

**University of Texas at El Paso**  
**College of Education – Department of Teacher Education**  
**RED 5342: Content Area Literacy (CRN:27385)**  
**Spring 2024**  
**Syllabus is subject to change**

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Office hours: Tuesday 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm in person or via Zoom or by appointment.

Course schedule: Online  
Location: Blackboard Ultra Course View  
Online  
March 18, 2024 – May 10, 2024

**Course overview:**

RED 5342 provides an overview of literacy instruction in the content areas, with an emphasis on grades 4-12. The course is focused on the development of critical, engaged, empowered readers and writers across content areas at the secondary level. To that end, this course will provide numerous opportunities to apply literacy instructional strategies, including reading, writing, academic vocabulary, and academic conversational strategies, as aligned with State Board of Education Certification (SBEC) standards for Pedagogy and Professional Practice and English as a Second Language Standards. This course requires fifteen (15) field observation hours.

**Course objectives:**

This course aligns with Texas State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) standards for pedagogy and professional practice (4-8/7-12), with a focus on integrated literacy instruction in the content areas. In addition, the course aligns with English as a Second Language Standards (as assessed by the TExES 154 ESL Supplemental Exam).

The SBEC standards for Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities can be found at the following online locations:

- Middle School Certificate Standards – PPR Grades 4-8:  
[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=7&ch=235&rl=41](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=7&ch=235&rl=41)
- Secondary School Certificate Standards – PPR Grades 7-12:  
[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p\\_dir=&p\\_rloc=&p\\_tloc=&p\\_ploc=&pg=1&p\\_tac=&ti=19&pt=7&ch=235&rl=61](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=7&ch=235&rl=61)

<b>SBEC Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (Grades 4-12)</b>
<b>Instructional Planning and Delivery</b>
Classroom teachers in grades 4-12 demonstrate understanding of instructional planning and delivery by providing standards-based, data-driven, differentiated instruction that engages students and makes learning relevant for today’s learners.
<b>Knowledge of Student and Student Learning</b>
Classroom teachers in grades 4-12 work to ensure high levels of learning and achievement outcomes for all students, taking into consideration each student’s educational and developmental backgrounds and focusing on each student’s needs.
<b>Content Knowledge and Expertise</b>

Classroom teachers in grades 4-12 exhibit an understanding of content and related pedagogy as demonstrated through the quality of the design and execution of lessons and the ability to match objectives and activities to relevant state standards.
<b>Learning Environment</b>
Classroom teachers in grades 4-12 interact with students in respectful ways at all times, maintaining a physically and emotionally safe, supportive learning environment that is characterized by efficient and effective routines, clear expectations for student behavior, and organization that maximizes student learning
<b>Data-Driven Practices</b>
Classroom teachers in grades 4-12 use formal and informal methods to assess student growth aligned to instructional goals and course objectives and regularly review and analyze multiple sources of data to measure student progress and adjust instructional strategies and content delivery as needed.
<b>Professional Practices and Responsibilities</b>
Classroom teachers in grades 4-12 consistently hold themselves to a high standard for individual development, collaborate with other educational professionals, communicate regularly with stakeholders, maintain professional relationships, comply with all campus and school district policies, and conduct themselves ethically and with integrity.

This course will also address the following state English as a Second Language (ESL) Standards and Competencies:

<b>SBEC/TEXES English as a Second Language Standards</b>
<b>English as a Second Language Standard III:</b>
The ESL teacher understands the processes of first- and second-language acquisition and uses this knowledge to promote students' language development in English.
<b>English as a Second Language Standard IV:</b>
The ESL teacher understands ESL teaching methods and uses this knowledge to plan and implement effective, developmentally appropriate ESL instruction.
<b>SBEC/TEXES English as a Second Language Competencies</b>
Competency 005: The ESL teacher understands how to promote students' literacy development in English.
Competency 006: The ESL teacher understands how to promote students' content-area learning, academic language development, and achievement across the curriculum.

This course will address the following ISTE standards:

<b>Learner</b>	Educators continually improve their practice by learning from and with others and exploring proven and promising practices that leverage technology to improve student learning.
<b>Leader</b>	Educators seek out opportunities for leadership to support student empowerment and success and to improve teaching and learning.
<b>Citizen</b>	Educators inspire students to positively contribute to and responsibly participate in the digital world.
<b>Collaborator</b>	Educators dedicate time to collaborate with both colleagues and students to improve practice, discover and share resources and ideas, and solve problems.

