

DEPARTMENT of Education
COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2025

ED2530(A2 & B2): Orientation to Teaching – 3 (3-0-6) 135 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land, and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Melanie Matheson	PHONE:	TBD
OFFICE:	TBD	E-MAIL:	mmatheson@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: An introductory investigation of the school context from the vantage points of students, teachers and others involved in education. The course includes 3 hours of on-campus work each week and 60-80 hours of field experience in both elementary and secondary classrooms over the term.

Note: Students are advised to free one half-day a week in order to complete the field experience requirement. This course is restricted to Education students transferring to University of Lethbridge.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- Police Information Check **AND** Child Intervention Record Check (prior to beginning your classroom observation),
- Access to the **NWP myClass** site,
- Access to **NWP email**,
- Handouts and Website resources as assigned,
- A Journal and/or an e-portfolio, and
- A laptop and/or smart phone and internet access.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Explain the difference between classrooms as places for “teaching” versus places of “learning.”

- Discuss multiple instructional strategies to support student intellectual, social, and personal development.
- Describe how to create a learning environment that encourages positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self- motivation.
- Compare the roles of the Alberta Teachers' Association and the Alberta Ministry of Education.
- Identify and describe how the historical and sociological legacy of education impacts current student learning.
- For a given instructional situation, give examples of formal and informal assessment strategies to evaluate student learning.
- Ensure the continuous intellectual, social, and physical development of the learner.

FIELD EXPERIENCE

The Field Experience Observation opportunities consist of **TWO five-week rounds** of school visits, one in an elementary setting **and** one in a secondary setting. During **each round**:

- **ED2530 students** will spend a **minimum of 30 hours** at each assigned school.

Notes:

- Observation hours are based on Instructional Hours.
- Mentor teachers **must be contacted** by the student in the first week of each practicum.

School observation hours must be successfully completed to pass the course.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page

<http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS:

Personal Philosophy (Paper)	10%
In-Class Presentation (Solo/Duo)	10%
Round One Journal/Report	15%
In-Class Presentation (Group)	20%
Round Two Journal/Report	25%
Final Assessment: Professional Portfolio	20%
Total	100%

Grading Criteria

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less** than C-.

Alpha Grade	4-Point Equivalence	Percentage Conversion (unless otherwise specified in the Course Outline)	Descriptor
CR	N/A	75-100	Credit
NC	N/A	0-74	No Credit

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is a Credit/No Credit course.

In order to receive credit in ED2530:

- 1) Students must successfully complete **BOTH** placements of the field experience, as evidenced by:
 - a) handing in a timesheet signed by each mentor teacher attesting to the successful completion of practicum hours,
 - b) achieving a grade of **at least** 60% (C-) on the observation journals,
- 2) Maintain consistent attendance for ED2530 lectures. Please see Student Responsibility section of this outline for more details.
- 3) Achieve an overall grade of at least 75% (B).

Important: ED2530 consists of three hours of in-class instructional seminar time each week and appropriate completion of field experience. Failure to complete **both** the classroom and field experience portions will result in **no credit**.

Course Schedule/Tentative Timeline Fall 2025

Dates	Topic and Readings	Important Dates/Information
Sept 3-4	Introduction to Class	Practicum Info Due Police Information Check/Vulnerable Sector Check/Child Intervention Record Check Due (asap)
Sept 8-12	Philosophy of Education/Pedagogy Readings: Chapter 2 Pedagogy of the Oppressed Excerpt from Chapter 5 The Courage to Teach	

	“Questionable Assumptions About Schooling”	
Sept 15-19	Philosophy of Education/Current Issues in Education/Role of the Teacher Readings/Videos: Current Issues in Education: “Without Final Exams, Are Students Really Learning” (The Current Podcast) “Screens, Schools, and the Future of Childhood”: (Truth for Teachers Podcast) “Do Schools Kill Creativity” (TEDEd Talk) Role of the Teacher: “Doing Small Things with Great Love” (from <i>Stories of the Courage to Teach</i>)	
Sept 22-26	Observation Journals/Short Range Planning/Indigenous Education Readings: Observation Journal Preparation “Supporting Reflection and Reflective Practice in an Initial Teacher Education Programme: and Exploratory Study” Short Range/Lesson Planning “How We Teach” (from <i>Focus</i>) Indigenous Education Treaty Texts Treaty No. 8 (Gov of Canada) Education for Reconciliation (Gov of Canada)	Round One Begins (Sept 22) Solo Lesson Info Due (Sept 24/Sept 25) Philosophy of Ed Paper Due (Sept 26)
Sept 29-Oct 3	Assessment and Feedback Readings: “Setting the Stage” (from <i>A Repair Kit for Grading</i>) Ministerial Order on Student Learning (Alberta)	National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Sept 30)

