

**George Mason University  
Graduate School of Education**

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**EDRD 631 (3 credits)**

*Advanced Literacy Foundations and Instruction,  
Adolescence through Adulthood*  
Fairfax 09 Cohort, Spring 2010  
Thursday, 4:30-7:10, Thompson Hall 107

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Hours: by appointment

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

This course provides advanced study of literacy theory research, and practice as it relates to adolescents and adults. It addresses sociocultural, cognitive, linguistic, psychological, and developmental influences on literacy. Reading, writing, and oral communication are included. Prerequisite: EDRD 630 or permission of the program coordinator.

**RELATIONSHIP OF COURSE TO PROGRAM GOALS AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION**

This course addresses new and required state and national competencies for K-12 Reading Specialists. This course also provides an advanced, research-based study of literacy for teachers seeking master's degrees. The program is a *State Approved Program* and follows both the Virginia Department of Education requirements for reading specialist licensure and the International Reading Association's Standards for Reading Professionals (2003 Revision).

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION**

The following course requirements will be explained in detail during class meetings:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Point Value</b>
Class Participation		25
Article Discussion Leadership		25
Term Project		
Adolescent Interview		25
Content Area Alternative Texts Collection		25
Book Talk		25
Motivational Literacy Strategy Demonstration		25
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>

Final grades are calculated as a percent of total points earned:

A	= 93% - 100%	150 – 139 pts.
A-	= 90% - 92%	138 - 135
B+	= 87% - 89%	134 - 129
B	= 80% - 86%	128 - 120
C	= 79% and lower	119 -

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION POLICY**

To maximize the benefit of this interactive content literacy course, students are expected to attend and participate actively in every class session. Attendance for book talk and strategy share sessions is especially critical. Attendance is all that is required to earn the full 25 points for class participation. For each session you are absent, 5 points will be deducted from your class participation grade. Attendance will be taken beginning on the second class session. The only exclusions are class cancellations by the university or the professor

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK/READINGS**

Brozo, W.G., & Simpson, M.L. (2007). *Content literacy for today's adolescents: Honoring diversity and building competence*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill/Prentice Hall.

Students are expected to read all articles in preparation for Article Discussion Leadership

### **PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENTS (PBAs)**

PBAs provide critical indicators of students' competencies in literacy. Performance on PBAs offer faculty essential information about the extent to which course and program goals have been met, and yield data on the connection between student learning experiences and required program standards for our accrediting and approval associations (NCATE & IRA). An International Reading Association approved program is the gold standard for students intending to become a reading specialist.

There are two PBAs in EDRD 631: (1) the Adolescent Interview, and (2) the Content Area Alternative Text Collection. In order to document performance on these standards, you will be required to upload assignments to the TaskStream database. A tutorial will be provided for those students unfamiliar with this process.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

As a result of this course, students will be able to:

1. Design appropriate strategies for facilitating the acquisition of academic language for English learners and non-standard dialect users (**Virginia Standard 2c**).
2. Demonstrate understanding of a range of word attack and word learning strategies including morphological analysis, affixes and roots, inflections, definitional and contextual approaches (**Virginia Standard 3b**)
3. Demonstrate understanding of and design appropriate strategies for developing reading comprehension of content text through meaning making processes such as predicting, questioning, summarizing, and clarifying (**Virginia Standard 3e,g**)
4. Demonstrate the ability to integrate a variety of types of literature and text into lesson and unit planning (**Virginia Standard 3h**).
5. Promote independent reading through book talks (**Virginia Standard 3i**)
6. Demonstrate an understanding of varying degrees of learning disabilities (**Virginia Standard 6d**).

### **COURSE OUTCOMES**

The following Program Outcomes based on the International Reading Association “Elements” are taught and assessed in EDRD 631.

#### IRA #

- 1.1 Knowledge of psychological, sociological, linguistic, and anthropological foundations of reading and writing processes and instruction. are integrated in fluent reading
- 4.2 Use a large supply of books, technology-based information, and non-print materials representing multiple levels, broad interests, and cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

**The following additional GMU outcomes are taught in EDRD 631. These outcomes are assessed in a formative manner and serve to provide a foundation for knowledge related to IRA Elements that have performance assessments in future coursework.**

1. Students will describe adolescent learners’ uses of literacy in school and non-school contexts.
2. Students will understand and explain strategies for teaching reading, writing, and oral communication in school settings for older learners.
3. Students will develop professional skills through participation in professional organizations, self-selection of professional materials, and participation in professional dialogue with colleagues.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Email Access**

Students must have access to email and the Internet, either at home, work, or on the GMU campus. GMU provides students with free email accounts that must be accessed for information sent from the university or the Graduate School of Education. Go to <http://mason.gmu.edu/> for information on accessing email.

