

FOUNDATIONS OF ELEMENTARY FALL 2026

SCIENCE II SCED/SCER 3409

Alejandra Martinez M. Ed

✉ alejandra.martinez@sulross.edu

🕒 Appointments: Can be scheduled as needed

🖨 Office: Virtual/Remote by appointment

👥 Class: Synchronous Virtual Through Blackboard
T/Th 6pm



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is the second in a series of two courses offered to education students, in which students will learn and explore the teaching of required science content in the form of the TEA science competencies related to Life Science and Earth Science, toward their future roles as elementary and middle school science teachers. Topics covered will include the following TEA science competencies: History & Nature of Science; Impact of Science; Structure & Function of Earth Systems; Cycles in Earth Systems; Energy in Weather & Climate; Structure & Function of Living Things; Reproduction & the Mechanisms of Heredity; Relationship between Organisms & the Environment; Energy Transformations & Conservation of Matter; Impact of Science on Personal & Societal Decisions; and Students as Learners & Science Instruction. Inquiry and investigation are promoted in this class such that preservice teachers may do the same in their future science classrooms. The class emphasizes problem-solving as a pedagogical tool and explores assessment types and lesson plans appropriate to varied science content.



STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1: Students will design and deliver comprehensive lesson plans that align with learning standards, incorporate differentiated instruction, and demonstrate effective teaching strategies, as measured by a rubric-based evaluation of submitted lesson plans and observed teaching demonstrations.
- 2: Students will be able to identify, explain, and apply a variety of evidence-based instructional strategies to support diverse learners, as demonstrated through lesson plan development, peer teaching, and reflective analysis.
- 3: Students will demonstrate the ability to design, implement, and analyze a variety of formative and summative assessments aligned with learning objectives, using data to inform instructional decisions and support diverse learners.
- 4: Students will demonstrate knowledge of effective classroom management principles by designing a comprehensive classroom management plan.



BOOK

Explaining Life Through Evolution by Prosanta Chakrabarty
<https://a.co/d/fOKmLLv>

ISBN-10 0262546256

ISBN-13 978-0262546256



COURSE GRADING

GRADING SCALE

A = 1000-900 POINTS

B = 899-800 POINTS

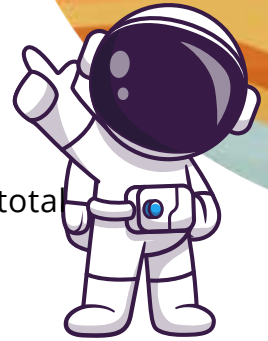
C = 799-700 POINTS

D = 699-600 POINTS

F = 599-0 POINTS

ASSIGNMENTS

Chakrabarty Book Reflection (4)	200 points total
Introductory video	25 points
Chakrabarty TED Talk EdPuzzle	25 points
50 Years of Children Drawing Scientists	25 points
Obstacles to Teaching Science	25 points
AI Conversations	50 points
Exams (2)	200 points total
Children's Book Project	150 points
Attendance/Participation	200 points
Journal	100 points



Chakrabarty Book Reflection - There will be 4 assignments that will each cover one of 4 parts of the book. You will reflect on what you read and answer the questions. These 4 assignments are the only ones that will be due before class the day of the book discussion. You are also required to participate in class during the book discussion.

Introductory Video - Record a video introducing yourself to the class.

Chakrabarty TED Talk - You will watch a video and answer questions in EdPuzzle.

Children Drawing Scientists - You will read an article and record a voice thread reflecting on what you read.

Obstacles to Teaching Science - You will read an article and record a voice thread reflecting on what you read.

AI Conversations - Use the AI tool to role play contacting a parent about a student.

Exams - There will be 2 multiple choice assessments consisting of 50 questions each.

Children's Book Project - You will choose a children's book about science and fill out a template on how you would use the book in a science classroom.

Attendance/participation - Camera must be turned on during class to earn credit for attendance that day. The room must be free from distractions. You should be paying attention, not talking to someone else, and participating.

