I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course focuses on reading and language strategies for teaching exceptional children, including those who are English learners. It is designed to give students an overview of strategic reading and writing instruction.

II. RATIONALE
A majority of students with high-incidence disabilities need support with the acquisition and maintenance of literacy skills. Among children with learning disabilities, 80 percent experience difficulties with reading and approximately 40 percent have written expression goals in their IEPs. As a result, educators must be prepared to accurately assess language and literacy skills, design appropriate interventions, and monitor the progress of students in the language and literacy acquisition process.

III. STATE STANDARDS FOR TEACHERS
The state adopted proficiencies covered in this course include the following:

1. **Learner-Centered Knowledge:** The teacher possesses and draws on a rich knowledge base of content, pedagogy, and technology to provide relevant and meaningful learning experiences for all students.

2. **Learner-Centered Instruction:** To create a learner-centered community, the teacher collaboratively identifies needs; and plans, implements and assesses instruction using technology and other resources.

3. **Equity in Excellence for All Learners:** The teacher responds appropriately to diverse groups of learners.

IV. TExES CONTENT COMPETENCIES and CEC NATIONAL STANDARDS

Domain I, Competency 001: The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of the characteristics and needs of students with disabilities.
Competency 002: The special education teacher understands and interprets formal and informal assessment procedures and knows how to evaluate student competencies to make instructional decisions.

Domain II, Competency 003: The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of procedures for planning instruction for individuals with disabilities.

Domain II, Competency 005: The special education teacher knows how to promote students' educational performance in all content areas by facilitating their achievement in a variety of settings and situations.

Competency 006: The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of issues and procedures for teaching appropriate student behavior and social skills.

Domain IV, Competency 010: The special education teacher understands the philosophical, historical and legal foundations of special education.

Domain IV, Competency 011: The special education teacher applies knowledge of roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.

Domain IV, Competency 012: The special education teacher knows how to communicate and collaborate effectively in a variety of professional settings.

The Educational Diagnostician TeXES program competencies covered in this course include the following:

Domain III, Competency 007: The educational diagnostician understands the use of appropriate assessment, evaluation, planning and instructional strategies for developing students’ behavioral and social skills.

Domain IV, Competency 009: The educational diagnostician develops collaborative relationships and demonstrates skills for scheduling, time management, and organization.

Council for Exceptional Children: Initial Level Content Standards

TAMUCC Special Education Program is aligned with the National CEC Standards

Beginning special educators demonstrate their mastery of the following standards:

Initial Content Standard 1: Foundations
Special educators understand the field as an evolving and changing discipline based on:

- philosophies and evidence-based principles and theories
- relevant laws and policies
- diverse and historical points of view
- human issues that influence the field and professional practice
- issues of human diversity that can impact families, cultures, and schools
- relationships of organizations of special education to the organizations and functions of schools, school systems, and other agencies

Initial Content Standard 2: Development and Characteristics of Learners
Special educators:

- know and demonstrate respect for their students first as unique human beings
- understand the similarities and differences in human development
- understand how exceptional conditions can interact with the domains of human...
• use this knowledge to respond to the varying abilities and behaviors of individuals with exceptional learning needs

Initial Content Standard 3: Individual Learning Differences
Special educators:
• know and understand the effects that an exceptional condition can have on an individual’s learning in school and throughout life
• utilize active and resourceful means in seeking to understand how primary language, culture, and familial backgrounds interact with the individual’s exceptional condition
• understand learning differences provide the foundation upon which special educators individualize instruction

Initial Content Standard 4: Instructional Strategies
Special educators:
• possess a repertoire of evidence-based instructional strategies to individualize instruction for individuals with exceptional learning needs.
• select, adapt, and use these instructional strategies to promote positive learning results in general and special curricula
• modify learning environments appropriately for individuals with exceptional learning needs enhance the learning of critical thinking, problem-solving, and performance skills of individuals with exceptional learning needs
• promote increased student’ self-awareness, self-management, self-control, self-reliance, and self-esteem
• emphasize the development, maintenance, and generalization of knowledge and skills across environments, settings, and the life span.

Initial Content Standard 5: Learning Environments and Social Interactions
Special educators actively:
• create learning environments for individuals with exceptional learning needs
• foster cultural understanding, safety and emotional well-being, positive social interactions, and active engagement
• foster environments in which diversity is valued
• shape environments to encourage the independence, self-motivation, self-direction, personal empowerment, and self-advocacy
• help their general education colleagues integrate individuals with exceptional learning needs in general education environments and engage them in meaningful learning activities and interactions
• use direct motivational and instructional interventions
• teach students to respond effectively to current expectations
• intervene with individuals with exceptional learning needs in crisis
• coordinate all these efforts and provide guidance and direction to paraeducators and others, such as classroom volunteers and tutors.