### **GSE Statements of Expectations**

The Graduate School of Education (GSE) expects that all students abide by the following:

Students are expected to exhibit professional behavior and dispositions. Professional dispositions are expected of all members of the GSE community. Please go to <http://gse.gmu.edu/facultystaffres/profdisp.htm> for a listing of these dispositions.

Students must follow the guidelines of the University Honor Code. See [http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#TOC\\_H12](http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#TOC_H12) for the full honor code.

Students must agree to abide by the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. See <http://mail.gmu.edu> and click on Responsible Use of Computing at the bottom of the screen.

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the GMU Disability Resource Center (DRC) and inform the instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester. See [www.gmu.edu/student/drc](http://www.gmu.edu/student/drc) or call 703-993-2474 to access the DRC.

## ARTICLE DISCUSSION LEADERSHIP

### Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to provide you the opportunity to read, analyze, and interpret the research articles and readings in the course pack for your peers.

### Completion Procedures

1. Find a classmate to work as a team on the ADL assignment.
2. Identify one article over which to lead discussion. The article should be taken from the list of additional course reading or from journals that focus on middle and high school students and must have a literacy connection. The best journals to review for this assignment are:
  - Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*
  - English Journal*
  - Voices from the Middle*
  - Journals in social studies, science, math (articles with literacy focus)
2. Make the article available to the class at least one week in advance of your scheduled ADL (digital link, pdf file, scanned copy, or hard copy)
3. Read, analyze, and format the presentation around the following aspects of the Article (***This portion of the ADL should comprise about 10 minutes.***):
  - purpose
  - main points
  - type of research and methodology, if relevant
  - conclusions
  - implications for research and practice
  - personal responses and reactions
4. Discussants should also devise ways of engaging the class in critical conversation and reflection on the article. Demonstrations, simulations, role-plays, and debates are recommended (***This portion of the ADL should comprise about 20 minutes.***).
5. PowerPoint slides, overheads, and/or handouts should accompany the article presentation and discussion.
6. Article discussion leader should plan 30 minutes for the article discussion.

**Evaluation** Each article discussant will be given a grade based on (a) effective planning and coordinating of the presentation and discussion of the article; (b) how succinctly and understandably key information from the article was presented; and (c) the extent to which the discussant used engaging techniques for bringing all students into critical conversation about the article.

## TERM PROJECT

### Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to provide you the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of key course concepts and practices within the conduct of and report on an integrated semester-long project. Several important theoretical and practical aspects of the course are embedded in this assignment, which is comprised of four main parts: (1) Adolescent Interview; (2) Content Area Alternative Texts Collection; (3) Book Talk; and (4) Motivational-Readiness Strategy Activity. While the four parts are closely interrelated, each part will be completed and graded separately.

### Part 1 Adolescent Interview - Completion Procedures

1. Identify an adolescent or pre-adolescent to interview. Preferably, this would be an English language learner, struggling reader, an ethnic minority student. The youth may be a student from your intermediate, middle, or secondary class or school, or someone from your neighborhood, a relation, etc.
2. Conduct an interview of the student using the following guidelines and protocol:
  - \* Psychological/Motivational  
Outside-of-school interests; reading and writing interests; skills and strategies; literate identity
  - \* Sociological  
Preferred instructional context; funds of knowledge; culture
  - \* Linguistic  
Language development issues

### *Required Interview Questions*

1. What kind of reading do you do outside of school? (name books, magazines, favorite authors, etc.)
2. What kinds of things do you do outside of school? What do you like to do the most? (specific activities as glimpses into out-of-school literacies and/or print experiences)
3. How would you characterize yourself as a reader? (self-description of ability and attitude and literate identity)
4. What skills and strategies do you use when you read? (particularly relevant for school-based reading)
5. What kinds of opportunities have you had or do you have at home for reading? (gets at home and cultural values of reading and literacy)
6. Do your parents like to read? (Describe)
7. Do you go to the library and bookstores? (Describe)

8. What do you like the most and/or least about reading in school? (instructional/social context of school)
9. How could school reading be made more enjoyable to you? (instructional/social context of school)
10. What opportunities and experiences have you had and do you have for learning English? (relevant to English language learners)
11. How do you think your ability with English influences your ability to read English? (gets at identity and metalinguistic awareness)
12. (Other relevant questions at your discretion)

3. Write a brief report (5 double-spaced pages) to be organized around the following subheadings and to include the following content:

**Interview Subject and Context** (1/2 page)

Provide the first name or a pseudonym of the youth. Explain why the youth was chosen for your interview. Include the date and time of the interview and where it took place.

**Interview Findings** (2 - 3 pages)

Summarize the youth's responses to the interview questions by clustering them around the three constructs of concern: psychological/motivational, sociological, and linguistic.

