



EDRD 3320 - Content Reading

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 180, CRN 18195

Instructor Information

Juan Lira, Ph.D.

Professor

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Office Hours:

Please contact me, as needed through email or by my cell phone.

Cell Phone: 956-744-6039

Times and Location

Does Not Meet Face-to-Face

Course Description

This course for secondary majors focuses on content area reading instruction in grades 4-12. Emphasis on reading strategies and study skills for reading specialized texts. Instructional activities (lesson plans) include application of strategies that develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills to encourage learners to move beyond text complexities, develop deeper understandings of content areas, and to build skills to apply knowledge in meaningful ways across content areas. Prerequisites: Admission to the College of Education.

Educational Programs Department, College of Education

Additional Course Information

All assignments are due on specific dates no later than 11:59 p.m. If an assignment is submitted one day after the due date, there will be a 10 point from the grade for the assignment. If the submitted any later or not submitted, a grade of 0 will be recorded for this assignment.

In this course, students are allowed to use AI-based tools (such as ChatGPT) for assignments. However, all contributions from AI tools must be properly cited. Students are expected to demonstrate their understanding of the material and not rely solely on AI-generated material. Any misuse of AI tools will be treated as academic misconduct. If you have questions about this policy, please contact me directly.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Candidates understand that literacy develops over time and progresses from emergent to proficient stages in accordance with the Science of Teaching (Standards I - VII).
2. Candidates develop a repertoire of strategies for developing all students' oral language, word analysis and decoding, fluency, comprehension, development of written language, and writing conventions in accordance with the Science of Teaching Reading (Standards I-VII).
3. Candidates will design and implement instructional lessons that promote early and emergent literacy practices (Standards V-VII).
4. Candidates will communicate effectively through writing and use writing to facilitate learning by exploring, clarifying, and thinking critically about literacy and the application of research-based instructional practices in literacy (Standard Standards VII and IX).

Student Learning Outcomes

SLO: EC-6/Reading:



1. The teacher candidate designs and implements effective instruction that reflects mastery of core content¹, appropriate assessment practices, and best practices in literacy instruction.
2. The teacher candidate demonstrates proficiency in communication skills through discipline-relevant, varied, and effective written, verbal, and other products.
3. The teacher candidate creates a classroom environment of respect and rapport that fosters a positive climate for learning, equity, and excellence, designed to meet the needs of all students, including those from diverse language, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

SLO: Special Ed.:

1. Applies evidence-based instructional strategies, and resources to promote English, language and reading and mathematical literacy of individuals with exceptionalities.
2. Applies evidence-based instructional strategies, and resources to promote English, language and reading and mathematical literacy of individuals with exceptionalities

SLO: Bilingual:

1. Design and implement content area instruction and assessment in L1 (first) and L2 (second) classrooms.
2. Develop a repertoire of strategies to address the diverse learning and literacy needs of students using a variety of instructional practices and assessment tools.
3. Utilize evidence-based research to improve the CLD environment.
4. Candidates will communicate effectively through writing and use writing to facilitate learning by helping them to explore, clarify, and think critically about literacy and the application of research based instructional practices in literacy.

Important Dates

Visit the Academic Calendar ([tamui.edu](https://www.tamui.edu/academiccalendar/)) (<https://www.tamui.edu/academiccalendar/>) page to view the term's important dates.

Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Content Area Literacy: An Integrated Approach 11th edition	Bean, T. W.; Readance, J.E., & Dunkerly-Bean, J.	978-1-5249-1589-6

Other Course Materials

Grading Criteria

GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Below 60
FN	Failure for Non-Attendance
S/CR/P	Satisfactory/Credit/Pass
U/NC	Unsatisfactory/Non-Credit
IP	In Progress
W	Dropped/Withdrew
I	Incomplete



Open Boilerplate

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- **Add text as necessary**
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ASSIGNMENT	VALUE
Blackboard Assignments	50 percent
Mid-Term Exam	15 percent
Mini-Project	15 percent
Final Exam	20 percent

