

SYLLABUS
Sul Ross State University – Rio Grande College
EDUC 5319 – School Law
Spring, 2015 – 3 Semester Hours

Instructor: Dorman W. Moore, Ph.D., Professor
Phone: 830-729-3020 – office
Office hours: Monday – Thursday: 9:00 – 11:30 am. Other times by appointment.

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Course Description:

A study of general laws applying to all states concerning education; an in-depth study of cases and decisions affecting current education.

Primary Text:

Walsh, J., Kemerer, F., Maniotis, L., *The Educator's Guide to Texas School Law*. (8th edition), University of Texas Press, Austin. ISBN#: 978-0-292-76084-4.

Course Objectives:

Students will acquire a foundation and develop a philosophy of school law that will enable them to function as an educator in Texas within ethical and legal boundaries. The course will be guided by the competencies listed that are correlated to the knowledge framework for the certification of principals in Texas.

Student Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Know how to implement policies and procedures that promote professional educator compliance with The Code of Ethics and Standard Practice for Texas Educators. (SBEC b-2)*
2. Know how to apply local, state, and federal laws and policies to support sound decisions while considering implications related to all school operations and programs. (SBEC f-6)*
3. Know how to use emerging issues, legal requirements, and other information as a basis for campus curriculum planning. (SBEC g-1)*
4. Know how to implement effective, appropriate, and legal strategies for the recruitment, screening, selection, assignment, induction, development, evaluation, promotion, discipline, and dismissal of campus staff. (SBEC d-4)*
5. Know how to acquire, allocate, and manage human, material, and financial resources according to district policies and campus priorities. (SBEC f-7)*
6. Know how to facilitate the implementation of sound, research-based theories and techniques of classroom management, student discipline, and school safety to ensure an environment conducive to teaching and learning. (SBEC h-6)*

*State Board of Educator Certification Standards for Principals

Course Format

The course will require students to do independent research work and complete outside assignments independently. Timelines for due assignments must be honored. Students will be responsible for submitting all assignments on time.

It is imperative that all assignments be completed timely and individually. Any evidence of collusion or copying previous work by yourself or anyone else on assignments will be treated as cheating and plagiarism. Late work will be worth a maximum of half the available points for that assignment.

GRADING:

Final course grade will be determined through examinations and assignment products.

Examinations

There will be a mid-term exam that will assess your knowledge and understanding of principles and major concepts presented in the first half of the course.

There will be a final exam that will assess your knowledge and understanding of principles and major concepts presented in the last half of the course.

Point System for Grading:

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|--|---|------------------|
| Exams (Mid-Term - 46, Final - 43)..... | = | 89 |
| Assignments | = | <u>91</u> |
| | | 180 Total points |

- 162+ points = A
- 144 – 161 points = B
- 126 – 143 points = C
- 108 – 125 points = D
- Below 108 points = F

Drop and Add:

It is the student’s responsibility to make sure he/she is officially enrolled in this course. If, at any point, you decide to drop the class, it is *your* responsibility to officially drop. Any student who stops participating in the course and does not officially drop the course will be given an “F” as the semester grade.

“No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored or conducted by Sul Ross State University on any basis prohibited by applicable law, including, but not limited to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.”

School Law Class Schedule

IMPORTANT DATES

ACTIVITIES

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|-------------------|--|
| January 26, Mon. | Explanation of syllabus; Timelines and Assignments; Legal Terminology in text Chapter 1 - Overview of Texas Law sent Chapter 3 - Special Education sent |
| February 2, Mon. | Chapter 2 - Student Attendance sent Chapter 8 – Student Discipline sent |
| February 9, Mon. | Chapters 1 and 3 due no later than 12 noon Chapter 7 – Religion in the Schools sent |
| February 16, Mon. | Chapters 2 and 8 due no later than 12 noon |
| February 23, Mon. | Meet at 6:00 pm in room D113 for review Chapter 7 due at class time Chapter 4 – The Employment Relationship sent Chapter 6 – Expression and Association Rights sent |
| March 2, Mon. | Meet at 6:00 pm in room D113 for review and Mid-Term Exam |
| March 23, Mon. | Meet at 6:00 pm in room D113 to review Mid-Term Exam |
| March 30, Mon. | Chapters 4 and 6 due no later than 12 noon Chapter 5 – Personnel Issues sent Chapter 9 – Privacy Issues sent |
| April 6, Mon. | Chapters 5 and 9 due no later than 12 noon Chapter 10 – Legal Liability sent |

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| April 13, Mon. | Meet at 6:00 pm in room D113 for review |
| April 20, Mon. | Chapter 10 due no later than 12 noon |
| May 4, Mon. | Meet at 6:00 pm in room D113 for review and Final Exam |

Note: This schedule and the activities listed are subject to change at the discretion of the professor. It is only a preliminary guide.

