

**Sul Ross State University**  
**Department of Education**

**ED 4314 Spring 2017**  
**Reading Skills for Content Subjects**

**Tuesday/ Thursday 2:00-3:15 p.m.**  
**Instructor: Diana Rodriguez**

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**Office Hours:** M/W 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon

T/TR 10:00a.m.-12:00 noon

**Course Description:**

This course will focus on methods and materials for teaching skills needed for locating, interpreting, and organizing reading materials used in science, social studies, mathematics and other content subjects.

**Course Format:** A variety of approaches will be included in the course that include discussion, small group, media presentation, student presentation, lecture, and observation.

**Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs):**

The students will be able to:

- Write a lesson plan that is developmentally appropriate for students.
- Create a positive classroom environment.
- Teach developmentally appropriate lessons.
- Adhere to the legal and ethical requirements for teachers.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):**

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- define the role of content literacy instruction/instructor
- explain the responsibilities of the content area teacher
- through observation, examine literacy skills that are used in core content area classrooms
- discern literacy practices which students can transfer to each content area
- describe the role of motivation in promoting literate behaviors and success in content classrooms

**Standards:**

**Standard VI:** *Reading Fluency:* Teachers understand the importance of fluency to reading comprehension and provide opportunities for students to improve reading fluency.

**Standard VII:** *Reading Comprehension:* Teachers understand the importance of reading for understanding, know the components of comprehension, and teach young students strategies for improving comprehension.

**Standard VIII:** *Development of Written Communication:* Teachers understand that writing to communicate is a developmental process and provide instruction that helps young students develop competence in written communication.

**Standard IX:** *Writing Conventions:* Teachers understand how young students use writing conventions and how to help students develop those conventions.

**Standard X: *Assessment and Instruction of Developing Literacy:*** Teachers understand the basic principles of assessment and use a variety of literacy assessment practices to plan and implement literacy instruction for young students.

**Standard XI: *Research and Inquiry Skills:*** Teachers understand the importance of study and inquiry skills as tools for learning and promote students' development in applying study and inquiry skills.

**Standard XII: *Viewing and Representing:*** Teachers understand how to interpret, and analyze, evaluate, and produce.

**Required Text:**

McKenna, M. C. & Robinson, R. D. (2014). *Teaching through text: Reading and writing in the content areas (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)*. Pearson

ISBN:0132685728 or ISBN-13: 9780132685726

**AND**

You are to purchase the **Certify Teacher** software that aligns with your content area and/or grade level. You will use this software in Block I to prepare for the TExES content exam. Your goal is to pass this first step toward your certification by the end of this semester.

To purchase the software, have your credit card ready and go to: <http://www.certifyteacher.com>

If the page with the TExES Certification Practice Tests doesn't open immediately, click on Products, then TExES Certification Practice Tests (if you don't see your content test, click "Click here to see all TExES Certification Practice Tests").

Scroll down until you find the test that aligns with your content area (Science 8-12; Generalist EC-6, etc.). When you find the right test for your area, click on the Online version that costs \$55.

The Certify Teacher software consists of three modes: Study, Flashcards, and Practice Test. As soon as you have your software, begin working immediately in Study Mode and Flash Cards only. You will need to clock ten hours in Study Mode and Flash Cards during this course. The dates when I will check and give credit for each 2-hour practice time in Study Mode are on your Course Calendar. Credit will only be given if you have completed a full 2-hour time for each due date. Remember that frequent short sessions will be much more effective than long, irregular sessions. Consider setting a schedule for yourself and adhering to it rigorously.

**DO NOT USE THE PRACTICE TEST MODE AT THIS TIME! YOU WILL NOT BE GIVEN CREDIT FOR ANY MINUTES YOU SPEND IN PRACTICE TEST MODE. USING THE PRACTICE TEST AS A STUDY TOOL NOW WILL INVALIDATE THE RESULTS WHEN YOU TAKE THE PRACTICE TEST at the end of BLOCK I. More information about testing will be provided in class.**

**Course Requirements:**

\*Adhere to the SRSU attendance guidelines. Regular class attendance is important for the attainment of the educational objective of the University. Students enrolled in ED 4314 are expected to be on time and in class each class period. If you are tardy two times, this will count as an absence. Attendance is a major requirement in the field of professional education. In addition, students who are absent must take the initiative to contact me at: [drodriguez5@sulross.edu](mailto:drodriguez5@sulross.edu) and briefly state why you are missing class and how you intend to make up the information missed. The instructor will drop a student from the course when the student has exceeded their absences (6); therefore, adhere to the SRSU attendance guidelines.

- Spend 10 hours in field observation in public school classrooms and report on these observations.
- Spend 10 hours preparing for your content exam with Certify Teacher in Study Mode and Flash Cards.
- Read, examine, reflect on, and evaluate a variety of resources.
- Demonstrate correct usage of English grammar, reading fluency, and written and oral language. Teachers must be able to communicate effectively in writing. Use this course to sharpen your writing skills.
- Demonstrate correct usage of American Psychological Association (APA) documentation.

