Welcome
Welcome to the online course ELED 757 Assessment, Diagnosis, and Interventions for Effective Reading Instruction. This course is designed to introduce students to different types of reading assessments that can be used to document reading performance; to assessment procedures; and to strategies that can be utilized to enhance reading performance. My name is Dr. Susan Gapp, and I will be your instructor this semester. I am a Professor of Curriculum and Instruction: Reading Methods, Early Literacy, Reading Interventions, and Reading Assessments at The University of South Dakota. I have taught at USD for 20 years. Before entering higher education, I taught elementary school for twelve years and worked as a Reading Recovery Teacher Leader for 6 years.

IMPORTANT: Please note this is not an introductory level reading course, so it is assumed that students have had at least one reading methods course prior to enrolling. If you have not had a reading methods course, it will be beneficial to do some independent study in order to develop some background knowledge prior to the course. There are many good books that would suffice. To offer some suggestions, the text we use at USD to teach reading methods is *Literacy for the 21st Century: A Balanced Approach (7th Edition)* by Gail E. Tompkins or you might select a text like *Reading and Writing in Elementary Classrooms: Research-Based K-4 Instruction (5th Edition)* by Patricia M. Cunningham, Sharon Arthur Moore, James W. Cunningham and David W. Moore. The resource/text you choose is up to you as long as you choose a resource that will provide you with background knowledge regarding reading methods.

Textbook & Materials
The course includes reading three textbooks, reading a summary of a national report, and completing assignments that should assist you in developing your knowledge base. The readings and assignments are relevant and will help you to be proficient in the use/interpretation of multiple forms of assessment (systematic observational assessment, informal assessments, and standardized tests) and diagnostic teaching in order to accurately assess struggling readers and to appropriately plan interventions.

The textbooks you will need for this course are as follows:


Summary booklet of the National Reading Panel Report titled *Put reading first: The research building blocks for teaching children to read* (Teacher’s Guide) can be accessed/downloaded (for free) at https://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/Pages/pubs_details.aspx?pubs_id=226
OR https://www.nichd.nih.gov/about/org/der/branches/cdbb/Pages/nationalreadingpanelpubs.aspx and scroll down until you find the link for the html or pdf for “Put Reading First: The Research Building Blocks for Teaching Children to Read (Teacher’s Guide)”. Please download this document prior to or during the first week of the course.

The textbooks are available through Barnes & Noble at USD. You can purchase it in person or you can contact them at bn@usd.edu or by going to their web site at http://usd.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=29552&catalogId=10001&langId=-1 to make your order of the book. They can also be reached at (605) 677-6291. To make an order they will need:

1. Your name
2. Your mailing address (no PO boxes as it is shipped UPS)
3. A daytime telephone # where you can be reached
4. Your credit card # and expiration date
5. The course number (ELED 757)
6. Whether you want new only or used, when available.

**Technology Requirements**

The University of South Dakota has established minimum technology requirements for participation in online courses. These are outlined under the “Technology Support and Requirements” section in the Online Student Handbook document in the Getting Started widget on the course homepage through the CDE link (https://www.usd.edu/-/media/files/usd-online/online-orientation-guide.ashx?la=en)

**IMPORTANT**: You will need to have access to the web, e-mail, and Microsoft Office Word. It is very important that you have a USD User ID and are able to log into the course on D2L before the first class. You must interact on-line with other students and the professor. It will be a way of learning from each other.

**General Course Schedule**

In general, a typical week in this course will be sequenced as follows:

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<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
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Monday  
Start of the week; new course topics, materials, readings and discussion.
Open for independent work and discussion posts.

Tuesday  
Office hours @ 4:00 PM CT (optional)
Open for independent work and discussions

Wednesday  
Discussion post/response to readings due.
Open for independent work and discussions

Thursday  
Open for independent work and discussions

Friday  
Reply to at least one other class member’s discussion post due.
Assignments typically due on Fridays.

Saturday  
Open for work

Sunday  
Open for work

TIP: When the course starts on Monday, January 7th, be sure to take time to review the information found in each Icon on the D2L Homepage for this course. Be sure to run off a hardcopy of the syllabus and review it before the course starts. Weekly discussion forums can be found on the Discuss Link within the Communications Icon on the Black Navigation Bar. During the first week, you are expected to introduce yourself via D2L by posting a short introduction so we can begin to know you in the Introductory Message site on the Discuss Link within the Communications Icon.

General Course Requirements and Expectations
The South Dakota Board of Regents defines a credit hour as constituting one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction, and two hours of out of class student work. This is a three credit-hour course, so students should expect to invest around nine hours per week in the course.

Because this is an online course, where we will not meet face to face, this engagement will be facilitated via the following activities: posting in the weekly discussions; replying to classmates’ posts, and completing assignments (power point presentations, midterm exam, book review, reflection paper). Please see the syllabus for more details (dates, grading criteria, rubrics, expectations, etc.). The instructor will read all discussion posts within a week of the due date. All other course work will be returned with feedback by two weeks from the due date.

IMPORTANT: This will not be a self-paced or correspondence-like course. You will be required to complete—and assessed on—weekly activities. Failure to do so may result in a reduced grade in the course, or being dropped from the course.

Getting Started
First, you will need to access the course in Desire2Learn (D2L). This can be done via the USD student portal, http://my.usd.edu or directly via https://d2l.sdbor.edu. The course should be listed in under “My Courses.” Note: you will not be able to access the course until the official start date.
Next, you should familiarize yourself with the CDE Online Student Handbook, which can be found in the Getting Started widget on the course homepage. It contains important information on accessing USD’s resources online.

Once in the course, you should do the following:

1. Read through the items in the Getting Started section on the top, left-hand side of the course homepage.
2. Orient yourself to the other important areas (widgets) of the homepage:
   - **News**: where course updates or messages from the instructor will be posted.
3. Familiarize yourself with the various tools that will be used throughout the semester:
   - **Content**: where all course materials reside
4. **Assessments**: where you will access your Grades, Quizzes (and exams), and the Dropbox (to submit papers). The midterm exam will be located under **Assessments → Quizzes**.
   - **Communications**: where you will access the weekly Discussions
   - **Resources**: where you will find the Classlist (which you can use to contact me), the FAQ, etc.
   - **Course Mail**: this is located at the very top, right-hand side of the course, and will be used for all official correspondence in the course; when you have unread Course Mail, a red badge will appear on the email icon:

5. Post your introduction in the first week’s discussion topic under **Communications → Discuss**.

**IMPORTANT**: You must complete the task #5 by the end of the first week of the course, or you risk being dropped from the course. If you are having problems doing so, please IMMEDIATELY contact me.

**Contacting Me**

My contact information is listed at the top of this document. The best way to contact me is via the USD email (Susan.Gapp@usd.edu) or via D2L email, which can be access within the course. I will do my utmost to respond to your requests within twenty-four (24) hours during the weekdays, or forty-eight (48) hours on the weekends and holidays. Note: please do not use the pager tool to contact me.