	Education) On Assessment (Part 1) (Blog) On Assessment (Part 2) (Blog)	
Oct 6 –10	Solo Lessons	
Oct 13–17	Solo Lessons	Thanksgiving (October 13)
Oct 20-24	Regroup and Refocus/Current Issues in Education/Group Lesson Prep/Curriculum	Round 1 Ends (Oct 24)
Oct 27-31	Group Lesson Prep/Curriculum/Long Range Planning	Round 2 Begins (Oct 27) Group Lesson Info Due (Oct 27/Oct 28) Round One Journal Due (Oct 31)
Nov 3-7	Best Practices Readings: “What Makes a Great Teacher?” (from <i>Mindset</i>)	
Nov 10-14	Fall Break	
Nov 17-21	Diversity in Learning/History of Education in Alberta Readings: History of Education in Alberta Homework Assignment	
Nov 24-28	Alberta Education/Regroup and Refocus/ Current Issues in Education	
Dec 1-5	Group Lessons	Round 2 Ends (Dec 5)
Dec 8-12	Teacher Certification and Professional Growth/Wrap-up	
Dec 15-19	Exams	Portfolio Due (TBD)

***Note:** These discussion topics/dates may be modified, and/or other topics may be added.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES (on campus):

The assigned readings and exercises for each class should be completed before attending that class, except for the first class. As this course does not have a textbook and depends heavily on in-class discussion and activities, attendance at all sessions is critical to the student's success in the course. A student who misses more than six classes will be required to meet with the instructor to discuss further progress in the course. For example, we encourage students who are ill with COVID to stay home to avoid the spread of COVID. In case of illness or emergency, notify me as soon as possible. If you are unable to attend a particular class, it is your responsibility to find out what was missed.

If you find yourself having difficulty in this course, please contact me immediately for assistance. If you simply want more discussion with me about any aspect of the course, please contact via email or after class to arrange a meeting at an alternate time.

If you foresee that you will be unable to complete an assignment for the scheduled time due to illness or emergency, you should notify me immediately, preferably one day in advance. A message may be sent to my e-mail (the best way to contact me) mmatheson@nwpolytech.ca together with a phone number where you can be reached to arrange for an alternative date to hand-in/present the assignment, if feasible. Failure to notify me will result in a grade of zero for the assignment that was missed, unless proof is presented that you were physically or mentally unable to do so due to a sudden illness or emergency or to unavoidable circumstances beyond your control.

It is expected that all students will display a professional attitude and behaviour in the classroom and online. This includes reliability, respect for and cooperation with your fellow students and the instructor, attention to fellow student questions and instructor's response, determination to achieve first-class work while meeting deadlines, constructive response to criticism, and arriving on time.

All assignments (with the exception of the Final Portfolio) **must be submitted electronically (on my Class)** following the APA format. A support document for APA is available in the Learning Resource Centre within the Learning Commons or on-line. It is particularly important to **save a copy of any and all work** submitted for credit or grading.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES (in local schools):

Students will spend a minimum of 60 hours in local schools. A professional attitude and behavior are expected at all times. Specific expectations will be discussed in class.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Additional Information:

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. **Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.**

In cases where submitted work exhibits concerning patterns or raises questions for the instructor about its creation and the **student's intellectual effort involved (e.g., use of ChatGPT or other AI)**, students may be required to submit to an oral examination regarding the work at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to participate in the oral examination will result in an assigned grade of 0 for the assessment. If, following the oral examination, the instructor still has concerns about the work, the academic misconduct provisions of the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy (linked above in this outline) may be applied.