(More information about APA will be discussed in class).

- There are **no incompletes** for this course.
- Email is the best way to contact me. Please contact me for help with course content issues as my goal is to help you have a successful learning experience.

**Material/Supplies:** \* **Binder**----You will need to create an organized binder for this course. I will not micro-manage the organization of this binder. However, it must be supplied with ALL the materials/articles/assignments/notes created/utilized in this course. **You must be organized** as it will serve as a resource for your final, but more importantly, it will be a useful resource in your professional life.

### **Field Experience Requirements PRIOR to Observations:**

#### **- DPS Computerized Criminal History (CCH) Verification**

Prior to beginning your 10-hour Field Experience Observations in the Alpine Public Schools, you are required to have a computerized criminal history background check. Please complete a DPS form in class and return it to me or deliver it Ms. Marsha Roach at the AISD Administration Offices, 704 W. Sul Ross Avenue.

#### **- VIPS Program Application**

Prior to beginning your 10-hour Field Experience Observations in the Alpine Public Schools, you are required to complete an Alpine ISD VIPS Program Application. In the Volunteer Opportunities section, check "Other: SRSU Classes - Observation." Please complete the VIPS form and return it to me. You can access and print the form under the Course Forms link.

**If you are a Midland College (MC) student,** you will need to make contact with a school administrator. You are to provide me with written approval. The written approval can be in the form of an email or mailed letter. No phone calls. I need a hard copy that documents/authorizes you to be on an ISD campus.

# ***Texas Administrative Code***

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**TITLE 19      *EDUCATION***

**PART 7        *STATE BOARD FOR EDUCATOR  
CERTIFICATION***

**CHAPTER 228    *REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATOR  
PREPARATION PROGRAMS***

**RULE §228.30    *Educator Preparation Curriculum***

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(a) The educator standards adopted by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) shall be the curricular basis for all educator preparation and, for each certificate, address the relevant Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

(b) The curriculum for each educator preparation program shall rely on scientifically-based research to ensure teacher effectiveness and align to the TEKS. The following subject matter shall be included in the curriculum for candidates seeking initial certification:

- (1) the specified requirements for reading instruction adopted by the SBEC for each certificate;
- (2) the code of ethics and standard practices for Texas educators, pursuant to Chapter 247 of this title (relating to Educators' Code of Ethics);
- (3) child development;
- (4) motivation;
- (5) learning theories;
- (6) TEKS organization, structure, and skills;
- (7) TEKS in the content areas;
- (8) state assessment of students;
- (9) curriculum development and lesson planning;
- (10) classroom assessment for instruction/diagnosing learning needs;
- (11) classroom management/developing a positive learning environment;
- (12) special populations;
- (13) parent conferences/communication skills;
- (14) instructional technology;
- (15) pedagogy/instructional strategies;
- (16) differentiated instruction; and
- (17) certification test preparation.

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**Source Note:** The provisions of this §228.30 adopted to be effective July 11, 1999, 24 TexReg 5011; amended to be effective October 12, 2003, 28 TexReg 8608; amended to be effective December 14, 2008, 33 TexReg 10016

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**Late Assignments:** It is anticipated that all of your work will be turned in on time; please review the syllabus for assignment due dates and scheduled time slots for quizzes and exams. If an emergency arises, please contact me to make arrangements. Otherwise, \* **Meet due dates for all assignments.** *Most* assignments are due on Blackboard by midnight. However, it is your responsibility to verify due dates with the syllabus calendar.

## **ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Homework, participation, in-class activities: (Ongoing).**

Students are expected to attend class and to participate during each class session. Homework and in-class exercises will be assigned weekly and possible assignments include designing instruction, developing graphic representations of text and vocabulary, written reflections, journals, reading response activities, technology activities, and other appropriate assignments. Students may also be asked to lead and/or participate in weekly discussions about the readings. All completed work should be saved as an important resource both for the final exam and for future teaching.

### **Letter of Introduction -- Classroom Teacher:**

**(Due: January 29/ WK2 on Blackboard by midnight, Hard Copy for your binder)**

The objective of this assignment is to build a professional relationship with the teacher in whose classroom you will be observing. To do this you will write a letter to introduce yourself to him or her. Include the following:

1. Salutation -- Dear Classroom Teacher (use teacher's name if known)
2. Introduce yourself -- name and contact info; home town; why you chose education
3. To give the teacher an idea of your background list the education courses you have already taken and write a sentence or two to summarize what you learned in each. Include the title of each course. If this is your first semester to take a course in education, include that information.
4. Ask permission to conduct the teacher interview (see the Pyramid of a Professional assignment).
5. Describe what you are required to do during your 10 hours of observation -- a) complete the focused observation reports; b) interact with students as allowed or encouraged by the classroom teacher; c) perform other related tasks as directed by the classroom teacher.
6. Indicate your willingness to engage in other activities suggested by the classroom teacher.
7. Describe what you hope to learn from the 10 hours of observation.
8. Closing -- include your signature.