**Connections to the Literature** (1 ½ - 2 pages)

Briefly describe what the professional literature says about adolescent literacy development from a psychological/motivational, sociological, and linguistic perspective. Include at least six sources, two for each construct. Sources may come from any of the available readings and references in the class.

**Bibliography**

Accurately cite each reference to the professional literature using APA format.

**Evaluation**

The interview report will be evaluated based on (a) evidence of a thorough interview; (b) succinct and intelligent summary of interview responses; (c) appropriate discussion of and references to the professional literature; and (d) overall clarity and editing.

## **Part 2 Content Area Alternative Texts Collection - Completion Procedures**

This part of the term project should be based on your adolescent interview. It is designed to: (a) help you discover the importance of multiple perspectives on subject area topics; and (b) incorporate livelier texts into content area teaching with more connections to current events and the larger world.

1. Reflect on the discoveries you made about the youth you interviewed in terms of her/his interests, ability, etc.
2. Identify a disciplinary topic (e.g., manifest destiny – history; biomes – science, etc.) your youth is likely to encounter in school.
3. Collect the following reading pieces related to your topic that will likely be of high interest to the youth you interviewed. Listed are the minimums, if, in your search, you find other pieces you would like to include you are welcome to do so; however, you must include:

- \* At least one reading from the perspective of a person of non-white-European Background
- \* At least one reading from the perspective of an English language learner of Nonstandard English speaker
- \* At least one reading from the perspective of a woman
- \* Two magazine articles (from popular magazines for adults of teens)
- \* Two newspaper articles
- \* Two Web sites
- \* One nonfiction book
- \* One young adult novel
- \* One comic book or graphic novel

4. Write a short paper (4-5 double-spaced pages) with the following components/subheadings:

***Citations, Annotations & Rationales*** – provide a full bibliographic citation for each source using APA format; briefly describe each source and its connection to the disciplinary topic and why you think it will appeal to adolescents

***Strategies for Teaching with the Sources*** – propose some approaches and strategies you would use for engaging the youth you interviewed with these alternative texts as opposed to simply assigning them

### **Evaluation**

This aspect of the term project will be evaluated based on (a) the appropriateness of the alternative texts to the disciplinary topic; (b) the succinctness of the annotations; (c) the relevance of the teaching suggestions; and (d) overall clarity and editing.

### **Part 3 Book Talk – Completion Procedures**

This assignment requires you to select the young adult book you find for your Alternative Content Area Texts Collection, read it, and present it to the class in a brief, exciting book talk.

1. Read the book and prepare a 5-7 minute book talk based on the features of quality book talks observed and discussed in class:
  - An attention-grabbing introduction
  - Broad stroke information about the book
  - Contextual information about a scene to be excerpted
  - An exciting excerpt read aloud
  - A conclusion that leaves listeners eager to learn more

### **Requirements and Cautions**

- Do not say too much about the book (A book talk is not a book report)
- Do not provide a synopsis of the book!
- Do not base your talk around the climax of the story!
- Rehearse by timing yourself to keep the talk within the 5-7 minute timeframe. You may be asked to immediately conclude your talk at the 7 minute mark
- Repeat author and title as often as possible
- Show enthusiasm
- Use an effective oral reading voice
- Use appropriate simple gestures
- Make frequent eye-contact throughout the room
- Take your talk to your listeners by moving around the room
- Do not use notes or scripts. Your talk must be rehearsed and planned, so that it appears natural and spontaneous.

### **Evaluation**

The book talk will be evaluated based on how well it conforms to the guidelines above.

## **Part 4 Motivational Literacy Strategy Demonstration – Completion Procedures**

The purpose of this assignment is to provide you the opportunity to design a literacy strategy that would be motivating for the youth you interviewed. The assignment requires that you (a) take the class through a short demonstration of the strategy activity, and (b) hand in a written narrative with supporting material.

### **Completion Procedures**

1. Identify a content area topic from a typical middle/high school classroom (e.g., science – photosynthesis; history – the Holocaust; etc.) that the youth you interviewed is likely to encounter.
2. Reflecting on the youth, identify a literacy strategy from the textbook that you think would be motivating to her/him for learning about the content area topic. The strategy may be taken from any chapter in the course text, whether covered in class or not.
3. Prepare a 10 – 12 minute strategy activity for the class. Be sure your classmates are actually “doing” the strategy. You are not simply describing it. Allow the class to simulate the experience of engaging in the strategy. Make necessary handouts and/or other appropriate material.
4. Write a brief (2 page, double spaced) description of the strategy and how it would be taught in a content classroom that included the youth you interviewed. Use first-person narrative. Use the following subheadings and description:
  - **Instructional Context**  
Briefly describe the strategy and where it was taken from the textbook. Describe why the strategy would be helpful to the youth you interviewed.
  - **Steps in Conducting the Strategy**  
Describe the sequence of steps from start to finish necessary to conduct the strategy in an actual classroom.
  - **Reflections on Potential Effectiveness**  
Indicate how effective you believe the strategy could be in motivating your student to become a more engaged reader and learner.
  - **Attachments**  
Provide actual lesson material and sample “student” work. This is copy you would expect your student to create as a result of the lesson.
5. At the end of your strategy demonstration, be prepared to take questions from your peers

