

PSYC 3346: Drugs of Abuse and Behavior – Spring 2022

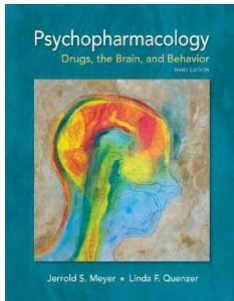
Synchronous Meeting Times: 10:30-11:50am, MW mountain time

Professor: Katherine Serafine, Ph.D.
E-mail: kmserafine2@utep.edu
Office Hours: Email me to schedule a virtual or audio appointment M-F
Social Media: [@SerafineLab](#) (twitter); [@Serafine_Laboratory](#) (instagram);
[Facebook.com/BehavioralPharmacologyLab](https://www.facebook.com/BehavioralPharmacologyLab) (facebook)

Required Text:

Meyer & Quenzer (2018). *Psychopharmacology (3rd ed.)*. Sunderland, MA: Sinauer Associates.

*note that all required chapters will be provided at no cost to students in PDF form (available on Blackboard). If you prefer a hardcopy text, you can purchase from the bookstore or online retailers.



Course Description:

This course provides a basic understanding of how drugs produce their behavioral effects. Emphasis will be placed on drugs of abuse and the principles by which these substances modify and regulate behavior in the brain. The course begins with an introduction of pharmacological and neural principles that regulate neural

transmission in the brain. We also cover current theories of drug addiction and how these theories apply to different abused substances. **Prerequisites: Psych 1301, 3201 and 3101 and PSYC 2324 or BIOL 2340 with a “C” or better. Prerequisites must be completed prior to taking this class, and cannot be taken concurrently.**

Learning Objectives:

The goal of the course is to provide an overview of the neuroscientific basis of drugs of abuse as well as drugs used for the treatment of clinical disorders. **This course is taught with a heavy focus on the biological underpinnings of behavior.** As such, special attention will be given to the pharmacodynamic principles of drugs. Economic, governmental, social and cultural perspectives will also be considered where appropriate. Students should leave the class with an understanding of how drugs impact the brain and behavior. Students will also be challenged to think critically about controversial topics regarding legalization and criminalization of drugs in the United States. Lastly, students will engage in a literature search, and write a final paper based on peer-reviewed sources supporting their stance on one of these controversial topics.

Accommodations and Support Services:

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, by email to cass@utep.edu. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. The instructor must be notified by CASS by the end of the first week of classes to facilitate accommodations support implementation.

Blackboard:

Everything you need for this class can be found on Blackboard. Please check Blackboard for announcements at least once per week. Blackboard is also where you will find online quizzes and other supplemental materials relevant to the course. Make sure you check your email regularly for updates from me via Blackboard. If you are not receiving emails from Blackboard, reach out to UTEP tech support.

Virtual Attendance (synchronous and asynchronous options):

To do well in this course, you are required to watch every lecture video and stay on top of the course videos. Lectures will be presented live every M-W from 10:30-11:50am mountain time, and you are strongly encouraged to attend live, so that you will be able to directly chat with the instructor to ask questions. If you cannot attend live, the recorded lecture will be online by 5pm (mountain time) the same day, so you can tune in later; however, using this option will result in a more difficult process for asking questions (you'll have to email the instructor or use discussion boards). You are strongly encouraged to watch the Monday lectures on Monday, and so on, so that you do not fall behind. Respondus Lockdown pop quizzes will occur randomly throughout the semester and will be based on the lecture material (and are worth extra credit, see below). Watching lectures (live or recorded) is the key to success in this course, and historically – students that tune in live for 75% or more of the lectures end up performing better in the course than those who do not.

Grades: up to 400 points total

Note that due to the heavy writing component for all assessments and assignments in this course, it could take up to 2 weeks from the deadline of an assignment or the end of an exam window before grades are posted to Blackboard.