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
8/24	Introduction to course, Orientation, Contemporary Learners	Read syllabus/Review course assignments. Chapter 1 Content Area Literacy	All assignments (Blackboard Assignments, Mini-Project, Mid-Term Exam, Final Exam) are due on specific dates no later than 11:59 p.m. Additional details are provided in Blackboard. Submit Syllabus/Course Acknowledgement Task. Due: No later than 11:59 p.m. on Aug. 24, 2026. Submit Meet and Greet Personal statement and Discussion #1 no later than 11:59 p.m. on Aug. 26, 2026. Submit Module 1 Reflection Journal and Reflect and Connect statement no later than 11:59 p.m. on Aug. 30, 2026.
8/31	Technology & Changing Literacies	Clarifying any issues regarding the course Chapter 2: Technology and Changing Literacies	Sept. 2, 2026; 4:30-5:30 p.m. Professor will hold a video-conference with students using Microsoft Education to respond to any questions students may have about the course. Assignments on Digital Literacy Evaluation and Digital Literacy assignments are due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 6, 2026. See details on Blackboard.
9/7	Diverse Language in Disciplines	Chapter 3: Diverse Language in Disciplines	Assignment On Discussion - Exploring Diversity and Classroom Strategy is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 13, 2026. See details on Blackboard.
9/14	Texbook and Multimedia Selection	Chapter 4: Textbook and Multimedia Selection	Assignment on Reflection - Textbook Evaluation is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 20, 2026. See details on Blackboard.



9/21	Explanation of Mini-Project in Content Literacy	Mini-Project in Content Literacy	Video-conference with students on Sept. 23, 2026 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. to explain mini-project in content literacy
9/28	Preparation for Mid-Ter Exam Project	Preparation for Mid-Term Exam	Preparation for Mid-Term Exam; contact instructor, as needed.
10/5	Mid-Term Exam	Mid-Term Exam	Students complete mid-term exam non Oct. 8, 2026 between no later than 11:59 p.m.
10/12	Assessment: Unit and Lesson Planning	Chapter 5: Assessment and Chapter 6 Lesson Plan	Assignment on Lesson Planning and Embedded Assessment is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 18, 2026. See Blackboard for details.
10/19	Follow-up video-conference regarding mini-project Literature Text Units	Clarification of issues regarding mini-project Chapter 7: Literature	Professor will host a video-conference with students on Oct. 21, 2026 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. to clarify issues regarding the mini-project. Assignment on Literature Text Units is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 25, 2026. See Blackboard for details.
10/26	Vocabulary	Chapter 8: Vocabulary	Assignment on article critique and vocabulary strategies is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 1, 2026.
11/2	Comprehension	Chapter 9 Comprehension: Principles and Integrated Approaches Chapter 10: Comprehension: Guiding Content Literacy	Assignment on preparation of Comprehension Toolkit is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 8, 2026. See Blackboard for details.
11/9	Writing	Chapter 11: Writing	Assignment on Writing to Learn and critique and reflection on article on Writing to Learn is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 15, 2026.
11/16	Mini-Project	Mini-Project	Assignment on mini-project is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on November 22, 2026.
11/23	Preparation for Final Exam	Preparation for Final Exam	Preparation for Final Exam; professor responds to questions.
11/30	Final Exam	Final Exam	Final Exam will be posted on Respondus Lockdown Browser and is to be completed no later than 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 3, 2026.

University/College Policies

Please see the University Policies below.

COVID-19 Related Policies

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, please refer to the Student Handbook, Appendix A (Attendance Rule) for instructions.

Required Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class in person (or virtually, if the class is online) and to complete all assignments. If you cannot attend class, it is your responsibility to communicate absences with your professors. The faculty member will decide if your excuse is valid and thus may provide lecture materials of the class. According to University policy, acceptable reasons for an absence, which cannot affect a student's grade, include:

- Participation in an authorized University activity.
- Death or major illness in a student's immediate family.
- Illness of a dependent family member.

- Participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require a student's presence.
- Religious holy day.
- Illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class.
- Required participation in military duties.
- Mandatory admission interviews for professional or graduate school which cannot be rescheduled.

Students are responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to faculty members within seven calendar days of their absence and return to class. They must substantiate the reason for the absence. If the absence is excused, faculty members must either provide students with the opportunity to make up the exam or other work missed, or provide a satisfactory alternative to complete the exam or other work missed within 30 calendar days from the date of absence. Students who miss class due to a University-sponsored activity are responsible for identifying their absences to their instructors with as much advance notice as possible.