6. Hand in to me a complete set of materials including the two page description of the strategy and all supporting documents (e.g., visual examples, “sample” student work, any other materials used in the demonstration)

### **Evaluation**

The Strategy Demonstration will be evaluated based on how well you followed the above directions. Critical in the evaluation will be (a) how engaging and interesting you made your strategy demonstration; (b) how clearly you describe the teaching of the motivational readiness strategy; (c) the soundness of your rationale for using the strategy with the youth you interviewed; (d) overall clarity and editing.

**TENTATIVE AGENDA**

<b>Session 1, Jan 21</b>	<b>Course Introduction</b> Assignment Explanations Model “My Bag” Model Book Talk
<b>Session 2, Jan 28</b>	<b>Adolescent Literacy and Youth Culture</b> Class “My Bags” Model Book Talk <i>Chapter 1</i>
<b>Session 3, Feb 4</b>	<b>Principled-Based Practices of Adolescent Literacy Comprehension Processes</b> Model ADL <i>Chapters 2 &amp; 3</i>
<b>Session 4, Feb 11</b>	<b>Comprehension Processes &amp; Study Reading</b> ADL <i>Part I of Term Project due</i> <i>Chapter 3 &amp; 9</i>
<b>Session 5, Feb 18</b>	<b>Reading and Learning from Multiple Sources</b> ADL <i>Chapter 8</i>
<b>Session 6, Feb 25</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Session 6, Mar 4</b>	<b>Motivation for Literacy and Learning</b> ADL Book Talks
<b>Session 8, Mar 11</b>	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>
<b>Session 9, Mar 18</b>	<b>Motivation for Literacy and Learning</b> ADL <i>Part II of Term Project due</i> Book Talks <i>Chapter 5</i>
<b>Session 10, Mar 25</b>	<b>Expanding Word Knowledge</b> ADL Book Talks <i>Chapter 6</i>

<b>Session 11, April 1</b>	<b>Expanding Word Knowledge</b> ADL <i>Book Talks</i>
<b>Session 12, April 8</b>	<b>Writing as a Tool for Active Learning</b> ADL Book Talks <i>Chapter 7</i>
<b>Session 13, April 15</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Session 14, April 22</b>	<b>Writing as a Tool for Active Learning</b> Book Talks ADL
<b>Session, 15, April 29</b>	<b>Motivational Literacy Strategy Demonstrations</b>
<b>Session 16, May 6</b>	<b>Motivational Literacy Strategy Demonstrations</b>
<b>Session 17, May 13</b>	<b>TBA</b>

**ADDITIONAL COURSE READINGS**

1. Bauman, J., Edwards, E.C., Boland, E., Olejnik, S. (2003). Vocabulary tricks: Effects of instruction in morphology and context on fifth-grade students' ability to derive and infer word meanings. *American Educational Research Journal*, 40, 447-484.
2. Brozo, W.G., & Hargis, C. (2003). Use it or lose it: Three strategies to increase time spent reading. *Principal Leadership*, 4, 36-40.
3. Brozo, W.G., & Hargis, C. (2003). Taking seriously the idea of reform: One high schools efforts to make reading more responsive to all students. *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, 47, 14-23.
4. Fisher, D. (2001). Cross age tutoring: Alternatives to the reading resource room for struggling adolescent readers. *Journal of Instructional Psychology*, 28, 234-240.
5. Hinchman, K., Alvermann, D., Boyd, F., Brozo, W.G., & Vacca, R. (2003/04). Supporting older students' in- and out-of-school literacies. *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, 47, 304-310.
6. Lopez, N. (2002). Rewriting race and gender high school lessons: Second-generation Dominicans in New York City. *Teachers College Record*, 104, 1187-1203.
7. Meltzer, J., & Hamann, E. (2005). *Meeting the literacy development needs of adolescent English language learners through content-area learning*. Providence, RI: Northeast and Islands Educational Laboratory.
8. Nippold, M.A., & Sun, L. (2008). Knowledge of morphologically complex words: A developmental study of older children and young adolescents. *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*, 39, 365-373.
9. Schoenbach, R., Braunder, J., Greenleaf, C., & Litman, C. (2003). Apprenticing adolescents to reading in subject-area classrooms. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 85, 133-138.
10. Tattershall, S. (2002). *Adolescents with language and learning needs*. Singular Thomson Learning
11. Zirkel, S. (2002). Is there a place for me? Role models and academic identity among white students and students of color. *Teachers College Record*, 104, 357-376.