Exams: 300 pts

- There will be 3 exams, each worth 100 points during the course of the semester (dates below).
- Combinations of multiple choice, short answer and/or essay, matching and labeling or fill in the blank questions will be included. Exams are not cumulative, but concepts in this course build off each other as the semester progresses.
- The majority of each exam will be focused on lecture material, but 10-20% will be from the book (and most of the book questions will be *very* similar to the Blackboard textbook quizzes). Extra credit will also appear (see extra credit below for details).
- **Exams will take only 90 minutes and are timed.** If you require any additional time or accommodation you must provide appropriate documentation at least one week prior to the first exam.
- All exams will be available on Blackboard for a full 48 hour window during which you can take the exam at your convenience; however, be advised that if you run into technical issues in the middle of the night, tech support won't be able to assist you until the next day.
- **No make-up exams will be administered under any circumstances, no matter how compelling.** You must take the exam during the allotted exam window.
- Exams require you to use Respondus Lockdown, a program that will "lock" you out of being able to use other websites or items to take the exam. No notes, books, power points, electronic devices, devices that transmit audio or materials are allowed during the exams. You are also prohibited from discussing the exam with each other during the exam window. However, you are strongly encouraged to study together virtually before the window begins. You should download Respondus Lockdown and install it on your computer ASAP:
https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/ServiceCatalog/BB_Tool_RespondusLockdown.html#S03
- Before each exam you will have access to a fairly comprehensive review sheet (created by the instructor to help guide you as you study on your own at home) and there will also be an in class review session (see course schedule below for dates). Study strategies are also provided at the top of each review sheet.

Assignments and Final Paper: 100 pts (see breakdown below). Late work will not be accepted, no matter the circumstance (including variable upload speeds). If it is uploaded late, even by a few seconds, it will be a zero. Do not wait until the last minute to upload your assignments! Improper formatting will result in point deductions. Specific directions can be found in a document titled: **Guidelines for Assignments** which is available on Blackboard. This document is very long, but it contains a lot of very critical information, so read it thoroughly and refer back to it as you write. I am very strict on deducting points if the directions are not followed, so please read the instructions carefully.

1. **Paper topic (1pt)**. You must select a topic to research for your final paper. There are several preapproved topic options, which can be found in the *Guidelines for Assignments* document on Blackboard. Paper topics must be uploaded no later than 11:59pm on **Feb 6th** via Blackboard assignments.
2. **References (9pts)**. You must find 3 peer-reviewed journal articles to use as references for your final paper. There are very strict rules to follow as you look for articles, and these instructions are provided in the *Guidelines for Assignments* document on Blackboard. Full PDFs of the articles must be uploaded no later than 11:59pm on **Feb 13th** via Blackboard assignments. Each article will be worth 3 points, for 9 points total.
3. **Reference worksheets (30pts)**. You must complete a worksheet for each of your 3 peer-reviewed article references. In these worksheets, you will be guided to articulate the hypothesis, rationale, methods and results for each study. To assist, there is an example worksheet on Blackboard. More instructions can be found in the *Guidelines for Assignments* document on Blackboard, which also contains a grading rubric for the worksheets. Each worksheet is worth 10 points, and you must complete 3. These should be uploaded no later than 11:59pm through Blackboard assignments and are due on consecutive Sundays. Worksheet 1 (for Reference 1) is due on Sunday **Feb 27th**, Worksheet 2 is due on Sunday **March 6th** and Worksheet 3 is due on Sunday **March 13th**.
4. **Final Paper (60 pts)**. You will write a final paper for this course. The paper must be between 940-1520 words long (roughly, 3-5 pages double spaced). There are many specific guidelines to follow for the final paper, all of which are outlined in the *Guidelines for Assignments* document on Blackboard. Final Papers must be uploaded no later than 11:59pm on **May 1st** via Blackboard assignments. Plagiarism will be assessed using Blackboard SafeAssign and other software. Late papers will be accepted with a point deduction, described in detail in the *Guidelines for Assignments*.

Extra Credit:

- **Asynchronous Blackboard Textbook Quizzes (5pts)**
 - A total of approximately 14 quizzes will be available on Blackboard throughout the semester. These will consist of multiple choice and true false questions. Quiz questions will come from the reading assignments NOT from the lecture. These quizzes are based on the 3rd edition of the text, not the 2nd.
 - Quizzes will only be available during the week corresponding to that reading assignment (so if you are supposed to read chapter 2 by the end of the first week, the chapter 2 quiz will expire on Friday of the first week of classes, etc). The quizzes will expire at 11:59pm each week on Friday.
 - Quizzes are not timed, but they do expire – so if you don't want to be rushed, do not wait to start it until close to the expiration time.
 - There will also be a syllabus quiz, which will expire on census day (**Feb 2nd**). The syllabus quiz will replace your lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester.