Classroom Behavior (applies to online or Face-to-Face Classes)

In the classroom, students are expected to listen attentively, participate respectfully, and adhere to established rules. Behavior that interferes with the class lecture may result in disciplinary action, ensuring a productive and respectful learning environment for everyone. Any disputes over academic matters should be addressed calmly and constructively, ideally during designated times such as office hours or after class. If a student does not agree with a decision, they can request a meeting with the instructor to discuss their concerns in more detail. Should further resolution be needed, the student may escalate the matter to the department head or use formal grievance procedures as outlined in the sections below. (please refer to Student Handbook Article 4 (<https://www.tamui.edu/handbook/article-04.shtml>)).

TAMUI Honor Code: Plagiarism and Cheating

As a TAMUI student, you are bound by the TAMUI Honor Code to conduct yourself ethically in all your activities as a TAMUI student and to report violations of the Honor Code. Please read carefully the Student Handbook Article 7 and Article 10 available at Student Handbook (<https://www.tamui.edu/handbook/index.shtml>).

We are committed to strict enforcement of the Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code tend to involve claiming work that is not one's own, most commonly plagiarism in written assignments and any form of cheating on exams and other types of assignments.

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as your own. It occurs when you:

1. Borrow someone else's facts, ideas, or opinions and put them entirely in your own words. You must acknowledge that these thoughts are not your own by immediately citing the source in your paper. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
2. Borrow someone else's words (short phrases, clauses, or sentences), you must enclose the copied words in quotation marks as well as citing the source. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
3. Present someone else's paper or exam (stolen, borrowed, or bought) as your own. You have committed a clearly intentional form of intellectual theft and have put your academic future in jeopardy. This is the worst form of plagiarism.

Here is another explanation from the 2020, seventh edition of the Manual of The American Psychological Association (APA):

"Plagiarism is the act of presenting the words, idea, or images of another as your own; it denies authors or creators of content the credit they are due. Whether deliberate or unintentional, plagiarism violates ethical standards in scholarship" (p. 254). This same principle applies to the illicit use of AI.

Plagiarism: Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text. The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own words. This can extend to ideas as well as written words. If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit. If the rationale for a study was suggested in the discussion section of someone else's article, the person should be given credit. Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important for the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications (p. 11). For guidance on proper documentation, consult the Academic Success Center or a recommended guide to documentation and research such as the Manual of the APA or the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. If you still have doubts concerning proper documentation, seek advice from your instructor prior to submitting a final draft.

TAMUI has penalties for plagiarism and cheating.

- **Penalties for Plagiarism:** Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student should receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, may elect to give freshmen and sophomore students a "zero" for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of "F" (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade; the instructor must still report the offense to the Honor Council. This option should not be available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who

cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse. For repeat offenders in undergraduate courses or for an offender in any graduate course, the penalty for plagiarism is likely to include suspension or expulsion from the university.

- **Caution:** Be very careful what you upload to Turnitin or send to your professor for evaluation. Whatever you upload for evaluation will be considered your final, approved draft. If it is plagiarized, you will be held responsible. The excuse that “it was only a draft” will not be accepted.
- **Caution:** Also, do not share your electronic files with others. If you do, you are responsible for the possible consequences. If another student takes your file of a paper and changes the name to his or her name and submits it and you also submit the paper, we will hold both of you responsible for plagiarism. It is impossible for us to know with certainty who wrote the paper and who stole it. And, of course, we cannot know if there was collusion between you and the other student in the matter.
- **Penalties for Cheating:** Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student should receive a “zero” for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident should be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an “F” in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Additional penalties, including suspension or expulsion from the university may be imposed. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an “F” in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a “W”
 - **Caution:** Chat groups that start off as “study groups” can easily devolve into “cheating groups.” Be very careful not to join or remain any chat group if it begins to discuss specific information about exams or assignments that are meant to require individual work. If you are a member of such a group and it begins to cheat, you will be held responsible along with all the other members of the group. The TAMIU Honor Code requires that you report any such instances of cheating.
- **Student Right of Appeal:** Faculty will notify students immediately via the student’s TAMIU e-mail account that they have submitted plagiarized work. Students have the right to appeal a faculty member’s charge of academic dishonesty by notifying the TAMIU Honor Council of their intent to appeal as long as the notification of appeal comes within 10 business days of the faculty member’s e-mail message to the student and/or the Office of Student Conduct and Community Engagement. The Student Handbook provides more details.

