LANGUAGE & LITERACY IN THE CONTENT AREAS

CTRD 5000

AUBURN UNIVERSITY



Department: Curriculum & Teaching

Program: Reading

Course Title: Language & Literacy in the Content Areas

Course Credit: 3 hours

Semester: Fall 2022

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer VanSlander

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Phone: 503-930-8092 (cell)

Office: N/A

Office Hours: Virtual by Appointment

Schedule: See Canvas

Prerequisites: N/A

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| 1. ***COURSE DESCRIPTION*** |

**Bulletin Description:**

Strategies to help fluent readers and English language learners learn content in the disciplines by strategic reading of texts.

**Texts:**

All course readings will be available through Canvas.

**Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Collaboratively apply reflection and action in teaching through inquiry into problems of practice.
2. Design lessons that integrate literacy into content area learning by drawing on key learning theories and their associated approaches to literacy instruction.
3. Advocate for more equitable and socially-just learning spaces for all students by engaging with and reflecting on experiences with literacy communities serving culturally and linguistically diverse families

**Course Standards:**

Course Standards include a subset of key indicators from the Alabama Core Teaching Standards (290-3-3-.03), English Language Arts Program-specific standards (290-3-3-.10), and advanced technology standards (indicated in red). Final assessment of the advanced technology standards (.42) are in this course.

Alabama Core Teaching Standards

(2)(e) Incorporates tools of language development into planning and instruction, including strategies for making content accessible to English language learners and for evaluating and supporting their development of English proficiency.

(2)(k) Knows how to access information about the values of diverse cultures and communities and how to incorporate learners’ experiences, cultures, and community resources and instruction.

(3)(m) Knows how to use technologies and how to guide learners to apply them in appropriate, safe, and effective ways.

(4)(h) Creates opportunities for students to learn, practice, and master academic language in their content.

(4)(j) Understands major concepts, assumptions, debates, processes of inquiry, and ways of knowing that are central to the discipline(s) they teach.

(4)(l) Knows and uses the academic language of the discipline and knows how to make it accessible to learners.

(5)(h) Develops and implements supports for learner literacy development across content areas.

(5)(i) Understands the ways of knowing in their discipline, how it relates to other disciplinary approaches to inquiry, and the strengths and limitations of each approach in addressing problems, issues, and concerns.

(5)(l) Understands how to use digital and interactive technologies for efficiently and effectively achieving specific learning goals.

(8)(g) Engages all learners in using a range of learning skills and technology tools to access, interpret, evaluate, and apply information.

(8)(o) Understands how content and skill development can be supported by media and technology and knows how to evaluate these resources for quality, accuracy, and effectiveness.

(9)(e) Reflects on their personal biases and accesses resources to deepen their own understanding of cultural, ethnic, gender, and learning differences to build stronger relationships and create more relevant learning experiences.

(9)(i) Understands how personal identity, worldview, and prior experiences affect perceptions and expectations, and recognizes how they may bias behaviors and interactions with others.

(9)(m) Is committed to deepening understanding of their own frames of references (e.g., culture, gender, language, abilities, ways of knowing), the potential biases in these frames, and their impact on expectations for and relationships with learners and their families.

(10)(l) Understands schools as organizations within a historical, cultural, political, and social context and knows how to work with others across the system to support learners.

English Language Arts (Grades P-12)

(2)(a)1(ii)Knowledgeable about how adolescents read texts and make meaning through interaction with media environments.

(2)(b)3 Plan standards-based, coherent and relevant learning experiences in reading that reflect knowledge of current theory and research about the teaching and learning of reading and that utilize individual and collaborative approaches and a variety of reading strategies, including those advocated by the Alabama Reading Initiative.

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| 1. ***DIVERSITY & INCLUSION*** |

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students’ learning needs and wellbeing be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a strength and a resource. It is my intent to engage us in materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

*Names and Pronouns:* Many people might go by a name in daily life that is different from their legal name. In this course, we will refer to people by the names that they go by. Pronouns are a way to affirm someone’s identity. They are simply a public way in which people are referred to in place of their name (e.g. “he” or “she” or “they” or “ze” or something else). In this class, you are invited to share what pronouns you go by, and we will refer to people using the pronouns that they share.