- Quiz bonus points will be calculated as follows: (points earned divided by points possible) multiplied by 5. Since there will be 14 quizzes at 10 points each, that means the equation is (points earned divided by 140) then multiply the answer by 5. The quiz total will be added to your total grade once the other 400 points have been completed (e.g., if you get all 400 and still earn 5 quiz points, your final grade will be 405/400).
- **Documentary Video Viewing (10 pts)**
 - After the first exam you'll get the link to watch an HBO documentary on your own time. After the second exam, there will be a second "homework" video from National Geographic. You will be able to earn up to 5 points extra credit from questions that will show up on the exam that falls after each video link is provided. These points will be added as extra credit to the exam on which the questions appear. There will be a maximum of 5 points extra credit corresponding to each video, for 10 extra credit points total.
- **Final Paper Rough Draft (5pts)**
 - A rough draft of your paper (format as described on the final paper guidelines document) can be turned in to Dr. Serafine for extra credit. This is to encourage you to be proactive and to allow your instructor to help you shape the paper so that you turn in your best possible effort. If you decide to do this, your rough draft is due no later than 11:59pm on Sunday March 27th via email to kmserafine2@utep.edu. Drafts sent after 11:59pm March 27 will not be graded for extra credit, and the instructor will not have time to provide you with feedback on them. See the *Guidelines for Assignments* document on Blackboard for more details about the rough draft as well as a grading rubric.
- **University Writing Center (5pts)**
 - If you consult with the University Writing Center before the final paper deadline you can earn up to 5 points extra credit toward the final paper. To earn this credit you can sign up for one of two kinds of consultations at the University Writing Center. One option is to email them your paper, and they will send back feedback within 72 business days. The second option is that they will do a virtual meeting with you, to talk to you specifically about your paper and their feedback. You can also go in person when the writing center is open (but their hours might change throughout the semester). Whichever approach you decide to use, you must request from the University Writing Center "proof of your visit". If you ask for "proof of your visit" to give to your instructor, they will send you a document you can email to me. Please note that proof of visit forms dated after the official final paper deadline will not count toward extra credit. You can go to the writing center as many times as you like, but only one form will count for extra credit. To schedule, go to the writing center website: <https://www.utep.edu/uwc/>
- **Exam Extra Credit (??)**
 - There are typically also 1-2 extra credit questions on each exam. These are extra, and if you get them wrong you will not be penalized, but answering them correctly will get you full or partial extra credit points. They are typically more difficult than the rest of the exam questions, which is why they are worth *extra* points. There will be between 2.5-5pts extra credit on each exam.
- **Respondus Lockdown Lecture Pop Quizzes (??)**
 - Occasionally there will be spontaneous pop quizzes, and you will have the opportunity to earn extra credit based on performance on these quizzes. These will typically only be open for 24-48 hours each. There will be 2.5-5pts possible via in class pop quizzes

between each exam, and points will be added to the exam that follows the quiz. For example, a quiz occurring after Exam 1 will mean that any points earned get added to the Exam 2 grade.

- The goal of these is to familiarize you with the Respondus program, and allow you to check for any technical issues with your wifi/internet service.
- You are not permitted to use other devices, the internet or your book/notes during these pop quizzes. These quizzes are designed to help you prepare for the test environment.
- **Final Presentation Videos (up to 10pts).** At the end of the semester, you can boost your grade by submitting a short video presentation about your final paper topics due at the end of the final exam time (due by 12:45pm on the date of our final exam). This is a lot of points to earn, so in order to keep things fair, there are some rules...
 - Late submissions will not be eligible for extra credit, so you must upload your presentation before the deadline. Since upload speeds vary, you are strongly encouraged to start the upload process no later than one hour before the final exam time.
 - Details including a rubric for grading, as well as what video formats work best are provided in the “guidelines for assignments” document on Blackboard.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student or possessing unauthorized materials during a test. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person’s as one’s own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office (Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution) for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Important Contact Information

University Counseling Center	202 Union West 747-5302
Center for Accommodations and Support Services	106 Union East 747-5148
University Career Center	103 Union West 747-5640
Department of Psychology	112 Psychology 747-5551

Final Grade Calculation: Final grades will be calculated as follows (points earned + extra credit/400) x 100.