Use of Work in Two or More Courses

You may not submit work completed in one course for a grade in a second course unless you receive explicit permission to do so by the instructor of the second course. In general, you should get credit for a work product only once.

AI Policies

Your instructor will provide you with their personal policy on the use of AI in the classroom setting and associated coursework.

TAMIU E-Mail and SafeZone

Personal Announcements sent to students through TAMIU E-mail (tamiu.edu or dusty email) are the official means of communicating course and university business with students and faculty –not the U.S. Mail and no other e-mail addresses. Students and faculty must check their TAMIU e-mail accounts regularly, if not daily. Not having seen an important TAMIU e-mail or message from a faculty member, chair, or dean is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action.

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to download the SafeZone app, which is a free mobile app for all University faculty, staff, and students. SafeZone allows you to: report safety concerns (24/7), get connected with mental health professionals, activate location sharing with authorities, and anonymously report incidents. Go to SafeZone (<https://www.tamiu.edu/adminis/police/safezone/index.shtml>) for more information.

Copyright Restrictions

The Copyright Act of 1976 grants to copyright owners the exclusive right to reproduce their works and distribute copies of their work. Works that receive copyright protection include published works such as a textbook. Copying a textbook without permission from the owner of the copyright may constitute copyright infringement. Civil and criminal penalties may be assessed for copyright infringement. Civil penalties include damages up to \$100,000; criminal penalties include a fine up to \$250,000 and imprisonment. Copyright laws do not allow students and professors to make photocopies of copyrighted materials, but you may copy a limited portion of a work, such as article from a journal or a chapter from a book for your own personal academic use or, in the case of a professor, for personal, limited classroom use. In general, the extent of your copying should not suggest that the purpose or the effect of your copying is to avoid paying for the materials. And, of course, you may not sell these copies for a profit. Thus, students who copy textbooks to avoid buying them or professors who provide photocopies of textbooks to enable students to save money are violating the law.

Students with Disabilities

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to register with the Office of Disability Services for Students located in Student Center 124. This office will contact the faculty member to recommend specific, reasonable accommodations. Faculty are prohibited from making accommodations based solely on communications from students. They may make accommodations only when provided documentation by the Office of Disability Services for Students.

For accommodations or assistance with disabilities, contact the Disability Coordinator, Karla Pedraza, at karla.pedraza@tamiu.edu, call 956.326.2763, or visit Student Center 124.

Student Attendance and Leave of Absence (LOA) Policy

As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOA's for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule (Section 3.07) and the Student LOA Rule (Section 3.08), which includes the "Leave of Absence Request" form. Both rules can be found in the TAMIU Student Handbook (URL: [Student Handbook \(https://www.tamiu.edu/handbook/index.shtml\)](https://www.tamiu.edu/handbook/index.shtml)).

Pregnant and Parenting Students

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, harassment based on sex, including harassment because of pregnancy or related conditions, is prohibited. A pregnant/parenting student must be granted an absence for as long as the student's physician deems the absence medically necessary. It is a violation of Title IX to ask for documentation relative to the pregnant/parenting student's status beyond what would be required for other medical conditions. Students who experience or observe alleged or suspected discrimination due to their pregnant/parenting status, should report to the TAMIU Title IX Coordinator (Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, KLM 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamiu.edu, 956.326.2857) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office, U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600). You can also report it on TAMIU's anonymous electronic reporting site, *Report It*, at <https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit/index.shtml>).