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| 1. ***COURSE EXPECTATIONS*** |

**Expectations:**

Our expectations for classroom participation and engagement are directly connected to our beliefs about what quality teaching and learning looks like, sounds like, and feels like. One of our major goals for this course is to examine our own instructional decision-making to understand what informs our choices and how those choices impact our students. So that you can understand my approach to teaching and the expectations I will, thus, have for you, I want to clearly communicate three of my core beliefs about teaching and learning:

* Learning does not happen in you and me as individuals. Learning is what we do together when we all bring our unique knowledges and experiences to the process. Thus, discussion with others, including those with different perspectives, is essential to learning.
* Teaching, in any form, is a political and cultural act and has social, economic, and emotional ramifications. Thus, uncovering our own beliefs, assumptions, and biases (we all have them) and those of our society in general is imperative to informed decision-making about teaching and learning.
* There are no right answers for how to be an effective educator. Instead, we must be prepared to identify the tensions we feel and be brave enough to negotiate those tensions. Thus, a habit of mind that engages us in cyclical processes of reflection and action mean that we never stop learning.

So, there will be some lecturing but lecturing doesn't lend itself well to the kind of active, participatory learning I value. To have a critical, active classroom, we have to start with some foundational commitments for being a part of this community, including:

* **Staying engaged.** Staying engaged means remaining morally, emotionally, intellectually, and socially involved in the dialogue.
* **Experiencing discomfort.** This norm acknowledges that discomfort is inevitable, especially in dialogue about diversity and equity, and that participants make a commitment to bring issues into the open. It is not the talking about these issues that create divisiveness. The divisiveness already exists in society and in our schools. It is through dialogue, even when uncomfortable, that healing and change can begin.
* **Speaking your truth.** This means being open about thoughts and feelings and not just saying what you think others want to hear. It also means being open to others' truths.
* **Expecting and accepting nonclosure.** This agreement asks participants to "hang out in uncertainty" and not rush to quick solutions, especially in relation to diversity and equity, which require ongoing dialogue.

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| 1. ***GRADING*** |

**Grading Policy:**

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| Letter | Percent |
| A | 100% - 90% |
| B | 89% - 80% |
| C | 79% - 70% |
| D | 69% - 60% |
| F | <60% |

**Late Assignments:**

Late assignments lose 10% credit per unexcused day late to a maximum of 20% lost credit. Late work is not accepted 48 hours past the posted due date and will be assigned a “0” (zero). For example, a 20-point assignment due Monday would be worth at most 16 points by Wednesday. If there are extenuating circumstances, please communicate with the instructor; however, this does not ensure a waiver of the late penalty.

**Communication:**

I know that life sometimes happens, BUT I expect you to communicate with me, early and clearly, when this does happen. I am always available virtually and can be reached by email. Don’t wait until the issue becomes too big; we can problem-solve together, even if it’s me who is the issue.

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| 1. ***ASSIGNMENTS*** |

**Major Graded Assignments:**

Major course assignments are briefly described here but you’ll receive more specific information concerning completion and evaluation of the assignments across course units.

1. *Synchronous and Asynchronous Class Participation (45 points):* 
   1. *Synchronous Class Attendance (20 points):* As a member of this course community, you are expected to attend each synchronous class meeting and contribute thoughtfully to group dialogue. This term, we will be meeting synchronously on the following dates:

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| **Meeting Date** | **Meeting Time** |
| August 22 | 5:00-7:30 PM CST |
| September 19 | 5:00-7:30 PM CST |
| October 17 | 5:00-7:30 PM CST |
| November 14 | 5:00-7:30 PM CST |

* 1. *Asynchronous Canvas Module Tasks (10 points):* Each asynchronous Canvas module also contains small tasks you are expected to complete. You are scored based on the percent of tasks you complete. For example, if you complete 90% of the tasks assigned, you earn 9 points toward your overall grade.
  2. *Collaborative Inquiry Groups-CIG (15 points):* Within the first few weeks of the course, you’ll be joining an inquiry group with the purpose of exploring a problem of practice in language and literacy teaching and learning. You will be meeting with this group to discuss your reflections and actions around that problem of practice three times over the term. You are required to attend these collaborative inquiry group meetings. You and your group will record your meeting sessions and complete all assigned tasks. This term, you will be meeting on the following dates for an hour during assigned class time.