Grading scale:

A = 90.0-100.0%
B = 80.0-89.9%
C = 70.0-79.9%
D = 60.0-69.9%
F < 60.0%

Please note that grades will not be “rounded up”. Therefore a 79.5% will be entered as a “C”. That might sound frustrating, and you might be thinking – seriously? Why can’t Dr. Serafine can’t just “give” us the

0.5 points to make that a “B”? The thing is, it isn’t 0.5 points. It is 0.5% of 400 points, which is really 2/400 points. 2 points could have been easily earned by taking the Blackboard textbook quizzes, or from the Respondus Lockdown pop quizzes. Part of Dr. Serafine’s teaching philosophy is that grades are *earned*, they are not “given”. The point of the extra credit opportunities (outlined above) is to make it easy for you to earn a better grade. **As such, “rounding up” will not occur in this class. No exceptions will be made.**

If you have any questions or disputes regarding grades, you must raise these in writing within ten days of the grade being released. Grades will only be changed in cases of administrative error. Dr. Serafine does not hand back exams, if you wish to see your exam after it has been graded, you must schedule an appointment to virtually meet with the instructor or with the TA. Typically, the TA will meet with you first and if you have lingering questions, Dr. Serafine can meet with you. If you want to file a formal complaint about grading, please contact the UTEP Psychology Department Chair.

Note that there is already information about an extensive amount of extra credit written above. No additional extra credit opportunities beyond what is provided on the syllabus or in class to the entire group will be provided.

Class Schedule: Lecture title bold, reading (to be completed prior to class time italicized), RED indicates assignment deadlines. Yellow highlight indicates Exams.

- W 01/19 **The neuron, brain & nervous system**
Chapter 2: Structure and Function of the Nervous System
- M 01/24 **The neuron (continued)**
Introduction to Pharmacology: Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics
Chapter 2: Structure and Function of the Nervous System
Chapter 1: Principles of Pharmacology
- W 01/26 **Pharmacology (continued)**
Chapter 1: Principles of Pharmacology
- M 01/31 **The action potential**
Neurochemistry: level of the synapse
Chapter 1: Principles of Pharmacology
Chapter 3: Chemical Signaling by Neurotransmitters and Hormones
- W 02/02 **Neurochemistry (continued)**
Chapter 3: Chemical Signaling by Neurotransmitters and Hormones
Census day – Syllabus Quiz Expires at 11:59pm
- Sunday 02/06 **Paper topic due via Blackboard by 11:59pm**
- M 02/07 **Neurotransmitter classification: Acetylcholine**
Major excitatory and inhibitory neurotransmitters: Glutamate
Chapter 3: Chemical Signaling by Neurotransmitters and Hormones
Chapter 7: Acetylcholine

W 02/09 **Major excitatory and inhibitory neurotransmitters: GABA**
Chapter 8: Glutamate and GABA

Sunday 02/13 Paper references (3) due via Blackboard by 11:59pm
*must upload PDF of actual references, not abstract, and not a link or word document
reference section for credit. See final paper guidelines document on Blackboard for
more details.

M 02/14 **Monoamines: Catecholamines & Indolamines**
Chapter 5: Catecholamines
Chapter 6: Serotonin

W 02/16 Exam Review (see Blackboard for details)

M 02/21 **Exam 1 Window: Exam 1 opens at 5pm on Sunday 02/20 and closes at 5pm on Tuesday
02/22**

W 02/23 **Methods of research**
Chapter 4: Methods of Research in Psychopharmacology

Sunday 02/27 Reference 1 worksheet due via Blackboard by 11:59pm

M 02/28 **Addiction & the biology of reward**
Chapter 9: Drug Abuse & Addiction

W 03/02 **The stimulants: cocaine & amphetamine**
Chapter 12: Psychomotor stimulants: cocaine and the amphetamines

Sunday 03/06 Reference 2 worksheet due via Blackboard by 11:59pm

M 03/07 **The narcotics: opioids and pain**
Chapter 11: The Opioids

W 03/09 **The legal drugs: Alcohol**
Chapter 10: Alcohol

Sunday 03/13 Reference 3 worksheet due via Blackboard by 11:59pm

M 03/14 Spring Break

W 03/16 Spring Break

M 03/21 **The legal drugs: nicotine and caffeine**
Chapter 13: Nicotine and Caffeine