TAMIU advises a pregnant/parenting student to notify their professor once the student is aware that accommodations for such will be necessary. It is recommended that the student and professor develop a reasonable plan for the student's completion of missed coursework or assignments. The Office of Compliance (Lorissa M. Cortez, lorissam.cortez@tamiu.edu) can assist the student and professor in working out the reasonable accommodation. For other questions or concerns regarding Title IX compliance related to pregnant/parenting students, contact the Title IX Coordinator. In the event that a student needs a leave of absence for a substantial period of time, TAMIU urges the student to consider a Leave of Absence (LOA) as outlined in the TAMIU *Student Handbook*.#As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOAs for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule and the Student LOA Rule.#Both rules can be found in the TAMIU *Student Handbook*.

For parenting-related rights, accommodations, and resources, contact the Parenting Liaison, Mayra Hernandez, at mghernandez@tamiu.edu, call 956.326.2265, or visit Student Center 226.

For pregnancy-related rights, accommodations, and resources, contact the TIX Coordinator, Lorissa Cortez, at lorissam.cortez@tamiu.edu, call 956.326.2857, or visit Killam Library 159.

Anti-Discrimination/Title IX

TAMIU does not discriminate or permit harassment against any individual on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, educational programs, or employment. If you would like to file a complaint relative to Title IX or any civil rights violation, please contact the TAMIU Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity/Title IX Coordinator, Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, Killam Library 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamiu.edu, 956.326.2857, via the anonymous electronic reporting website, *ReportIt* (<https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit>) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office), U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600.

Incompletes

Students who are unable to complete a course should withdraw from the course before the final date for withdrawal and receive a "W." To qualify for an "incomplete" and thus have the opportunity to complete the course at a later date, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. The student must have completed 90% of the course work assigned before the final date for withdrawing from a course with a "W", and the student must be passing the course;
2. The student cannot complete the course because an accident, an illness, or a traumatic personal or family event occurred after the final date for withdrawal from a course;
3. The student must sign an "Incomplete Grade Contract" and secure signatures of approval from the professor and the college dean.
4. The student must agree to complete the missing course work before the end of the next long semester; failure to meet this deadline will cause the "I" to automatically be converted to an "F"; extensions to this deadline may be granted by the dean of the college. This is the general policy regarding the circumstances under which an "incomplete" may be granted, but under exceptional circumstances, a student may receive an incomplete who does not meet all of the criteria above if the faculty member, department chair, and dean recommend it.

WIN Contracts

The Department of Biology and Chemistry does not permit WIN contracts. For other departments within the college, WIN Contracts are offered only under exceptional circumstances and are limited to graduating seniors. Only courses offered by full-time TAMIU faculty or TAMIU instructors are

eligible to be contracted for the WIN requirement. However, a WIN contract for a course taught by an adjunct may be approved, with special permission from the department chair and dean. Students must seek approval before beginning any work for the WIN Contract. No student will contract more than one course per semester. Summer WIN Contracts must continue through both summer sessions.

Student Responsibility for Dropping a Course

It is the responsibility of the student to drop the course before the final date for withdrawal from a course. Faculty members, in fact, may not drop a student from a course without getting the approval of their department chair and dean.

Independent Study Course

Independent Study (IS) courses are offered only under exceptional circumstances. Required courses intended to build academic skills may not be taken as IS (e.g., clinical supervision and internships). No student will take more than one IS course per semester. Moreover, IS courses are limited to seniors and graduate students. Summer IS course must continue through both summer sessions.

Grade Changes & Appeals

Faculty are authorized to change final grades only when they have committed a computational error or an error in recording a grade, and they must receive the approval of their department chairs and the dean to change the grade. As part of that approval, they must attach a detailed explanation of the reason for the mistake. Only in rare cases would another reason be entertained as legitimate for a grade change. A student who is unhappy with his or her grade on an assignment must discuss the situation with the faculty member teaching the course. If students believe that they have been graded unfairly, they have the right to appeal the grade using a grade appeal process in the Student Handbook and in the Faculty Handbook.

Final Examination

All courses in all colleges must include a comprehensive exam or performance and be given on the date and time specified by the Academic Calendar and the Final Exam schedule published by the Registrar's Office. In the College of Arts & Sciences all final exams must contain a written component. The written component should comprise at least 20% of the final exam grade. Exceptions to this policy must receive the approval of the department chair and the dean at the beginning of the semester.

