RDG 560.01W Literacy Assessment
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2025

Instructor: Dr. Melanie Loewenstein
Associate Professor of ECE/RDG
**Office Location:** Virtual Office
Office Hours: Virtual By appointment
ETAMU Email: Melanie.Loewenstein@etamu.edu
 Email me questions directly at Melanie.Loewenstein@etamu.edu. Please allow 1-2 business days for a response. We can also Zoom if you wish to communicate virtually.
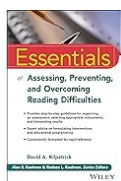

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required:
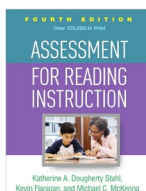
Stahl, K. A. D., Flanigan, K., & McKenna, M. C. **(2020**). *Assessment for reading instruction* (4th ed.). The Guilford Press.

Kilpatrick, D. A. (2015). *Essentials of assessing, preventing, and overcoming reading difficulties.* John Wiley & Sons.

****This book can be accessed through the Waters Library

Mather, N., & Wendling, B. J. (2024). *Essentials of Dyslexia Assessment and Intervention* (2nd ed.). John Wiley & Sons.

Important Dates:
Academic Calendar 2025-2026
https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/2526%20Academic%20Calendar%2008062025.pdf

Texas Reading Specialist Standards
READING SPECIALIST STANDARDS

Course Description:

In this course, students will learn to administer and analyze the results of various formal and informal literacy assessments for the purpose of planning instruction and interventions.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

1. Understands and applies the use of multiple formal and informal literacy assessments used in educational settings including screening, in-depth assessment, continuous progress monitoring, and formative and summative assessment and how each are used to evaluate students' literacy development for each component of reading.

2. Understands the use of assessment in relation to developmental or grade levels and is able to respond appropriately when results warrant additional evaluation, potential diagnosis, or other intervention including state and federal requirements.

3. Uses assessment data to meet the unique needs of students of all abilities and plans responsive instruction.

4. Understands assessments used in educational settings by comparing and contrasting various literacy assessments, determining which literacy assessments are most appropriate for various situations through awareness of bias, reliability, validity, confidentiality, and limits of assessments within various contexts.

5. Understands and demonstrates the use of various assessment instruments to evaluate, plan instruction, and report on the progress of students.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

Assignments

- **Minor Assignments**
  - Course Essential Question (Beg, Mid, End)
  - Campus Assessment Scavenger Hunt

- **Reflective Journal Discussion Prompt Responses**
  - Unit 1-5 Reflective Journal Entries/Synchronous Chapter Discussions

- **Major Assignments**
  - Dyslexia Therapist/Specialist Intervention and Small Group Observation
  - Investigating Your School's RTI/MTSS Process
  - Investigating & Evaluating Literacy Assessment Systems
  - Striving Literacy Learning Student Literacy Profile Assignment

Assignment Points & Grading Weights

Assignments	Weights
Reflective Journal Discussion Prompt Responses	**35%**
Minor Assignments	**20%**
Major Assignments	**45%**

Points scale:

A=90%-100%

B=80%-89%

C=70%-79%

D=60%-69%

F=59%-or Below

COMMUNICATIONS

NOTE: It is very important to go online frequently to: (1) read any new announcements, (2) check your MyLeo-Mail, (3) review assignments, (4) check the **Schedule of Assignments**, (5) check your Inbox for documents I return to you, and (6) communicate as needed with your instructor and class members.

Announcements: Announcements may be posted from time to time. When you go to the course, you should first read announcements posted since you were last in the class.

Email Correspondence

> **From me to you:** Email from me is sent only to your University MyLeo account. It is important to go to MyLeo mail regularly to check for messages.

> **From you to me:** Please send any questions or other kinds of communication to me by e-mail at Tami.Morton@tamuc.edu. This e-mail account is checked frequently and at least a couple of times a time during weekdays.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or **point** release of

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
			that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or **point** release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2Lsupports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - o 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - o Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - o Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

- **For YouSeeU Sync Meeting sessions _8 Mbps_ is required.** Additional system requirements found here: https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements

- You must have a:
  - o Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - o Speakers or headphones.
  - o *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.

- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp

- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.
   Pop-ups are allowed.
   JavaScript is enabled.
   Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - o Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/
  - o Adobe Flash Player _(version 17 or later)_ https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/
  - o Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/

- o   [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)   http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support
Need Help?
Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact professor via email at Tami.Morton@tamuc.edu.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "click here" to submit an issue via email.

System Maintenance

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

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From you to me: Please send any questions or other kinds of communication to me by e-mail at Melanie.Loewewnstein@etamu.edu..

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Written Assignments: All written assignments are expected to exhibit professional quality. You should demonstrate mastery of organizing, structuring, and editing in your writing. Letters/materials written by you as a professional and sent to parents/administrators MUST BE PERFECT. Therefore, if you need extra help, the writing center can assist you. You can get assistance on line at http://faculty.tamu-commerce.edu/scarter/rfwOWL.htm

Written Assignments should be:

*Use APA 7th edition style
*double spaced
*1" top and left side margins, 1" bottom and right side margins
*12 point font size
*Times New Roman or Arial
*revised for clarity and meaning
*edited for accuracy in grammar and mechanics
*saved on computer disk or copied on paper for your records

Check into the course daily, Monday – Friday. Double check the assignments' requirements and due dates. E-mail the instructor with any questions or communication at Melanie.Loewenstein@etamu.edu.

Unless otherwise announced, all work is due by midnight on the date stated in the Course Outline.

<u>Submit Work Early</u>. Given that computer and technical problems can often crop up at the last minute, it is never wise to wait until the last minute to submit assignments. Give yourself plenty of time in the event you need to implement a back-up plan.

<u>Submitting Assignments to the D2L Assignment Folders.</u> You are responsible for attaching the submitting assignments to the correct assignment submission folder, generally labeled with the name of the assignment. **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx). http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.
http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.etamu.edu/counseling-center

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
East Texas A&M University
Waters Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu
Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M University Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34Safe tyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

AI Use in Course

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty
13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

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