Initial Content Standard 6: Language
Special educators:
• understand typical and atypical language development
• use individualized strategies to enhance language development and teach communication skills
• are familiar with augmentative, alternative, and assistive technologies to support and enhance communication
• match communication methods to an individual’s language proficiency and cultural and linguistic differences
• provide effective language models and use communication strategies and resources to facilitate understanding of subject matter for individuals with exceptional learning needs whose primary language is not English.

**Initial Content Standard 7: Instructional Planning**

Individualized decision-making and instruction is at the center of special education practice. Special educators:
• develop long-range individualized instructional plans anchored in both general and special education curricula
• systematically translate these individualized plans into carefully selected shorter-range goals and objectives taking into consideration an individual’s abilities and needs, the learning environment, and a myriad of cultural and linguistic factors
• emphasize explicit modeling and efficient guided practice to assure acquisition and fluency through maintenance and generalization.
• modify instructional plans based on ongoing analysis of the individual’s learning progress
• facilitate instructional planning in a collaborative context
• develop a variety of individualized transition plans from preschool to a variety of postsecondary work and learning contexts
• use appropriate technologies to support instructional planning and individualized instruction

**Initial Content Standard 8: Assessment**

Assessment is integral to the decision-making and teaching of special educators and special educators use multiple types of assessment information for a variety of educational decisions. Special educators use the results of assessments:
• to help identify exceptional learning needs and to develop and implement individualized instructional programs
• to adjust instruction in response to ongoing learning progress

Special educators understand:
• legal policies and ethical principles of measurement
• measurement theory and practices
• appropriate use and limitations of various types of assessments

Special educators collaborate with families and other colleagues to:
• assure nonbiased, meaningful assessments and decision-making
• conduct formal and informal assessments of behavior, learning, achievement and environments
• identify supports and adaptations required for individuals
• regularly monitor the progress of individuals
• use appropriate technologies to support their assessments.
Initial Content Standard 9: Professional and Ethical Practice
Special educators are guided by the profession’s ethical and professional practice standards to:
• to practice ongoing attention to legal matters along with serious professional and ethical considerations
Special educators view themselves as lifelong learners and regularly reflect on and adjust their practice to reflect current evidence-based best practices.

Initial Content Standard 10: Collaboration
Special educators routinely and effectively collaborate with families, other educators, related service providers, and personnel from community agencies in culturally responsive ways and promote and advocate the learning and well-being of individuals with exceptional learning needs across a wide range of settings and a range of different learning experiences.

V. COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
The overarching objective in this course is to prepare educators deliver effective, evidence-based language and literacy instruction. This course is designed to enable teachers and educational diagnosticians to:

1. examine the cultural and linguistic factors important in all areas of the literacy development;
2. develop knowledge and skills needed to provide language and literacy instruction for learners who are experiencing difficulties, including those with high-incidence disabilities;
3. acquire knowledge and skills in the use of specific techniques for assessing and improving sight word learning, fluency, decoding skills, vocabulary development and comprehension;
4. acquire knowledge and skills for teaching writing content, organization and mechanics;
5. become familiar with important research in the areas of language and literacy development for students with high-incidence disabilities.

Students Learning Outcomes
Students in this graduate program will:
• Demonstrate knowledge of the field of special education, including: knowledge of individuals with disabilities, evaluation of individual learning needs, strategies for fostering learning and development, and professional roles and responsibilities (SPED 5315, SPED 5320, SPED 5340, SPED 5385, SPED 5386, SPED 5387, and SPED 5399 are linked to this student learning outcome).
• Plan and develop effective instructional interventions responsive to the unique needs of individual learners. (SPED 5320, SPED 5386 and SPED 5387 are linked to this student learning outcome).
• Plan and implement a behavior intervention plan to provide behavioral supports aligned with individual needs (SPED 5380 is linked to this student learning outcome).