**Field Experience Reports: 5 @ 20 points each= 100 points**

**FYI:** Each checklist is equal to 2 hours of observation  
(Therefore, **plan to observe in two-hour increments!**)

**5 Field Experience Report Essays = 10 hours of observation**

Download the Field Experience Report Guidelines from Blackboard under the “Course Forms” link. Read the instructions and ask questions if you need further support. The document is meant to guide your observation and give you purpose.

The objective of the field experience activity is to provide you with opportunities for observing and reflecting on authentic situations in academic settings. The course goals, objectives, content, and your specific areas of interest will guide the focus of the field observations. The goal of the experience is to provide you with the essentials for becoming a reflective practitioner.

During the observations, you will use field note checklists to help focus your observations. You will also document student reactions to instructional techniques, classroom management strategies, your personal thoughts, and other generalities about the learning environment being observed.

The focus of the field experience is not about evaluating teachers. Rather, it is about student engagement and classrooms being “learner centered.” Guiding thoughts: What effects do different aspects – like activating prior knowledge or beginning class promptly – have on learners? What effects do things like having set procedures for entering the classroom, getting the teacher’s attention, sharpening pencils, collecting papers, and dismissing at the end of the period have on the learners? What effects do such things as connecting the lesson to the students’ interests and beginning the lesson by stating its purpose or objective have on the learners? What effects do things like seating arrangements, posted rules, classroom ambience, number of students in a group, and time of day have on the learners? How do students respond to various situations that occur during the observation? How would you describe the learners? What surprised you? What inspired you? What was significant? What did you learn from the observation that you can take with you?

Review the field note checklists prior to your classroom visits. If the situation is not conducive to completing the checklists during the time you are in the classroom, complete them as soon as possible after the observation. Utilize what you are learning in ED 3302 and ED 4314 to engage actively in observations and field experience.

Remember that you are a guest in the school. Behaviors that will make you a welcome guest include:

- Dress professionally. Take your cue from the teachers in the school. In the eyes of the students, you are a teacher. Step up onto the stage and enjoy your new role.
- Males should not wear earrings. Females should not wear huge, distracting earrings.
- Tats should be covered and piercing jewelry removed.
- Caps and hats should not be worn in the building.
- Refrain from eating, drinking, and gum chewing in the classroom.
- Wear your nametag.
- Sign in at the main office. Knowing who is on campus at all times is part of keeping students safe.
- Always make sure the classroom teacher is expecting you. Situations change. Some days are better for visiting than others. Some days might not be good at all. Attempt to set up your observation days and times during your initial visit with the teacher. Find out how the teacher wants to communicate: email, text, phone. **ALWAYS notify the teacher if you have to change your plans and won’t be able to observe when you had planned to observe. This is mandatory procedure and professionalism.**
- Arrive at the classroom ahead of schedule. Wait outside the door if the teacher has not yet arrived.
- Always bring your Field Observation Log with you. Getting this signed by the classroom teacher is a TEA requirement and proof that you are meeting the TEA field observation requirement.

- Bring your Checklist and a pen or pencil for writing notes. Review the Checklist prior to your visit to help you focus.
- Participate or interact with the students if invited to do so. Let the teacher know prior to your visits that you are willing to help in any way you can.
- If you use any of the classroom materials, be **ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY, COMPLETELY, and TOTALLY** sure that you return them to the appropriate place and that you **NOTIFY THE TEACHER** that you have done so!!!!!! If items disappear, you do not want to be blamed!
- At the end of the observation, ask the teacher to initial your Field Observation Log. Politely provide a pen for him or her to do so.
- Thank the teacher for allowing you to visit.
- Return to the main office and sign out.
- Reflect on what you observed.
- Complete your Field Reports and submit to Blackboard.
- Use Times New Roman/12 pt. font/ APA format
- Organize your reports in two-hour increments. (Hours #1 & # 2, Hours #3 & #4, etc.)

Due Dates: (**All Field Reports are due on Sunday by midnight**).

FYI: Schedule accordingly and use your time wisely.

Field Report #1: March 26/WK 9

Field Report #2: April 2/ WK 10

Field Report #3: April 9/ WK 11

Field Report #4: April 16/WK 12

Field Report #5: April 23/WK 13

\*\*\*Please be advised that an audit is conducted based on your observations and Field Reports in ED 3302 and ED 4314. Remain punctual and professional.

**Field Experience Log: Due: Tuesday, April 25/ WK 14:**

**FYI:** hand-deliver, mail, or put under my door as TEA must have original teacher initials.

The classroom teachers whose students you observe initial the Field Observation Log and it documents your ten hours of classroom observations. It is a **TEA requirement** that will be filed in your permanent SRSU folder as proof of your classroom observations. **In order to receive a grade for this course, the Field Observation Log must be completed and turned in to me on April 25.**

When you have completed your ten hours of observations you may turn your Field Observation Log in to me in MAB 309-G during my office hours, slide it under my door if I am unavailable, mail it to me if you are an MC student: Diana Rodriguez, SRSU, Education Department, Box C-115, Alpine, TX 79832. MC students need to scan and email a copy to prevent late credit. However, make sure you mail the original to me by May 1, as it is an official TEA document.