<b>Designer</b>	Educators design authentic, learner-driven activities and environments that recognize and accommodate learner variability.
<b>Facilitator</b>	Educators facilitate learning with technology to support student achievement of the <a href="#">ISTE Standards</a> for Students.
<b>Analyst</b>	Educators understand and use data to drive their instruction and support students in achieving their learning goals.

As part of this course, you will also be expected to become familiar with and use relevant Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for your content area. You can access the TEKS at this link: <https://tea.texas.gov/curriculum/teks/>.

**Professional Responsibilities and Dispositions:**

As part of this course, you will have the opportunity to develop and apply your knowledge of the UTEP College of Education’s working framework for Professional Responsibilities and Dispositions, which includes the following elements:

- Professional Attributes
- Commitment to the Teaching Profession
- Professional Relationship Skills and Communication
- Beliefs and Students and Learning
- Ethical and Responsible Conduct

At the end of the semester, as part of your final exam, you will submit a self-assessment of your professional dispositions, which will be paired with your cooperating teacher’s assessment of your professional dispositions. I will submit these to the advising center along with your field experience log and field observations reflection.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

In alignment with the standards and course goals/objectives outlined above, upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe and apply a meaningful definition of literacy in the content areas in the digital age;
2. Demonstrate ways of connecting literacy learning to students’ prior knowledge, life experiences, and interest, and that views differences in learning and background as educational assets;
3. Identify the role of language and culture in literacy learning and demonstrate ways to modify instructional practice to support students’ meaningful language acquisition and content learning;
4. Identify and apply disciplinary literacy instructional strategies for relevant content area(s), including reading, writing, academic vocabulary, and academic conversational strategies, and design assessments that are responsive to differences among students and that promote all students’ learning;

5. Use knowledge of relevant TEKS standards to plan integrated instruction and ongoing assessments that are appropriate for each student and responsive to students' developmental characteristics and needs;
6. Use data drawn from informal and formal assessments to gauge student progress in literacy and to design and modify instruction to improve students' literacy learning;
7. Reflect on their own strengths and areas of improvement in content literacy teaching, and use this information to adapt and improve instruction;
8. Demonstrate professionalism in all aspects of the course, as per the UTEP College of Education Professional Awareness and Responsibilities framework, which includes knowledge and practice of the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics  
[\(https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p\\_dir=&p\\_rloc=&p\\_tloc=&p\\_ploc=&pg=1&p\\_tac=&ti=19&pt=7&ch=247&rl=2\)](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=7&ch=247&rl=2)

**Course Readings:**

Required readings will be posted weekly on our Blackboard course site.

**Course requirements:**

Successful completion of this course will be based on your performance on the following assignments:

Activity/ Assessment	Point Value	Description
<b>Literacy Autobiography</b>	100 points	As part of this course, you will have the opportunity to reflect on your own literacy journey and the ways in which your experience with literacy has influenced your perspective as an aspiring teacher. Please use the most comfortable way for you to express how you see yourself as a reader and writer. That might be a recording, a video, a written post, a vision board, a PowerPoint with or without audio, etc . . . Please use this assignment to introduce yourself to your colleagues at the beginning of our assignment. Please share your name, preferred name and pronouns, what you will teach, and one fun fact about you.
<b>Reading responses</b>	150 points	Because this is a course focused on academic reading and writing, we will engage in one key academic literacy practice: reading responses. You will be asked to submit two reading responses throughout the course. The response should be between 300-500 words and should capture the main argument and key point(s) of the assigned reading. Your reading responses should follow the template provided on Blackboard.