W 03/23 **The cannabinoids and the hallucinogens**
Chapter 14: Marijuana and the Cannabinoids
Chapter 15: Hallucinogens, PCP, and Ketamine

Sunday 03/27 (Extra credit) Optional Rough Draft due via email to kmserafine2@utep.edu by 11:59pm
*late drafts will not be provided feedback due to grading time constraints

M 03/28 Flex time (sometimes I run behind schedule for Exam 2, so this is to help us not get too far off track)

W 03/30 Exam Review (see Blackboard for details)

Friday 04/01 Last Day to Drop the Course

M 04/04 **Exam 2 window:** Exam 2 opens at 5pm on Sunday 04/03 and closes at 5pm on Tuesday 04/05.

W 04/06 **Introduction to pharmacotherapeutics
Schizophrenia**
Chapter 19: Schizophrenia: Antipsychotic Drugs

M 04/11 **Schizophrenia (continued)**
Chapter 19: Schizophrenia: Antipsychotic Drugs

W 04/13 **Affective disorders**
Chapter 18: Affective Disorders: Antidepressants and Mood Stabilizers

M 04/18 **Affective disorders (continued)**
Chapter 18: Affective Disorders: Antidepressants and Mood Stabilizers

W 04/20 **Anxiety disorders**
Chapter 17: Anxiety Disorders: Sedative-Hypnotic and Anxiolytic Drugs

M 04/25 **Anxiety disorders**
Chapter 17: Anxiety Disorders: Sedative-Hypnotic and Anxiolytic Drugs

W 04/27 **Sleep disorders and treatments**
Chapter 17: Anxiety Disorders: Sedative-Hypnotic and Anxiolytic Drugs

Sunday 05/01 Final Paper due via Blackboard by 11:59pm

M 05/02 Exam Review (see Blackboard for details)

W 05/04 **Exam 3 Window:** Exam 3 opens at 5pm on Tuesday 05/03 and closes at 5pm on Thursday 05/05

Date TBD **FINALIS WEEK: OPTIONAL FINAL EXAM** Final Video Presentations. Details will be provided on Blackboard and the Guidelines for Assignments document. Due no later than 12:45pm the day of the final via Blackboard upload.

****Please note: The syllabus is subject to change during the semester. Please make sure I have your best email contact information, to insure you always have the most up to date version of the syllabus. I will also always post the most recent version to Blackboard.**

Virtual Classroom Courtesy

Please adhere to the following:

1. Be mindful of your behavior and language online. Remember that members of the class and the instructor will be reading any postings.
2. Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
3. When reacting to someone else's discussion board post or in class questions, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a F2F situation.
4. 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. If students wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s).
5. No solicitations. This includes "note takers for hire" and similar paid for tutoring services.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What technology do I need to take this course?

A: Course content will be delivered through Zoom within Blackboard. The main requirements are a device (tablet or computer) that can connect to the internet and that has a webcam (for Respondus Lockdown exams). Most of the course material (except exams) can also be viewed on smartphones. Google chrome is the most supported browser for Blackboard; however, joining live lecture on an Apple smartphone (e.g., iPhone) requires Safari. You will also need Microsoft Office (for MS Word) to complete assignments. You can contact the UTEP Help Desk if you have any issues with technology. Note that technical difficulties are not a valid excuse for late work, as deadlines are posted in advance. It is up to you to avoid waiting until the last minute to submit an assignment, to avoid technology-related errors or delays in upload speeds. Note that as UTEP changes its software offerings, it is possible we might also use other video streaming tools for this course. Any changes from Zoom for lectures would be announced via Blackboard.

Q: What happens if a personal medical emergency or family emergency occurs during the semester?

A: If your personal or family circumstance limits your ability to perform in one or more courses, you should first take care of the emergency situation by contacting the proper medical officials. Upon discharge, please obtain documentation from your doctor that you had an emergency with dates of the event. If you will be out for longer than a day or two you should contact the CASS office, and your academic advisor to determine options. For example, if the emergency impacts all of your classes, you can apply for a complete medical withdrawal through the registrar's office. If this occurs to you, please contact CASS first (cass@utep.edu) to determine how to proceed with medical paperwork. It is the policy of the Department of Psychology not to permit selective withdrawals due to medical/family emergencies. In other words, if you want to withdraw from only Dr. Serafine's course, and not your other courses, due to a medical circumstance or family emergency, the request will likely be denied without clear justification. In extremely rare cases, students might also be eligible for an incomplete. If you believe you are experiencing one of those rare circumstances, please contact CASS first, and then your academic advisor before approaching the instructor about an incomplete. Note that if the issue is related to COVID-19 you should notify covidaction@utep.edu. If you notify Dr. Serafine about a positive

COVID-19 diagnosis I will also report this information to covidaction@utep.edu so the University can provide you with support.