## **Certify Teacher Study Mode: Ongoing...Plan Accordingly.**

**600 min. Due no later than Thursday, April 27/WK 14, by midnight.**

**You will take the Certify Teacher Exam on Tuesday, May 2 in class (Last class day). Bring Pencil.**

The objective of Certify Teacher is to help you prepare for the TexES Test in your content area. You will use this program in Block I and again in Block II. During Block I, **you are to work in Study Mode only.**

Consider setting and following a regular weekly practice schedule. Such a routine will build your content knowledge as well as boost your confidence for the eventual exam. If you do not log onto the site regularly, your program will be deactivated. Should this happen, you must contact the company in order to re-activate it. You will need to re-activate the program approximately once a month. You only pay for the program once and you may keep it as long as you need it until you pass the TexES Test.

To start practicing with the program, follow these steps:

1. Open Certify Teacher and click "Practice Exam."
2. Enter "Study Mode."
3. Click "See Explanation" on the bottom right of the screen.

(As you answer the questions, the explanations for the answers will appear on your screen.

Study the explanations. Knowing the "why" of the answer will help you remember it. )

During the semester, you will be given points for study requirements. If you have not completed the requirement, you will not receive points. Points for partial completion of this assignment will not be given. Points will only be given for required time spent in Study Mode and Flash Cards as you must pass your content area exam.

I will add your points in the grade book under Study Mode at the end of the semester. You will not need to submit anything to Blackboard for this assignment. I will check your times through the Certify Teacher program.

## **TWO Reading Lesson Plans accompanied by ONE Reflective Narrative:**

Throughout this course, we will discuss the importance of knowing whom our students are in order to provide effective instruction for them. For each reading Lesson Plan (2), you will also include your plans for differentiated instruction. Include literacy/language objectives (reading, writing, speaking, viewing, and researching). You will write an instructional lesson plan that delineates how you would teach and support student's literacy learning during that phases of instruction (beginning, during, after reading) using your content areas and literacy ELAR standards. Your plan must take into account the student's needs.

You will complete two lesson plans based on your content areas. Each lesson will be a different grade level. Each of your lessons will include all of the following:

- Pre-reading strategy
- During reading strategy
- Post-reading strategy

You will incorporate these strategies into the procedures section of the Lesson Plan. Write a script and be specific with details, details, details.

Your lesson plans will be graded with the SRSU lesson plan rubric. Also, my evaluation of your lessons will look for:

- Establishing and maintaining high expectations for learners
- Using instructional strategies to facilitate **learning and literacy**
- Providing content for learners



## *Writing the Lesson Plans (Guidelines):*

The objective of this assignment is to give you an opportunity to develop a lesson plan to teach. Use the Sul Ross Lesson Plan Model found on the main menu in Blackboard. You will develop the lesson plan, step-by-step. This lesson plan requires a demonstration as it will be expected of you daily in the real classroom.

On the lesson plan model, first fill in the Subject/Grade Level and the Created By spaces. As you develop the lesson, fill in the other spaces (Lesson Title; Lesson Goal, etc.). Next, copy and paste into the appropriate space on the lesson plan form the TEKS that you have chosen to teach or use the ELAR Standards Document. Now you are ready to develop your Lesson Objectives.

### *Lesson Objectives:*

Writing clear objectives and making students aware of the objectives has a greater influence on student achievement than most other strategies. The students should be given the objectives before the lesson begins. After the lesson, the teacher and students should review the objectives to see if they have been met. If the objectives have not been met, the lesson is not finished. The teacher and students will need to spend more time with the objectives until they have been met.

A clear objective tells exactly, in a single sentence, what a student must do to accomplish what is to be learned. Clear objectives help you, the teacher, keep focused on what is to be taught. Clear objectives help your students understand what is to be learned.

The formula given in Nath & Cohen for writing objectives is:

Objective = (1) The exact learner + (2) the observable or measurable behavior + (3) the circumstances or condition under which the behavior will be measured + (4) the assessment of the behavior.

(3) The exact learner tells who the student will be.

(For example, the 2<sup>nd</sup> period history students, the first grade class, the group reading *Night*.)

(2) The observable or measurable behavior tells exactly what the student will do with the TEKS you will teach.

(For example, recall, describe, conclude, classify, design, judge. This will always be a verb. The verb will determine the cognitive level. See Bloom's Taxonomy.) ALERT! ALERT! Make (2) as general and as brief as possible. DO NOT include anything except information from the TEKS.

(3) The circumstances or condition under which the behavior will be measured tells the conditions in which the student will work.

(For example, working alone, working in a group, using a calculator, working in a lab, reading from a chart.)

(4) The assessment of the behavior tells how much is enough.

(For example, list 3 major events, write 5 interrogative sentences, achieve 90% accuracy on a quiz.)