VI. COURSE TOPICS
The major topics to be considered are the following:
• Nature of and approaches to reading and language development
• Language development and academic language supports
• Learning to read; reading to learn
• Assessment of literacy
• Developing phonological awareness, phonics, and sight word recognition
• Fluency development
• Developing vocabulary and comprehension skills
• The writing process and strategies for writing development

VII. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES
The methods and activities for instruction include the following:
• Readings and discussion
• Demonstrations
• Assessment previews
• Cooperative learning
• Videos/multimedia
• Case studies
• Field experiences
• Student presentations on course topics that demonstrate “expert” knowledge
• Research and writing

VIII. EVALUATION AND GRADE ASSIGNMENT
The final grade will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Class Participation</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (2)</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities (5)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Consultation Project (Assessment Summary, Instructional Recommendations, Follow-Up)*</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resources for evidence-based interventions in the five domains using OER Resources*</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Literacy Presentations*</td>
<td>80</td>
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*Instructions for these major assignments will be provided online.
The letter grade equivalent for the cumulative points earned is as follows:

- 450-500 points = A
- 400-449 points = B
- 350-399 points = C
- 300-349 points = D
- Below 300 = F

Face-to-Face Expectations:
1. Be prompt and attend face-face-classes. Absences accompanied by doctor's note or similar documentation will be excused. Late arrivals and early departures from class will be recorded and impact your participation grade.
2. Participate in class discussion and activities and put forth honest effort in-group work with peers. The professor will evaluate your participation throughout the semester. Excessive private discussion during lecture or class activities disrupts the class and will negatively affect your grade. If you find that you are a person who talks excessively when inappropriate, please monitor yourself and move to a seat where this is not tempting. The discipline this requires is greatly appreciated.

   *All cell phones will be turned off or set to vibrate during class.* Please do not answer a call during class. Do not read or compose texts during class. Do not leave the classroom to answer a call, unless you anticipate an emergency call and provide the instructor notice prior to class.

Online Expectations (access via the Start Here link in Blackboard)

IX. REQUIRED TEXT


Additional readings available via the Mary and Jeff Bell Library,

X. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Course content is supported by the following:


**Helpful Websites:**

AIMSweb  http://www.aimsweb.com/

American Institute for Research, The Access Center  
http://www.k8accesscenter.org/training_resources/math.asp

CEDAR Center
XI. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

(Details regarding specific readings, activities, and grading rubrics available online)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/26-8/29</td>
<td>Unit One—Introduction to SPED 5386</td>
<td>Introduction/Course overview</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Activity A</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/30-9/5</td>
<td>Unit Two—Research-Based Reading Instruction</td>
<td>Data Driven Decision Making</td>
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<td>Activity B</td>
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<td>9/5*</td>
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<td>Class Meeting</td>
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<td>9/6-9/12</td>
<td>Unit Three—The Building Blocks</td>
<td>Phonological awareness, phonics, and word recognition</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Developing fluency</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/12*</td>
<td></td>
<td>Class Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/13-9/19</td>
<td>Unit Four—The Meaning</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Comprehension
Vocabulary and content area reading

9/19* Class Meeting
9/20-9/26 Quiz 1 (must be completed by 9/26)
9/20-10/3 **Conduct Initial Student Assessments** (Times to be arranged)
Assessment Summary (draft must be completed on or before 10/3)
10/3* Optional Class Meeting
10/4-10/10 Develop Instructional Recommendations (draft must be completed on or before 10/10)
10/11-10/17 **Begin Interventions/Consultation** (Times to be arranged; must have received feedback on Assessment Summary and Instruction Recommendations prior to beginning)
10/18-10/31 **Unit Five—Oral Language Matters**
Assessing and teaching oral language
Activity C
10/24* Class Meeting
11/2 **Family Literacy Presentations at the Antonio E. Garcia Arts & Education**—date TBD
11/1-11/14 **Unit Six—Writing is Fundamental**
Finalize Family Literacy Presentations
Writing and Spelling
Activity D
11/15-11/28 **Unit Seven—Nuts and Bolts Review**
Legal and Foundational Requirements
Activity E
11/21* Class Meeting
11/22-12/4 **Follow-up Assessment/Consultation Meetings** (Times to be arranged)
12/12 Quiz Two Due
Reading Intervention Project due

XII. COURSE POLICIES

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one's own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in failure. See website http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/.

**Submission of Work**
All written work turned in must be typewritten. With the exception of field journals, hand-written work will not be accepted. Late work will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made in advance with the instructor or documentation is provided of a medical or family emergency.

All online assignments must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm on the due date.

**Dropping a Class**
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Check the university academic calendar website for dates related to dropping a class with an automatic grade of "W" this term. See website [http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/academic_cal.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/academic_cal.html).

**Preferred methods of scholarly citations**
Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA), Sixth Edition is the required method for citations within papers.

**Classroom/professional behavior**
All students are expected to act in a responsible manner with consideration of fellow students and toward TAMU-CC faculty and staff members. Specific rules and information is available in the TAMU-CC Student Handbook and available through the website [http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/studentcofc.html](http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/studentcofc.html).

**Statement of Civility**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high-quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two
days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Grade Appeals***
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Disabilities Accommodations***
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in CCH 116. See website [http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/](http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/).

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

*Required by SACS*