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it. The Telus app is available to download directly from TELUS (tamiu.edu) (<https://www.tamiu.edu/counseling/telus/>) or from the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Distance Education Courses

This course emphasizes Regular and Substantive interaction between the instructor and students to foster a meaningful and engaging learning experience. The instructor will provide timely feedback on assignments, facilitate active discussions, and offer guidance through announcements and emails. Students are encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification as needed, to ensure a collaborative and supportive educational environment. Regular engagement is essential to achieving the course's learning objectives and building a strong foundation in content literacy.

Online Courses and On-Campus Meetings

Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter J, Section 2.202 ([https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=1&ch=2&rl=202](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=1&ch=2&rl=202)), defines distance education as the formal educational process that occurs when students and instructors are not in the same physical setting for the majority (more than 50%) of instruction. Distance education includes hybrid and 100% online courses and programs as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB):

- **Hybrid Course** - A distance education course in which more than 50 percent but less than 100 percent of instructional activity takes place when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations.
- **100-Percent Online Course** - A distance education course in which 100 percent of instructional activity takes place when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations. **Requirements for on-campus or in-person orientation, testing, academic support services, internships/fieldwork, or other non-instructional activities do not exclude a course from this category.**

In this online course, be sure to confirm what in-person meetings may be required of you (if applicable).

Course Structure

This course is structured into ten modules. Each one focuses on a critical aspect of content area reading instruction for grades 4-12. Modules include targeted readings, interactive activities, and application-based assignments designed to build knowledge and skills regarding reading strategies, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, and integrated literacy across disciplines. Students are expected to engage with the material weekly, participate

in discussions, and complete assignments to deepen their understanding and enhance their ability to apply concepts to real-world teaching scenarios. Each module is crafted to prepare future educators to effectively support diverse learners in content literacy.

Student-Instructor Communication Policy and Response Time

Students are encouraged to communicate with the instructor via email, the messaging feature in Blackboard, or through the instructor's cell phone for any course-related questions or concerns. The instructor will respond to messages within 24-48 hours during the workweek and by the next business day for messages sent during the weekend. For urgent matters, please mark your message as "Urgent" to ensure prompt attention.

Announcements/Course Messages/Emails

For assignments, announcements, and course updates, students must frequently check Blackboard and their University email. Staying informed and updated, you can remain aware of deadline and expectations for the course. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor of any delays in coursework and to promptly report any problems you have with Blackboard or technology to the University's IT support team at either elearning@tamiu.edu or 956-326-2792. Effective communication regarding course-related topics is crucial for a positive learning environment.

Assignments and Assessments

The instructor will provide clear expectations for all assignments and assessments, including rubrics or guidelines where appropriate. Feedback will be timely, constructive, and aimed at helping students improve their understanding and skills. Students are encouraged to review feedback carefully and apply it to future work. If clarification is needed, students are welcome to contact the instructor for further discussion.

Course Communication Guidelines (Netiquette)

Course netiquette emphasizes respectful and professional communication in all interactions. Students should use a polite and constructive tone in discussions, emails, and group activities, avoiding slang or overly casual language. Always consider others' perspectives, respond thoughtfully, and refrain from offensive or disruptive behavior. Clear, concise, and respectful communication fosters a positive and productive learning environment for everyone.

Accommodations/Accessibility Policy

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodation for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Director of Student Counseling and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodation. For more information, contact the online at **Office of Disability Services for Students (DSS)**, via phone at 956.326.3086 or by visiting the staff at the Student Center, room 118. A link to the Disabilities Services for Students site has also been included under the "Resources" tab inside the course.

Student Support Resources

The University wishes to have all students succeed in their courses. To provide support to our students, an array of services in the areas of technology support, academic support, student support, and accessibility support may be found at the University. For more information, visit the Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services page on **University Resources and Support Services**.

Computer/Technology Requirements

When participating in distance education courses, it is vital to consider the technology involved in order to have a successful course. Online students will need regular access to a personal computer that runs on a broadband Internet connection.

It is recommended that you meet the technical requirements listed on the Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' webpage (<https://www.tamiu.edu/distance/students/technology-requirements.shtml>) when using the learning management system (LMS) of the University.

TAMIU students may access online versions of this software through their Dusty Office 365 account at <https://dusty.tamiu.edu/>. This site also provides students access to download the Microsoft suite for educational use. See instructions for downloading the Microsoft Office suite.

