

# CE 4371: Engineering Problems Seminar

The University of Texas at El Paso  
Undergraduate Research Experience - syllabus

## Course Information

CE 4371: Engineering Problems Seminar  
CRN: 17419  
Term: Fall 2024  
Delivery Method: In-person  
Meeting Day and Time: To be determined  
Location: A207

## Instructor Information

Professor Lauren Kennedy  
Written communication: [lkennedy@utep.edu](mailto:lkennedy@utep.edu)  
Office Location: Engineering Building, 207  
Office Hours:

- By appointment (virtual or in-person). Schedule appointment by email.

[Personal Teams link](#)

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## Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce undergraduate students to special problems in microbiology of the engineered water cycle. Students will complete individual study projects and gain laboratory and/or systematic literature review skills. Students will develop strong written and/or oral communication skills on the specific topic. The specific topic will be negotiated between the student and the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

## Learning Objectives

Specific learning objectives/goals will be negotiated between the instructor and student at the beginning of the semester, but the student will generally learn how to

- Motivate the special problem in the context of the relevant scientific literature
- Develop a protocol that covers the methods they utilize
- Design, complete, and analyze the results from research experiments or a systematic literature review and meta analysis

## Assignments and Grading

At the beginning of the semester, a special problem will be identified and weekly meetings and dates for laboratory training will be negotiated between the instructor and each student. Students will need to complete laboratory safety trainings promptly and before completing any laboratory work. Students should expect to spend around three hours of time per week on this course per credit hour. The student will spend this time in training sessions, reviewing the relevant scientific literature, in the laboratory completing experiments, in individual meetings with the instructor, and in attending experiences to enhance the learning experience of the student as determined by the instructor (e.g., attending lab group meetings, attending or presenting at a conference, etc.). At the beginning of the semester, the instructor and the student will set goals together that the student will aim to complete during the semester. These goals will include the development of written and/or oral deliverable(s) (e.g., a write up of the motivation for the research, the experiments completed, and the results). At the end of the semester the student will provide a short oral or written self performance review with respect to the goals that will be edited by the instructor.

Deliverables and all documents and raw data developed during the project will be submitted in Teams in a folder with the student's name. Deliverable due dates will be set when goals are set. Grades will be based on attendance, participation, performance review, and the final deliverable(s).

Grade	Reasoning
A	Student completed the semester goals and reasonably justified any goals that were not completed. Student demonstrated Excellent comprehension of the special problem relative to their experience in the topic.
B	Student completed most semester goals and reasonably justified

	any goals that were not completed. Student demonstrated Good comprehension of the special problem relative to their experience in the topic.
C	Student completed most of the semester goals or reasonably justified most goals that were not completed. Student demonstrated Fair comprehension of the special problem relative to their experience in the topic.
D	Student completed few of the semester goals and did not provide adequate justification. Student demonstrated Poor comprehension of the special problem relative to their experience in the topic.
F	Student did not complete semester goals and did not provide adequate justification.

## Technology Requirements

Some course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. In addition, some course content may be delivered via the Internet through Teams. 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, a phone camera/webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat Reader. 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 word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, Teams, 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. **Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!**

## Course Communication

**Email:** UTEP email is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your email within 24-48 hours of receipt. When emailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student email account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your email, clearly state your question or appointment request. If you are requesting an appointment, include your availability.

## Illness Precautions

Please stay home if you have symptoms of a communicable illness. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible via email, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations.

## Course Drop Policy

If you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

## Late Work Policy

The deadlines to submit deliverables will be communicated by the instructor.

## Incomplete Grade Policy

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

## Accommodations Policy

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who become pregnant may also request reasonable accommodations, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and University policy. Accommodations that constitute undue hardship are not reasonable. To make a request, please register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact CASS at 915-747-5148, email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal. **Please submit the subsequent paperwork to the instructor right away.**

## Scholastic Integrity

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, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' 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. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

## Guidance on Artificial Intelligence

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is not allowed for deliverables in this class. Each student is expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the [Office of Community Standards](#).

## Plagiarism Detecting Software

Some of your course work and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

## Preferred Name & Pronoun

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to correct the instructor on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly in class or via email ([ickennedy@utep.edu](mailto:ickennedy@utep.edu)).

## Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the [QR code](#) below for a listing of campus resources -- where you can go for assistance.



## Disclaimer

This syllabus may be subject to modification. The instructor will inform students of any changes.