Science Journal - Keep a science journal throughout the semester using the provided pdf and a composition notebook. At the end of the semester you will turn in a video flipthrough of your journal.

LATE WORK POLICY

If you do not complete an assignment on time, you may turn it in up to one week late for half credit. Email me at alejandra.martinez@sulross.edu to discuss your options and to have the assignment reopened for you. No work will be accepted more than one week late.



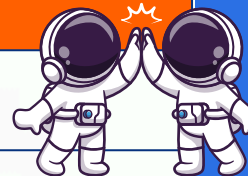


COURSE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

THURSDAY

 No Class	Jan 15 Class Introduction
Jan 20 Learners and Assesment	Jan 22 Cells and Reproduction Introduction Video Due
Jan 27 Heredity and DNA	Jan 29 Mitosis and Meiosis Chakrabarty TED Talk Edpuzzle Due
Feb 3 Life Discussion Part 1 Part 1 Questions Due at 4pm	Feb 5 Respiration and Photosynthesis
Feb 10 Human Body 1 st AI Conversation Due	Feb 12 Life Cycles
Feb 17 Classification	Feb 19 Natural Selection
Feb 24 Ecosystems	Feb 26 Symbiosis and Ecological Succession 50 Years Article Reflection Due
Mar 3 Life Discussion Part 2 2nd AI Conversation Due Part 2 Questions Due at 4pm	Mar 5 Mid Term Exam
SPRING BREAK	
Mar 17 Earth's Interior and Plate Tectonics	Mar 19 Rock Cycle and Minerals
Mar 24 Landforms and Weathering 3 rd AI Conversation Due	Mar 26 Life Discussion Part 3 Part 3 Questions Due at 4pm
Mar 31 Water Cycle and Atmosphere	Apr 2 Ocean
Apr 7 Nitrogen and Carbon Cycles 4 th AI Conversation Due	Apr 9 Weather and Climate Obstacles Article Reflection Due
Apr 14 Superposition and Geologic Timeline	Apr 16 Gravity, Universe, Stars, and Solar System
Apr 21 Lunar Phases 5 th AI Conversation Due	Apr 23 Seasons Journal Due
Apr 28 Life Part 4 Discussion Part 4 Questions Due at 4pm	Apr 30 Dead Day, No Class Childrens Book Project and Video Due
May 5 Final Exam (not cumulative)	No Class



Note – This outline is subject to change for reasons of course interest, time constraint, or instructor whim. Assignments will be administered on the dates given, unless material relevant for a given assignment has not been covered as yet. Under such cases, a due date may be moved a class period or two to aid in the clarity and understanding of the material.



STANDARDS BREAKDOWN



1. Lab Processes, Equipment, and Safety - Includes lab safety, gathering data, and measurement systems
2. History and Nature of Science - Includes observations, scientific equipment, and the development of science over time
3. Impact of Science - Includes fitness and health, populations and population growth, and the effect of science on global processes
4. Concepts and Processes - Includes evidence, models, data patterns, and organization across scientific disciplines
5. Students as Learners and Science Instruction - Includes curriculum, hands-on learning experiences, and age-appropriate instruction
6. Science Assessment - Includes appropriate assessments of students' understanding
7. Forces and Motion - Includes universal forces, changes in motion, and the relationship between the two
8. Physical and Chemical Properties - Includes properties of solids, liquids, and gases, as well as physical and chemical changes in all three
9. Energy and Interactions - Includes energy transformation, heat, light, and sound
10. Energy Transformations and Conservation - Includes electrical energy, photosynthesis, and conservation of matter
11. Structure and Function of Living Things - Includes life cycles, structure of organisms, and human body systems
12. Reproduction and the Mechanisms of Heredity - Includes plant and animal reproduction, dominant and recessive traits, and genes
13. Adaptations and Evolution - Includes survival of certain species, mutation, and selective breeding
14. Organisms and the Environment - Includes internal and external stimuli, competition among species, and ecosystems
15. Structure and Function of Earth Systems - Includes plate tectonics, the atmosphere, and gradual and catastrophic changes to Earth systems
16. Cycles in Earth Systems - Includes the rock cycle, the water cycle, and the nutrient cycle
17. Energy in Weather and Climate - Includes elements of weather, energy transfers, and weather predictions and charts
18. Solar System and the Universe - Includes the Earth-Moon-Sun system and the solar system



CLASSROOM PROCEDURES & EXPECTATIONS

Academic Integrity

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and applications (including ChatGPT, etc) to produce content for course assignments is a violation of academic integrity. The use of AI technology is strictly prohibited.

