

**CPS 5195 - Graduate Seminar CRN: 22819 and
CPS 6185 - Graduate Seminar CRN: 25936
CLASS TIME: 4:00- 4:50 PM, Mondays (hybrid Bell
Hall 130 and Zoom)**

Professor. Natasha S. Sharma

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 4 pm-5 pm.

Teaching Assistant: Jason E Sanchez

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**Virtual Office Hours: Thursdays 2-2:30 pm or by
appointment**

Link:

**[https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/86180449405?pwd=U
ndjM0UremdrQWZUNnAwSUJ0VG5VUT09](https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/86180449405?pwd=U
ndjM0UremdrQWZUNnAwSUJ0VG5VUT09)**

Meeting ID: 861 8044 9405

Passcode: aYK56mxr

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course enables graduate students to gain experience working on a project which lies at the interface of numerical analysis, calculus and data-driven techniques to answer the classical mathematical question— how to find the definite integral of a real-valued function?

With the application of numerically solving ODEs of practical significance, we will learn the key elements of reinforcement learning and its state-of-the-art application to adaptive time stepping methods.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

The students will provide a weekly log of their progress and contribution in this project-based class.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the **Blackboard learning management system**. Ensure your UTEP email 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 switch to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, webcam, and microphone.

An excellent application for scanning homework and exams is **CamScanner**.

Please install it on your smartphone to take legible scans.

You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft, and Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

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

Office Hours: Meet me during the designated office hours to discuss course related matters or even schedule a meeting outside these office hours.

Email: UTEP email is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your email within 24-36 hours of receipt. When emailing me, email from your UTEP student account, and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your email, clearly state your question. At the end of your email, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.

Announcements: Check the Blackboard announcements and course website frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

NETIQUETTE

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.

- o Always consider the audience. This is a graduate-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of others' ideas.
- o Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- o 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.
- o Blackboard is not a public Internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professors only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

Course Policies: What do you need to do to be successful in the course.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners.

Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- o Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- o Participating in an engaging discussion with your peers
- o Participating in scheduled Blackboard Collaborate lectures

Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY

According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, “When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of “W” before the course drop deadline and with a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.” See academic regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excused absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide 24 hours advance notice via email.

OR

I will not drop you from the course. However, 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.

Attendance Policy

Lecture attendance is required and noted at the beginning of class; more than two unexcused absences will result in an instructor-initiated drop and/or final grade reduction. Your academic/research advisor will be consulted before final action is decided and taken. It is the student's responsibility to cover the topics missed during this absence.

Tardiness Policy

There is a zero-tolerance policy for tardiness in this class. Besides the fact that showing up late disrupts the entire class, tardiness is a personal reflection of being unprofessional and lacking time management skills. To this end, no students will be permitted in the class after the first five minutes of the lecture time have passed. Furthermore, students who miss these parts of the lecture due to tardiness will be responsible to cover the topics missed. If you anticipate potentially being late, please email your instructor ideally 24 hours before the lecture and the instructor will try to provide accommodations accordingly. Furthermore, it is your responsibility to make up for the material covered or the tasks assigned.

Homework Policy

There is a weekly log and a final project to be submitted and presented.

Alternate Means of Submitting Work in case of technical issues

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a backup. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your backup document as a last resort. You need to mark the grader in the email for the submitted work.

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 and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services, and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship for the University. Students requesting accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

COVID-19 Accommodations

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure, or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.

(classes with on-campus meetings) Students who are considered high risk according to CDC guidelines and/or those who live with individuals who are considered high risk may contact the [Center for Accommodations and](#)

[Support Services](#) (CASS) to discuss temporary accommodations for on-campus courses and activities.

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 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. 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](#).

Class Recordings

The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event, you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due

to illness or other extenuating circumstances. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. **You may not share recordings outside of this course.** Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

Copyright Statement for Course Materials

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

COVID-19 Precautions

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu.

For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instructions will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection.

Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

(classes with on-campus meetings) Please note that if COVID-19 conditions deteriorate in the City of El Paso, all course and lab activities may be transitioned to remote delivery.

Course Resources: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:
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.

[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.

[RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

[Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.

Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides various counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