<b>Adolescent Literacy Inventory and Report</b>	100 points	To learn about adolescent literacy practices and ways of getting to know students, you will be asked to conduct a brief interview with a (pre-)adolescent, ages 9-17, on their reading/writing/digital practices. You will then submit a short report of what you found in the interview. Please check Blackboard for interview questions and report template, and please check the course schedule for due date.
<b>Strategy plan and video demonstration*</b>	150 points	To practice the strategies that we read, learn, and talk about in class, you will work individually or with a partner to develop a strategy demonstration in your content area. You can draw on the readings in class to develop your strategies. This demonstration can be thought of as a mini-lesson that incorporates a literacy strategy that would normally be part of a larger, more complete lesson. Your video demonstration should last between 2 minutes and should include a content-related text. You will upload your video to a class discussion link for your colleagues to view. Please see the strategy plan template in Blackboard for more details, and please check course schedule for in-class demonstration dates.
<b>Collegial Feedback that provides substantive and polite assessment of the strategy plan for one of your colleagues.</b>	50 x 2 100 points	You will be asked to provide feedback on a strategy presented by one of your colleagues. Your feedback will provide insight on the strategy used in your colleague’s discipline and how it informs students of the language and use of language in that discipline.
<b>Content Area lesson* incorporating your Strategy from your Strategy Plan</b>	150 points	As part of this course, you will be asked to develop a TEKS-based content lesson that includes structured reading, writing, and academic talk activities based on what we’ve learned in the course. The lesson will have two parts: the lesson itself, and the use of a strategy that you chose and demoed earlier in the semester. Check the course schedule for due dates.
<b>Field observation log and reflection</b>	100 points – required for successful completion of this course	As part of this practice-intensive course, you will be required to complete <b>15 hours</b> of field- based experience (FBE) at campuses in partner school districts. These will be hands-on tutoring and small group intervention experiences with students in secondary/upper elementary classrooms, guided by a classroom teacher or campus instructional coach. Your log and reflection will be submitted as a pdf to a link in Week 7 of our course site.

<b>Self and CT Assessment</b>	50 points - required for successful completion of this course	At the end of this course, you will be asked to submit a self-assessment of your professional educator identity that you developed through your field-based experience (FBE). Please request that your Cooperating Teacher submit an assessment of your professionalism – a form will be provided on our Blackboard course site.
<b>Literacy Teaching Philosophy Statement*</b>	100 points	As a culminating assignment for this course, you will be asked to write your own literacy teaching philosophy statement for your discipline. Your statement should be 500-750 words and should include key concepts explored during this course. You should cite at least 3 readings/authors from the course in your paper.

\*Rubrics are provided in our Blackboard course site.

**Grading:**

- A 900-1000 points
- B 800-899 points
- C 700-799 points
- D 600-699 points
- F Below 600 points

**Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes:**

<b>Student Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Means of Assessment</b>
1. Describe and apply a meaningful definition of literacy in the content areas in the digital age.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Responses</li> <li>• Field Observation Log and Reflection</li> <li>• Strategy Plan and Video Demo</li> <li>• Strategy Plan Peer Feedback</li> <li>• Literacy Teaching Philosophy Statement</li> </ul>
2. Demonstrate ways of connecting literacy learning to students’ prior knowledge, life experiences, and interest, and that views differences in learning and background as educational assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy Autobiography</li> <li>• Adolescent Literacy Interview Report</li> <li>• Strategy Plan and Video Demo</li> <li>• Strategy Plan Peer Feedback</li> <li>• Literacy Teaching Philosophy Statement</li> </ul>
3. Identify the role of language and culture in literacy learning and demonstrate ways to modify instructional practice to support students’ meaningful language acquisition and content learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Responses</li> <li>• Field Observation Log and Reflection</li> <li>• Strategy Plan and Video Demo</li> <li>• Strategy Plan Peer Feedback</li> <li>• Lesson Plan and Presentation</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disciplinary Literacy Teaching Philosophy Statement</li> </ul>
4. Identify and apply disciplinary literacy instructional strategies for relevant content area(s), including reading, writing, academic vocabulary, and academic conversational strategies, and design assessments that are responsive to differences among students and that promote all students' learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Responses</li> <li>• Field Observation Log and Reflection</li> <li>• Strategy Plan and Video Demo</li> <li>• Strategy Plan Peer Feedback</li> <li>• Content Lesson Plan</li> <li>• Disciplinary Literacy Teaching Philosophy Statement</li> </ul>
5. Use knowledge of relevant TEKS standards to plan integrated instruction and ongoing assessments that are appropriate for each student and responsive to students' developmental characteristics and needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy Plan and Video Demo</li> <li>• Strategy Plan Peer Feedback</li> <li>• Content Lesson Plan</li> </ul>
6. Use data drawn from informal and formal assessments to gauge student progress in literacy and to design and modify instruction to improve students' literacy learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Responses</li> <li>• Field Observation Log and Reflection</li> <li>• Strategy Plan and Video Demo</li> <li>• Strategy Plan Peer Feedback</li> <li>• Content Lesson Plan</li> </ul>
7. Reflect on their own strengths and areas of improvement in content literacy teaching and use this information to adapt and improve instruction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field Observation Log and Reflection</li> <li>• Strategy Plan and Video Demo</li> <li>• Strategy Plan Peer Feedback</li> <li>• Self-Evaluation and CT Evaluation</li> <li>• Disciplinary Literacy Teaching Philosophy Statement</li> </ul>
8. Demonstrate professionalism in all aspects of the course, as per the UTEP College of Education Professional Awareness and Responsibilities framework, which includes knowledge and practice of the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field Observation Log and Reflection</li> <li>• Strategy Plan and Video Demo</li> <li>• Strategy Plan Peer Feedback</li> <li>• Content Lesson Plan</li> <li>• Self-evaluation and CT Evaluation</li> </ul>