Here are some examples of clear objectives:

- (1) The 3<sup>rd</sup> period 10<sup>th</sup> grade English students will (2) analyze how place and time influence theme (3) working in pairs (4) locating four examples.
- (1) The kindergarten students will (2) select the primary colors (3) from a box of crayons (4) with 100% accuracy.
- (1) The 1<sup>st</sup> period 7<sup>th</sup> grade history students will (2) compare the economies of two cities (3) using a Venn diagram (4) listing six similarities.

Before you begin planning a lesson, ask yourself, "What, exactly, do I want my students to learn?"

You will use the TEKS to guide you in answering this question. For example, look again at:

§110.19. English Language Arts and Reading, **Grade 7**, Beginning with School Year 2009-2010.

(b) Knowledge and skills.

(3) Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Theme and Genre. Students analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about theme and genre in different cultural, historical, and contemporary contexts and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding. Students are expected to:

I analyze how place and time influence the theme or message of a literary work.

If you want your students to learn how place and time influence the theme or message of a literacy work, your objective might look like this:

(3) The 4<sup>th</sup> period 7<sup>th</sup> grade English students will (2) analyze how place and time influence theme or message (3) reading a passage of fiction (4) underlining three examples.

For this assignment use the Nath & Cohen four-part formula. **Number the four parts.** Remember that an objective is a behavior that is observable or measurable and reflects the TEKS you are teaching. Write your objective in the appropriate section of the Lesson Plan Model.

**In summary, for this assignment:**

3. Choose one of the TEKS from each content that you and your partner want to develop into a lesson. Include the complete number(s) and complete text that identifies the TEKS. Write your TEKS in the appropriate section of the Lesson Plan Model.

2. Use the Nath & Cohen four-part formula to write a lesson objective based on the TEKS you've chosen.

**Please be prompt with this assignment. If you are absent the day of your Lesson Plan Demonstration, you will not receive credit.**

**After you have written your Lesson Plans (2),** you will reflect and respond to the readings and class discussions that have informed your instructional lesson plans. The purpose of the reflection is to deepen your understanding of the readings and topics explored in class, as well as prepare you for class discussions and Lesson Planning. Below you will read the description of the Reflective Narrative expectations.

**ONE Reflective Narrative:** (Aligned to your Lesson Plans)

The reflection should be a typed 2-3 page reflection (double-spaced) and should follow APA format. You are not to summarize the readings. Dig deeper. This is a space for you to raise questions, explore and react to issues raised in the readings and in class, and to connect the readings to your own experiences. I want to know what the readings make you think about, your new insights, and any questions or wonderings you have. In your paper, you need to cite the readings that helped develop your thoughts and growth. Include an APA reference page of the readings you used at the end of your reflection.

Reflection Narrative goals:

- Become a collection of insights and citations that are reflective of your thinking as you move through the theoretical and practical frameworks of learning about reading and writing in the content areas.
- Show/demonstrate a reflection about your dispositions, knowledge, and practices.
- Clearly demonstrate that you have read each assignment thoughtfully and carefully.

### **ONE Literacy Lesson Plan Demonstration (25 minutes max):**

You will teach ONE of your Lesson Plans to the class based on a core reading strategy informed by the ELAR/ SLAR TEKS Standards (<http://www.englishspanishteks.net/teachers/teks.asp>) and integrated to your content area. The lesson demonstrations will be approximately 25 minutes. You will need to provide each class member with a copy of the Lesson Plan and all necessary materials and handouts. We will be your students for this lesson. If you are a kindergarten teacher, we will be kindergarteners. If you are a 12<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher, we will be seniors. Plan accordingly. Engage and help us learn!

### **Creating a Text Set:**

For this assignment, you will begin to collect texts that you could use in your content area classroom. You will organize your text set around a theme or topic. You will refer to the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) to determine what themes or topics are required for your content areas and make your determination based on the standards. You will need a minimum collection of 5 texts from a minimum of 5 **different** genres: novels, picture books, poetry, nonfiction and/or informational texts, websites, and other non-print sources (music, movies, games, DVDs, video clips, etc).

Text Sets are more than a set of books and/or resources about a single topic. They are carefully selected to explore a significant issue from multiple perspectives; they invite students to think about complex ideas expressed in a variety of forms. Text sets invite a learner to enjoy, investigate, and imagine their way into meaning-making. When students make-meaning they are **learning and learning how to learn** further.

**Your Text Set must align to the Lesson Plan you plan on presenting.** You will present your lesson to the class (25 min.). Then (same day) you will present your Text Set (10 min.).

You will be responsible for the rest of the research. Make adequate time to select titles for this assignment. Remember:

- You will present your Text Set in class, after your Lesson Plan Demonstration (10 min.).
- Bring Text Set and necessary materials.
- Be as creative as you want!

## Writing to Learn Digital Journal: Systematic Reflections on Readings:

A reflective practitioner develops habits of responding to professional readings in intentional, consistent, and reflective ways. As you read texts and articles for this course, you will utilize strategies with the learner and teacher's eye for capturing and responding to important insights in the readings. Strive to reveal your understanding, musing, thinking, exploring, and questioning about issues, approaches, and methods posed by the material.