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| **CIG Meeting Weeks** | **Meeting Day/Time** |
| #1: August 28-September 4 | TBD by your group |
| #2: October 2-9 | TBD by your group |
| #3: October 23-30 | TBD by your group |

1. *Literacy Lesson Plans (40 points)*
   1. *Content Area Literacy Lesson Plan (20 points):* You will design a content area lesson plan for your specific discipline. Your lesson needs to provide a 20-minute plan for teaching a content area literacy strategy through an I Do, You Do, We Do structure. Your lesson plan will provide an explicit introduction (for students) to the literacy strategy, model application of the strategy, and provide students with opportunities to actively engage in practice applying the strategy. Your lesson plan should demonstrate your knowledge of how to integrate content area literacy strategies to support content learning in your disciplinary classroom. You will need to turn in a draft of your lesson plan for feedback, provide thoughtful feedback on two peers’ lesson plans, and revise your lesson plan using peer feedback by the following dates:

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| **Due Date** | **Task** |
| 10/2 | Submit draft of lesson plan on Canvas |
| 10/9 | Provide 2 peers wit feedback on their lesson plans in Canvas |
| 10/16 | Submit final lesson plan on Canvas after revision using peer feedback |

* 1. *Disciplinary Literacy Lesson Plan (20 points):* You will plan a 50-minute lesson that teaches a concept in your discipline while providing literacy support to enhance conceptual understanding. Your lesson plan should center on a disciplinary text and provide instructional support in academic language and disciplinary discourse, inquiry, habits of mind, and ways of knowing. Your lesson plan should demonstrate your knowledge of how to make explicit the demands of disciplinary literacy practices. You will need to turn in a draft of your lesson plan for feedback, provide thoughtful feedback on two peers’ lesson plans, and revise your lesson plan using peer feedback by the following dates:

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| **Due Date** | **Task** |
| 10/23 | Submit draft of lesson plan on Canvas |
| 10/30 | Provide 2 peers with feedback on their lesson plans in Canvas |
| 11/6 | Submit final lesson plan on Canvas after revision using peer feedback |

1. *Problems of Practice Paper (25 points):* Based on the inquiry process you applied to a problem of practice in language and literacy teaching and learning, you will write a 1,500-2,000 word practitioner piece for classroom teachers. This piece will position the problem of practice within existing literature on the issue; examine your inquiry process; and make recommendations regarding tools, processes, or strategies for addressing the problem of practice in K-12 or adult learning settings. Due 11/13.

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| 1. ***TENTATIVE SCHEDULE*** |

**Course Organization:**

Our course examines how inquiry is a powerful tool for learning and the most significant learning experience in the course is organized around your inquiry groups. As a model, and because it facilitates meaningful learning, our course is organized around central inquiry topics. In each inquiry unit, we’ll explore key content related to the question and, individually and collaboratively, you’ll be constructing your answers to the questions as you consider how you will make instructional decisions about language and literacy in your content classroom. The following schedule is provided to give you an overview of the course and readings that will guide our inquiries. All assigned texts will be available in Canvas. These readings contain information that should be included in projects and other course tasks. You can find all due dates in our Class Calendar and in Canvas.

**\*Please note that this is a tentative summary of the schedule and topics/assignment. Due dates may change during the semester and this will be clearly stated in class and on Canvas.**