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Dall-e, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas;
- Finding information on your topic;
- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts; and
- Checking grammar and style.

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board

prompts assigned to you or content that you put into an assignment.

- Completing group work that your group has assigned to you.
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment.
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments.

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited to stay within university policies on academic honesty.

### **Resources provided by UTEP:**

#### Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

#### Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- [The Miner Learning Center](#): Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.
- [UTEP Edge](#): UTEP's cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students' assets through high-impact experiences made possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

#### Individual Resources

- [Student Success Help Desk \(SSHD\)](#): Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transportation resources may submit a ticket request assistance to [studentsuccess@utep.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@utep.edu)
- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

- [UTEP Food Pantry](#): Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

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As an online class, you have the freedom to access our course site and materials during the week at your discretion. It is important that you access each week and post to discussion boards in a timely fashion and by the due dates for both discussions and assignments. If you are unable to access our course site and participate in the discussion or complete an assignment, please reach out to me as soon as possible.

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#### **ASSIGNMENT POLICY**

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Written work must be high quality—clearly written, organized, and with correct mechanics. For each written assignment, please use 12-point font (Garamond, Cambria, or Times New Roman), one-inch margins, and double-spacing. Work that does not meet expectations will be returned for revision. Rubrics for assignments are provided on Blackboard.

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#### **DISABILITY POLICY**

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If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to the Center for Accommodations and Support (CASS) formerly known as the Disabled Student Services Office (DSSO) located in Union E Room 203. Students who have been designated as disabled must reactivate their standing with the Center for Accommodations and Support (CASS) on a yearly basis. Failure to report to this office will place a student on the inactive list and nullify benefits received. If you have a condition which may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or which may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS)—<http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>. You may call 747-5148 for general information about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

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#### **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

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Every student in this class, regardless of background, sex, gender, race, ethnicity, class, political affiliation, physical or mental ability or any identity category, is a valued and equal member of the group. We all bring different experiences to our class, and no one experience has more value or import than another. In fact, it is our different experiences that will enrich the course content. I encourage every student to share their own experiences as they are relevant to the course, but I also stress that no student is ever presumed to speak for anything or anyone more than their own experience or point of view. Furthermore, in this classroom, you have the right to determine your own identity. You have the right to be called by whatever name you wish, and for that name to be pronounced correctly. You have the right to be referred to by whatever pronoun you identify. You have the right to adjust those things at any point. If there are aspects of the instruction of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or a sense of alienation from the course content, please contact me privately without fear of reprisal. If you feel uncomfortable contacting

me, please contact the Dean of Students Office at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/dean-of-students-office/index.html> or via email: [DOS@utep.edu](mailto:DOS@utep.edu) or by calling 915-747-5648.

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### **EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY**

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To create equal educational opportunities in the class, all students are expected to demonstrate respect for the diverse voices and individual differences in the class. Particularly, no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored or conducted by the University of Texas at El Paso based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Any member of the University community who engages in discrimination or other conduct in violation of university policy is subject to the full range of disciplinary action, up to and including separation from the University. Complaints regarding discrimination should be reported to the University's Equal Opportunity Office. Inquiries regarding applicable policies should be addressed to the University's Equal Opportunity Office, Kelly Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 915.747.5662 or [eoaa@utep.edu](mailto:eoaa@utep.edu)<<mailto:eoaa@utep.edu>>

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### **NETIQUETTE**

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As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be always provided to classmates and to the instructor. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

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### **STANDARDS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

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Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of scholastic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, collusion [making plans to cheat with another], the submission for credit of any work or materials that are not attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP) and available in the Office of the Dean of Students, may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to failing grades on the work in question, to failing grades in the course, to suspension or dismissal among others.

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

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Course content is delivered through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, and possibly a scanner. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students.