When you use writing to reflect intentionally and systematically, on the readings, you will:

- Make new connections;
- Articulate your beliefs about language, literacy, and learning;
- Make solid predictions and pose new questions;
- Theorize from descriptions of exemplary practice and
- Imagine practices that reflect current theory.

**What will you do?** Every week, you will write annotations and reflections of the assigned reading in your texts along with articles that I will either give to you in class and/or post on Blackboard. Please come to class with thoughtful, tangible responses to the readings you have written in your Writing to Learn Journal. In doing so, you will be able to fully participate in class discussions. Bring your digital Writing to Learn Journal TO EVERY CLASS. It will be collected intermittently. If you prefer to use paper rather than the journal tab under each week, you will need to scan the notes and post on Blackboard under each week. You will submit 10 Writing to Learn Journals (WTLJ). Each chapter of the text will represent your journal. What you put in to the journal is what you will get out of it. Be constructive with each other. **No superficial comments will receive credit.** WTLJs include:

**Journal Post:** Rich notes on chapter for the week.

**Peer Post:** Min. 75 words of constructive feedback to a peer about their Primary/Journal Post.

How the journal works on Blackboard.

1. You will be required to post **your journal** for the chapter **each week on Saturday**, by midnight.
2. You will need to **respond** to one student's journal each **Sunday**, by midnight. Give feedback, ask questions, give suggestions, provide clarifications, and help each other learn.  
You are teachers in the making now.

**Final Exam: WK 16, Monday, May 8/ 12:30- 2:30 p.m.**

**Learning is a life-long process and learners are constantly in the process of outgrowing themselves.** You too will outgrow yourself as you engage in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking this semester. Many of your thoughts, ideas, and reflections will be captured in your "Writing to Learn Journal and Reflective Narratives", all of which will provide rich resources to help you see where you have "grown your knowing". For your final exam, you will chronicle how you have grown as a reader, writer, speaker, listener, and thinker. You will address what you know about adolescent learners, the process for both reading and writing, and the significance of reading and writing across the curriculum. Your final exam will require you to reflect on your knowledge growth in this course. More details will be provided.

## Grading Policies and Guidelines

The criteria for determining your final grade are outlined below.

Assignments	Points	Due Dates
Homework, participation, in-class activities	155	Ongoing/ Be present
Letter of Introduction	25	Jan. 29/ WK 2/BB midnight
Literacy Strategy Lesson Plan 1	50	Mar. 12/ WK 8/BB midnight
Literacy Strategy Lesson Plan 2	50	Mar. 26/ WK 9/ BB midnight
Reflective Narrative on LP1 and LP2	100	April 9/ WK 11/ BB midnight
Lesson Plan Demonstration	100	Sign-up for a date! Begin WK9
Field Experience Reports (5 @ 20 pts/ea.)	100	Review Assignment Description for due dates!
Field Experience Log	20	April 25/ WK 14 in class
Certify Teacher 600 min./ 10 points per hr.	100	April 27/ WK 14 midnight
Text Set Presentation	100	Depends on your LP Demonstration Sign-up day as they will be presented on the same day.
Writing to Learn Journal (10 @10 pts/ea.)	100	Journal Post: Saturday by mid. Response Post: Sunday by mid. View Course Content Calendar
Final Exam	100	May 8/ Monday/ WK 16 12:30- 2:30

Most assignments are due on Blackboard by midnight on the due date.

However, you must review the syllabus for assignment details and dates.

### Standard grading scale:

A= 900-1000 POINTS – Exceeds Expectation

B= 800- 899 POINTS – Proficient

C= 700- 799 POINTS – Acceptable

D= 600- 699 POINTS – Emerging

F= less than 600 POINTS – Unacceptable

### Rubrics

Rubrics are provided for many of the assignments completed in this course. While these can help guide you toward successfully completing each assignment, *it is not enough* to read the rubrics and ignore the assignment descriptions. Reading **both** the criteria listed in the rubrics and the details provided in the assignment descriptions and bringing questions to class *prior* to the due dates will best prepare you for successful completion of the this course.

Use the rubrics for your benefit – get accustomed to using them and they will guide you toward completing more effective assignments.

## **Class Assignments Rubric:**

- “A” Demonstrates the **highest level** of class attention, participation, preparation, responsibility, and professionalism as judged by the instructor’s expectations. Consistently and often, contribute constructive comments and questions that expand and enrich class discussion. Projects/assignments must be of highest scholarly level and incorporate APA format to support thoughts/claims/conclusions.
- “B” Demonstrates a **proficient level** of class attention, participation, preparation, responsibility, and professionalism as judged by the instructor’s expectations. Occasionally contribute constructive comments and questions that expand and enrich class discussions. Submitted projects/assignments must be at a high level.
- “C” Demonstrates an **average level** of class attention, responsibility, participation, preparation, and professionalism as judged by the instructor’s expectations. Rarely contribute constructive comments and questions that expand and enrich class discussion. Submitted projects/assignments are at an average level.
- “D” Demonstrates an **inadequate level** of class attention, responsibility, participation, preparation and professionalism as judged by the instructor’s expectations. Submitted projects/assignments are at an inadequate level.

