disable their audio capability and visual camera. If you have concerns, please discuss these options with me.

Plagiarism Detection
The campus subscribes to Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention service, through Canvas. You may need to submit written assignments to Turnitin. Student work will be used for plagiarism detection and for no other purpose. The student may indicate in writing to the instructor that he/she refuses to participate in the plagiarism detection process, in which case the instructor can use other electronic means to verify the originality of their work.

Academic Support Services

The Learning Center
The Learning Center offers free Tutoring and Academic Coaching for many courses at Ball State. Students can make appointments for online (Zoom) or in-person (NQ 350) appointments. To make an appointment, visit myballstate.bsu.edu and click on "Navigate" in the Academic Tools section, or just go directly to the link here.

Testing accommodations for students with disabilities are available for students who have received the appropriate documentation from Disability Services. Tests may be administered in the Learning Center. Supplemental Instruction is available in select courses. If you have an SI leader for your course, that person will provide students with information the first week of school regarding weekly study sessions. For more information about Learning Center programming, visit the Learning Center website or call 765-285-1006. Follow us on Instagram: BallStateLC.

The Writing Center
All writers improve with practice and feedback, so as a student in this course, you are encouraged to use the Writing Center (in Robert Bell 295 during weekdays, Bracken Library First Floor West in the evenings, or online during any of our regularly scheduled hours) to get additional feedback on your writing.

The Writing Center offers free planning, feedback, and accountability sessions (in person and online) to all students composing essays, reports, reflections, research projects, web content, lesson plans, slideshows, poster presentations, resumes, and other digital or print texts. To schedule a free appointment to discuss your writing, go to the Writing Center website. Online and in-person appointments are available; however, plan ahead because appointments book quickly!

The Basic Needs Hub
If you are having difficulty affording enough food, do not have a safe and reliable place to sleep, and/or experiencing an emergency or crisis, help is available through the Basic Needs Hub. The Basic Needs Hub has information, resources, and provides individualized support to students. To talk with a supportive staff member about your experience, receive one on one assistance, or learn more about resources, you can submit a Basic Needs Assistance Form.

The Counseling Center

The Ball State University Counseling Center offers free and confidential services to all students. The Counseling Center is located in Lucina Hall, Room 320. To schedule an appointment, you can contact us at 765-285-1736. Ball State also offers a 24/7 Crisis Line, which can be reached at 765-285-HOPE (4673). The Crisis Line is a mental health resource for those who are struggling with any mental health concerns, including thoughts of self-harm and/or suicide.

At the Ball State Counseling Center, we see students for a variety of reasons, some of which include homesickness, relationship concerns, anxiety, and depression. At your first appointment, you will work with a therapist to create a plan that will connect you with resources that best fit your needs. We assist students with getting connected to therapy at our Center as well as connecting students to self-help resources, other on-campus resources, and community-based resources. All Ball State students also have access to several on-demand, self-help resources through a variety of different platforms. All of these resources, including a direct link to our website, can be found **here**.

The Speaking Center

The Speaking Center is a free resource available to all members of the BSU community wanting to improve their public speaking abilities. We offer personalized coaching designed to help you become a more confident and effective speaker. Our trained coaches provide constructive feedback and support throughout the entire speech preparation process, whether you are in the early stages of brainstorming ideas and organizing your thoughts, or you need to practice your delivery and refine your message.

The Center is in the David Letterman Communication and Media Building, room 302. To schedule an appointment, please access us through your Navigate app or use this direct link to sign up for a time**.** Appointments are available both in person and on Zoom. Appointments are available in person, on Zoom, and in virtual reality (VR) for those interested in practicing in an immersive speaking environment.

Course Schedule

The course schedule is available on Canvas. To support a learning experience that is responsive to the needs, interests, and pace of our class community, the schedule may change over the semester. The most up-to-date version will always be posted on Canvas. Please check Canvas regularly for updates, and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Subject to Change Statement

This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.