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| **Inquiry Unit** | | |
| **HOW ARE WE GOING TO BUILD AN INCLUSVE, ACTIVE, AND EQUITABLE COMMUNITY FOR LEARNING THIS TERM?** | | |
|  | Video Introduction Discussion | **8/21** |
| Module 1 | The Habits of Mind of Critical and Responsive Literacy Teaching | **8/28** |
| **Synchronous Class #1 (5:00-7:30 p.m. CT)** | | **8/22** |
| **Synchronous CIG Meeting #1** | | **Time/Date TBD by CIG (by 9/4)** |
| **HOW DOES YOUR POSITIONALITY AND HISTORY WITH LITERACY INFLUENCE HOW YOU THINK ABOUT TEACHING LITERACY?** | | |
| Module 2 | The History of Language & Literacy in U.S. Communities and Schools | **9/11** |
| Module 3 | The Role of Positionality in Shaping Beliefs and Assumptions about Literacy Practice |
| **Synchronous Class #2** | | **9/19** |
| **HOW MIGHT WE TEACH LITERACY TO SUPPORT STUDENT COMPREHENSION OF CONTENT AREA MATERIALS?** | | |
| Module 4 | An Introduction to Approaches to Literacy Instruction in the Content Areas | **9/25** |
| Module 5 | Theoretical Frameworks for Content Area Literacy |
| Module 6 | Content Area Literacy Theories in Practice | **10/2** |
| Module 7 | Considerations for Equitable Content Area Literacy Instruction with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Learners |
| **Content Area Literacy Lesson Plan Draft** | | **10/2** |
| **Synchronous CIG Meeting #2** | | **Time/Date TBD by CIG (by 10/9)** |
| **Peer Feedback on Two Content Area Literacy Lesson Plans** | | **10/9** |
| **HOW MIGHT WE TEACH LITERACY TO SUPPORT STUDENT UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION OF LITERACY COMMUNITY PRACTICES IN THE CONTENT AREA?** | | |
| Module 8 | Theoretical Frameworks for Disciplinary Literacy | **10/9** |
| Module 9 | Disciplinary Literacy Within and Across the Disciplines |
| Module 10 | Disciplinary Literacy Theories in Practice | **10/16** |
| Module 11 | Considerations for Equitable Disciplinary Literacy Instruction with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students |
| **Final Submission Content Area Literacy Lesson Plan** | | **10/16** |
| **Synchronous Class #3 (5:00-7:30 p.m. CT)** | | **10/17** |
| **Disciplinary Literacy Lesson Plan Draft** | | **10/23** |
| **DESPITE THE INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH, HOW MIGHT WE DESIGN MORE EQUITABLE AND RESPONSIVE LITERACY INSTRUCTION?** | | |
| Module 12 | Balancing Content Area Literacy, Disciplinary Literacy, and Content Instruction | **10/23** |
| Module 13 | Attending to Community Practices in Literacy |
| **HOW DO YOU ENVISION TEACHING LITERACY IN YOUR CONTENT AREA?** | | |
| Module 14 | Rethinking Literacy Instruction for Diverse Learners **(Problems of Practice Paper)** | **10/30** |
| **Synchronous CIG Meeting #3** | | **Time/Date TBD by CIG (by 10/30)** |
| **Peer Feedback on Two Disciplinary Literacy Lesson Plans** | | **10/30** |
| **Week of October 30-November 6: PoP Work Week** | | |
| **Final Disciplinary Literacy Lesson Plan** | | **11/6** |
| **Week of November 6-November 13: Meet with CIG to Plan Presentation** | | |
| **Problems of Practice Paper** | | **11/13** |
| **Synchronous Class #4 (5:00-7:00 p.m. CT)** | | **11/14** |
| **COMPLETE COURSE EVALUATION** | | |

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| 1. ***UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE POLICIES*** |

COVID 19:

Auburn requires everyone to wear face coverings when inside university buildings. The policy applies to all students, faculty, staff and campus visitors, regardless of vaccination status.

If you contract or are exposed to COVID-19, it is treated as any other medical absence. You will need to provide the instructor with the proper documentation noting the illness or requirement to quarantine or isolate. In the event you miss class due to illness or exposure, you must communicate with the instructor for make-up work or to establish an adjusted schedule for assignment due dates.

Accommodations:

Students who need special accommodations in class, as provided for by the American Disabilities Act, should arrange a confidential meeting with the instructor during office hours the first week of classes – or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. You must bring a copy of your Accommodation Memo and an Instructor Verification Form to the meeting. If you do not have these forms but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Program for Students with Disabilities, 1244 Haley Center, 844-2096.

Academic Honesty Policy:

All portions of the Auburn University student Academic Honesty Code (Title XII) will apply to this class. All academic honesty violations or alleged violations will be reported to the Office of the Provost, which will then refer the case to the Academic Honesty Committee.

Professionalism:

Faculty, staff, and students in professional settings are expected to demonstrate professional behaviors as defined in the College’s conceptual framework. These professional commitments or dispositions are as follows: Engage in responsible and ethical professional practices; contribute to collaborative learning communities; demonstrate a commitment to diversity; and model and nurture intellectual vitality.

Writing Center:

The Miller Writing Center provides free support on any writing you are doing while at Auburn, whether for a course or not. Trained consultants are available to work with as you plan, draft, and revise your writing. For students in distance courses and students temporarily away from Auburn’s campus, the Miler Writing Center offers synchronous online consultations. Please check the Miller Writing Center website ([www.auburn.edu/writingcenter](http://www.auburn.edu/writingcenter)) for instructions and information about scheduling online appointments. If you have questions about the Miller Writing center, please email [writctr@auburn.edu](mailto:writctr@auburn.edu) or call 334-844-7475 M-F 7:45AM-4:45PM.

Student eHandbook:

Please refer to <http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/student_policies/> for all AU student policies.