## **Submission of Assignments:**

Use the following guidelines for saving and labeling assignments—send assignments as attachments.

Submit assignments as a Word Document.

Your first initial, full last name, course number, and assignment title:

**Example:** dirodriguezED4314-Letter of Introduction

**Academic Integrity:** All work submitted for a grade in this course must be **your original effort**.

The work cannot be copied from:

- Materials purchased or copied from a pre-made kit,
- A lesson plan, activities or worksheets downloaded from the Internet (in part or in whole),
- Another individual’s work (to include but not be limited to a current or former student, current or former classroom teacher
- Your own work completed for another class
- Any other copyrighted materials.

If you use any of the materials listed above as a source (or inspiration) for your work, you must give credit to that individual using APA format on your assignments.

### **Written Assignments:**

- All written assignments are expected to exhibit professional quality. You should demonstrate mastery of organizing, structuring, and editing in your writing. Grammar, spelling, and vocabulary errors will result in a reduction of your score. Letters and materials written by you as a professional and sent to parents/administrators must be virtually perfect. **Begin that practice now!**
- There will be no pre-grading of assignments, as this gives some students an unfair advantage. All assignments will be graded and returned at the same time.
- All assignments are to be turned in on the due date. Since most assignments will require you to submit via Blackboard, you will have until 11:55 p.m. of the same day to submit. No assignments will be accepted after the due date. Technology problems are NOT acceptable reasons for an assignment to be late! Prepare your assignments enough in advance to accommodate untimely problems with your computer, Internet provider, printer, Blackboard, etc.
- **No assignments or parts of assignments will be accepted via email.** ALL assignments should be submitted through Blackboard, unless the instructor has indicated that the assignment should be brought to class.
- **Please make a copy of everything you turn in to me.** In the highly unlikely event that an assignment is lost or misplaced, the burden of proof rests with you.
- All assignments must be typed. No handwritten assignments will be accepted, unless noted.  
**Times New Roman/ 12 pt. font/ 1 inch margins/ double spaced/APA format, unless otherwise noted.**  
**ALWAYS submit your assignments using the assignment guidelines.**

**NOTE:** If you find yourself having technical difficulties contact Technical Support.

If you find yourself having content difficulties please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Attendance Requirements:** Adhere to the SRSU attendance guidelines. Regular class attendance is important for the attainment of the educational objectives of the University. Students enrolled in ED 4314 are expected to be on time and in class each class period. If you are tardy two times, this will count as one absence. Attendance is a major requirement in the field of professional education. In addition, students who are absent must take the initiative to contact me at: [drosdriguez5@sulross.edu](mailto:drosdriguez5@sulross.edu) and briefly state why you are missing class and how you intend to make up the information missed. The instructor will drop a student from the course when the student has a total of nine absences.

### **Class Etiquette:**

Cell phones must be turned off or on silent.

Refrain from text messaging in class.

Children are not allowed to attend class.

Do not bring food to class.

It is up to you to obtain missed notes, handouts, etc. from a peer.

## COURSE CONTENT AND ASSIGNMENTS

**NOTE: You must check your Blackboard account at least once a day. It is your responsibility to keep up with announcements, updates, and emails for the course. This is a consistent way for communication to be successful.**

**NOTE: Complete assigned readings and homework prior to attending class.**

Week	Course Meetings	Essential Questions, Readings, Topics	Assignments/Activities
		FYI: It is your responsibility to read the material/text PRIOR to class.	
WK1	T January 17	Introductions, syllabus overview	
	TR January 19	Chapter 1: Teaching and Learning through Text What is the meaning of literacy? Why is content literacy not the same as content knowledge? What role do reading and writing play in content literacy?	Activity: Disciplinary Literacy  Activity: Work on your first Writing to Learn Journal entry (WTLJ) for Ch. 1  Remember: You will submit 10 journal entries. One for each chapter by midnight every Saturday. Then a peer post every Sunday by midnight. Due: 1/21/17 WTLJ Due: 1/22/17 Peer Post
WK2	T January 24	Chapter 2: Literacy Processes What is the role and purpose of prior knowledge in reading and the role of intention in writing? What similarities are shared in reading and writing? Explain their implications for content instruction.	Due: Intro Letter: 1/29/17 WK 2  Due: 1/28/17 WTLJ Due: 1/29/17 Peer Post
	TR January 26	Chapter 2: Continued...	