Note: Students, if you do not own the required hardware or software or do not have access to the Internet, it will be highly challenging for you to make any progress in this class. However, my goal is to assist you in finding solutions and guide you appropriately most of the required materials can either be found free of charge at TAMIU's library, classrooms, and available computer labs. **Visit Media Services' web page on the availability of on-campus computer labs.** In addition, you may also purchase any of these items at any electronic store.

Learning Management System (Blackboard)

Students are provided with an orientation (*eLearning (Blackboard) Student Orientation*) and access to guides on how to use the Blackboard LMS. Guides may be available at **Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' Student eLearning Tutorial Videos page** or by contacting the eLearning team at elearning@tamiu.edu.



Minimum Technical Skills Expected

[The description of the minimal technology skills is linked to OIT's statement of minimal skills. Faculty are required to update statements for additional technological skills from students.]

When participating in distance education courses, it is vital to consider the technology involved in order to have a successful course. Students in distance education should have knowledge of basic computer and Internet skills, as mentioned on the **Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services' webpage**.

Technical Support Services

Because of the nature of distance education courses, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) computing and information services are vital to the success of online students. This webpage covers contact information for Distance Education Services (Blackboard Support), the OIT Help Desk, and E-mail support: **Technical Support Services**.

Web Conferences/Synchronous sessions

Three web conferences will be held during the semester using the Microsoft Education technology. The first conference will be on Sept. 2, 2026 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. to respond to any questions students may have regarding the course. The second session will be on September 23, 2026 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. to discuss the Mini-Project involving content literacy. The final session will be on October 21, 2026 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. to respond to questions students may have regarding the Mini-Project involving content literacy. Sessions will be video-recorded and shared with all students in case some cannot participate. If video-recording is not possible, a written synopsis of each session will be shared with all the students.

Grading Scale / Schema (after Grade Breakdown section)

Blackboard Assignments: 50%

Mini-Project on Content Literacy: 15%

Mid-Term Exam: 15%

Final Exam: 20%

Rubrics (may be included when applicable)

Late Work Policy

Students may receive permission to submit an assignment after the due date under special circumstances. Some examples are personal illness, need to care for an ill family member when no other arrangements can be made, participation in a university-sponsored event, work-related commitment, or some other unexpected circumstance. Students are required to submit written documentation, whenever possible, to accompany the request for late submission of work. Students are also strongly encouraged to contact the instructor beforehand, if possible, to request permission to submit an assignment after the established deadline.

Course Evaluation

At the end of this course, students are encouraged to complete a course evaluation that will be distributed to them via email and through a course link.

Turnitin Policy Or Other Types of Assignments in Other Systems

Students may be required to submit their assignments to Turnitin. More information and details are available on Blackboard.

Proctoring

Respondus LockDown Browser/Monitor OR Examity *when applicable*.

Accessibility and Privacy Statements on Course Technologies

[Information on the accessibility and privacy policies of all course technologies must be provided to the students. At TAMU, the eLearning team has compiled a list of accessibility and privacy statement links on their website. Link to these pages and contact eLearning if any new technologies should be listed on their pages. See the following example. Customize technologies to include those that pertain to your course:]

At Texas A&M International University, we believe that all students should have equal technology opportunities in the classroom. These technologies/sites may also require user data, such as the creation of a username and password. You may find the accessibility and privacy policies of the technologies used in this class on the following pages:

Accessibility Statements and Privacy Statements.



At Texas A&M International University, we believe that all students should have equal technology opportunities in the classroom. These technologies/sites may also require user data, such as the creation of a username and password. You may find the accessibility and privacy policies of the technologies used in this course on the following pages: **Accessibility Statements and Privacy Statements**.

In this class, we will utilize:

Blackboard

Respondus Monitor and Lockdown Browser (if applicable)

Turnitin. Plagiarism Checker (if applicable)

YouTube

TAMU Library Resources

Syllabus Subject to Change

While information and assurances are provided in this course syllabus, it should be understood that content may change in keeping with new research and literature and that events beyond the control of the instructor could occur. Students will be informed of any substantive occurrences that will produce syllabus changes.