Q: What happens if I think someone in the course is engaging in academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc)?

A: UTEP takes academic dishonesty very seriously. If you notice suspicious behavior during an exam or suspect academic dishonesty is occurring, please notify Dr. Serafine. Dr. Serafine might file a formal report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR). If she does, you are welcome to remain anonymous in reporting the suspected offense. To remain anonymous, simply let Dr. Serafine know that you wish to remain anonymous when you report the behavior to her via email or in person.

Q: The review sheets are really long. Is there any way to get a shorter version?

A: The review sheet is designed as a tool to help you focus your study efforts on the most important information. They need to be long in order to cover all possible information that might appear on an exam. If you don't want to do the review sheet, don't do it. However, completing the review sheet, and taking it like a practice test is the best way to study for the exams in this course.

Q: What should I expect for the exam review sessions?

A: In class exam review sessions are my way of helping you narrow down the breadth of information into specific areas you should focus on the night/nights before the test. To get the most out of the review session, you should try to attend the live version, rather than view the recording later (though both options will be provided). However you choose to watch, come with your review sheet already completely filled out. If you don't study before the review session, it will be too late to master all of the information for the exam – so fill out the review sheet each day after class so that by the review session, you have a complete/nearly complete document. The best thing to do during the review is to write down the questions, not the answers. If you have the questions, you can spend the evening finding the answers on your own – and that will prepare you VERY well for the exam.

Q: I have lots of other exams during our exam window. Is there any way to take the exam early?

A: No. Exam dates are “set in stone” and must be taken during the posted exam window. If you do not take the exam within the window, it will be an automatic zero.

Q: Above you said you don't round up, but what if my grade is at a threshold between one letter and another? Can I get a boost?

A: If you do all the extra credit described above it is not likely you will need a boost. The hard part about the extra credit is that you must attempt the extra credit opportunities before they expire – and many students do not do this, assuming they won't need it at the end of the semester. Most of the students who earn A's in this course attempt every single opportunity for extra credit, no matter what.

Q: I know Dr. Serafine provides the slides as a PDF, but I want the powerpoint version so I can take notes in powerpoint. Can I get a powerpoint file?

A: No. Dr. Serafine only provides a PDF to encourage you to take notes directly on the review sheet or on blank paper/word documents. This strategy is much more effective for learning and retaining information, as the cues are more similar to what you will see on the exam.

Q: I have a disability or medical condition that requires accommodation support. What options does Dr. Serafine provide for these circumstances?

A: Dr. Serafine will work with CASS to determine appropriate accommodations for your specific needs. If you wish to get accommodations, you must enroll at CASS and have CASS notify Dr. Serafine at least 1 week before the first exam. Dr. Serafine will reply within 5 business days (to you and CASS) with a list of accommodations that can be offered based on your specific needs and the course. If a medical emergency occurs during the semester, contact Dr. Serafine via email ASAP, and work to obtain a doctor's note with specific dates.

Q: Should I wait until after the lecture on the material to take the textbook quiz related to that material?

A: No. Textbook quizzes are based on the reading, not the lecture and since you should read before the lecture on that corresponding topic, you do not need to wait for Dr. Serafine to cover something before taking a quiz on that subject. Take the textbook quizzes early, to avoid missing their availability window.

Q: I am not happy with my grade, and think I should drop. How can I do this?

A: To drop this class, please contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you cannot complete this course for whatever reason, please contact Dr. Serafine. Often students might be incorrectly estimating their performance in the class, and Dr. Serafine is happy to discuss your grade via email, video chat or secure communication if you have questions.

Other Resources (blue text is clickable as a link)

- [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.
- [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.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [Military Student Success Center](#): UTEP welcomes military-affiliated students to its degree programs, and the Military Student Success Center and its dedicated staff (many of whom are veterans and students themselves) are here to help personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.