WK3	T January 31	<p>Chapter 3: Getting to Know Your Students, Your materials, and Your Teaching</p> <p>What is reading ability? Describe the three dimensions of assessment necessary for content literacy-based instruction. Define: independent, instructional, and frustration reading levels.</p>	<p>Due: 2/4/17 WTLJ Due: 2/5/17 Peer Post</p>
	TR February 2	Chapter 3 Continued...	
WK4	T February 7	<p>Chapter 4: Teaching for Diversity</p> <p>What are the dimensions of diversity present in U.S. classrooms? Why must we be cognizant of the instructional challenges posed by diverse classrooms? How can you develop culturally responsive strategies for better addressing the needs of a diverse classroom?</p>	<p>Due: 2/11/17 WTLJ Due: 2/12/17 Peer Post</p> <p>Activity: Create a diversity map of yourself. Then compare yourself to a colleague.</p>
	TR February 9	Chapter 4 Continued...	
WK5	T February 14	<p>Chapter 5 Building Prior Knowledge</p> <p>What is meant by considerate and inconsiderate text? This chapter focuses on the “Before Reading” Lesson Plan component. Read it well and begin working on your Lesson Plan 1. In your lesson plan, use appropriate techniques to build and activate background and prior knowledge.</p>	<p>Due: 2/18/17 WTLJ Due: 2/19/17 Peer Post</p>
	TR February 16	Chapter 5 Continued...	

WK6	T February 21	Chapter 6: Introducing Technical Vocabulary Describe the nature and function of words and their relationship to human experience. Construct a graphic organizer for this chapter.	Due: 2/25/17 WTLJ Due: 2/26/17 Peer Post
	TR February 23	Chapter 6 Continued...	
WK7	T February 28	Chapter 7: Making Reading Purposeful What are some reasons for setting purposes prior to reading? Based on the chapter: Create a literal, inferential, and critical level question. Explain how student created questions can best serve reading assignments. Discuss purpose setting techniques.	Due: 3/4/17 WTLJ Due: 3/5/17 Peer Post
	TR March 2	Chapter 7 Continued...	
WK8 No Mid term	T March 7	Chapter 8 Reading Guides What are advantages to using guides in written form? Defend the use of guides for a wide range of reading selections and for students of both high and low ability.	Due: 3/11/17WTLJ Due: 3/12/17 Peer Post
	TR March 9	Chapter 9 Providing Time to Read: When, Where, and How? Describe effective teacher practices to use during silent reading. Describe team and partner approaches to reading and describe their strengths and limitations. List the difficulties inherent in round-robin oral reading as a means of “covering” the material.	Due: 3/11/17 WTLJ Due: 3/12/17 Peer Post  No Midterm.
WK9	T March 21	Chapter 10 Questioning and Discussion Write questions based on the chapter and engage in a class discussion.	Due: 3/25/17 WTLJ Due: 3/26/17 Peer Post  Due: 3/26/17/ WK 9 Field Report #1
	TR March 23	<b>Do NOT be absent!</b> Today is a workshop day! You have much work to complete...	

WK10	T March 28	Lesson Plan Demonstrations begin today! Demo 1: _____ Demo 2: _____	Due: 4/2/17 WK 10 Field Report #2
	TR March 30	Demo3: _____ Demo 4: _____	
WK11	T April 4	Demo 5: _____ Demo 6: _____	Due: 4/9/17 WK 11 Field Report #3 Due: 4/9/17 Reflective Narrative
	TR April 6	Demo 7: _____ Demo 8: _____	
WK12	T April 11	Demo 9: _____ Demo 10: _____	Due: 4/16/17 Field Report #4  Due: 4/16/17 Certify Teacher 600 min.
	TR April 13	Flexible Day depending on presentations!	
WK13	T April 18	Certify Teacher Study Session No Absences.	
	TR April 20	Workshop Day Bring Pencils	Due: 4/23/17 Field Report #5
WK14	T April 25	Certify Teacher Study Session Today <b>No absences will be excused.</b>	
	TR April 27	Study for the Certify Teacher Exam next Tuesday, May 2. <b>No absences will be excused.</b>	Due: 4/ 25/ 17 Field Experience Log
WK15	T May 2	Last Class Day! Do NOT be absent! Certify Teacher Exam #1 AND Final Exam Review. If you pass the CT Exam #1, you will be exempt from the Block I Final Exams. (It depends on your Content exam studying for this semester).	
	TR May 4	Dead Day	
WK16	TR May 8	Final Exam 12:30- 2:30 p.m.	

### **SRSU DISABILITIES SERVICES**

Sul Ross is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. The Disabilities Services Coordinator in Counseling and Student Support Services has the responsibility to ensure students with disabilities the opportunity for full participation in programs, services, and activities.

Students seeking disability services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed.; L.P.C., Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112.. The mailing address is PO Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX 79832. The telephone number is 432-837-8691 or email: mschwartz@sulross.edu.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are expected to attend all classes and be on time. Students must notify the instructor in advance if unable to attend a class or immediately after missing a class. Students are to make themselves aware of the SRSU policies on Absences and Class Attendance posted in the SRSU Student Handbook. Make-up work is at the discretion of the instructor as it relates to "explained and excused" absences. The Absences/Class Attendance policy includes all absences excused or unexcused. In this course you are expected to attend all classes (as scheduled on campus or electronically on Blackboard), to be punctual, and to complete all assignments on time.

### **TOBACCO POLICY**

Smoking is not permitted on the SRSU campus.

### **ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT POLICY**

Use of cell phones, pagers, or any electronic device is prohibited during class time. There are EMERGENCY exceptions. See your instructor.

### **DISTANCE EDUCATION STATEMENT**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, such as online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information.

The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

***\*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor.***