Attendance

Students missing 20% of lectures may be dropped from the class per the SRSU catalog. Any student dropped for excessive absences will receive an F for the course grade. Please notify your instructor BEFORE missing class for authorized activities, death in the family, or illness. Assignments missed for any reason must be made up within one week of the originally scheduled date with special permission from the instructor. **REGARDLESS OF WHY AN ABSENCE OCCURS, YOU MAY BE GIVEN AN F FOR THE COURSE GRADE IF YOU ACCUMULATE SIX ABSENCES.** Attendance is part of your grade.



Lecture Courtesy

The general rules of classroom etiquette are below.

- 1) Please do not talk to others in class while the instructor is lecturing. If you have a question, ask the instructor, that is what I am here for.
- 2) Please turn cell phones to silent while in class. They are disruptive to the entire class, and detract from learning.
- 3) For remote connections, please attend class as professionally as one would do in person (ie. wearing proper clothes, not being disruptive or disrespectful to your peers, minimizing interruptions etc.)



Classroom Climate of Respect

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Marketable Skills

1. Students are adaptable and flexible and communicate effectively.
2. Students have the ability to teach diverse learners in an inclusive learning environment.
3. Students have the ability to assess student learning.
4. Students have the ability to effectively use technology.
5. Students can use critical thinking and creative thinking in the workplace.
6. Students are skilled in teamwork and conflict management
7. Students have an ability to construct a classroom management plan.



ADA Statement

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director or Ronnie Harris, LPC, Counselor, at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@sulross.edu or ronnie.harris@sulross.edu. RGC students can also contact Alejandra Valdez, at 830-758-5006 or email alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES & EXPECTATIONS CONT.

Student Responsibility Statement	SRSU Distance Education Statement
<p>All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the <u>Student Handbook</u> and the <u>Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog</u> and for abiding by the <u>University rules and regulations</u>. Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements of such laws.</p>	<p>Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, 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. 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. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.</p>
Libraries	Supportive Statement
<p>The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).</p>	<p>I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports various perspectives and experiences. I understand that the recent pandemic, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events may impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create a supportive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I am a resource for you.</p>

"Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science." - Edwin Hubble

Artificial Intelligence

All assignments should be fully prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in the skills associated with this course, from student-based brainstorming to project development, will prepare you for success in your degree pathway and, ultimately, a competitive career. Therefore, the use of generative AI tools to complete any aspect of assignments for this course are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism. If you have questions about what constitutes a violation of this statement, please contact me.

Tutoring Center

The Lobo Den Tutoring Center offers FREE tutoring support to help you excel in your courses. Whether you need assistance in Writing, Math, Science, or other subjects, we're here to help!

Important Information:

- Drop-in and Scheduled Appointments: Flexible options to fit your needs.
- Hours of Operation: Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
- Workshops: Attend our regularly hosted academic workshops on STEM topics and professional development, often in collaboration with specialized faculty.
- Location: BWML Room 128.
- Contact Us: For more information or to book an appointment, email tutoring@sulross.edu or call (432) 837-8726.

Looking for additional support?

- Tutor.com offers FREE 24/7 online tutoring in over 200 subjects, including specialized support for ESL and ELL learners with native Spanish-speaking tutors.
- Access Tutor.com via Blackboard: Log in to your Blackboard account to get started anytime, anywhere.

Take advantage of these valuable resources to boost your confidence and performance in your classes. We look forward to helping you succeed!

