

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**Advanced Studies in Teaching and Learning (ASTL) Program**

**EDRD 630**  
**Advanced Literacy Foundations and Instruction, Birth to Middle Childhood**  
**3 Credits**

**Summer 2011**

Instructor: Allison Ward, Ph.D.  
Time: 4:30 – 7:10  
Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays June 7 – July 14 (online class on July 5)  
Room: Arlington Campus, Founders Hall #312  
Office Hours: Before or after class and by appointment  
Telephone: (C) 703-957-0108  
Email: award12@gmu.edu

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Advanced study of literacy theory, research, and practice as it relates to younger learners. Addresses sociocultural, cognitive, linguistic, psychological, and developmental influences on children's literacy. Includes reading, writing, and oral communication.

**Prerequisite(s):** Admission to the literacy emphasis, or permission of program coordinator.

**NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY:**

This class will be structured around discussion and small group activities; it is critical for you to keep up with the readings and to participate in class. Instructor and student generated questions related to course readings and assignments/projects will often be the focus of group discussions. Be prepared to discuss the content of the text and its relation to your teaching experiences, course assignments, and projects, and to ask questions for clarification, exploration, or to promote discussion. The instructor will use a lecture method periodically for brief periods of time. Students will also be engaged in activities designed to encourage application of materials from the readings and discussions to the role of a reading specialist in Virginia.

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS (Standards for Reading Professionals):**

A. International Reading Association Standards 2010

**Standard 1: Foundational Knowledge.** Students understand the theoretical and evidence-based foundations of reading and writing processes and instruction.

**Element 1:1** – *Understand major theories and empirical research that describe the cognitive, linguistic, motivational, and sociocultural foundations of reading and writing development, processes, and components, including word recognition, language comprehension, strategic knowledge, and reading-writing connections.*

**Element 1:2** – *Understand the historically shared knowledge of the profession and changes over time in the perceptions of reading and writing development, processes, and components.*

**Element 1.3** – *Understand the role of professional judgment and practical knowledge for improving all students' reading development and achievement.*

B. Relationship of Course to Program Goals and Professional Organizations:

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 professional development for teachers seeking a Virginia Reading Specialist License.

C. Virginia Department of Education Standards:

Candidates demonstrate expertise in:

- Developing students' phonological awareness skills
- Promoting creative thinking and expression, as through storytelling, drama, choral/oral reading, etc.
- Explicit phonics instruction, including an understanding of sound-symbol relationships, syllables, phonemes, morphemes, decoding skills, and word attack skills.
- Morphology of English including inflections, prefixes, suffixes, roots, and word relationships.
- Structure of the English language, including an understanding of syntax, semantics, and vocabulary development.
- Systematic spelling instruction, including awareness and limitations of "invented spelling" and orthographic patterns.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Barone, D. M., & Morrow, L. M. (Eds.). (2003). *Literacy and young children: Research-based practices*. New York: The Guilford Press.

Morrow, L. M. (2009). *Literacy development in the early years: Helping children read and write*. Sixth Edition. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Optional Texts:

American Psychological Association (2001). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 6<sup>th</sup> ed.*. Washington, DC: Author.

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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

*Student Expectations*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

*Campus Resources*

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>].

NOTE: To determine whether the campus is closed due to inclement weather, call 703-993-1000 or go to [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu).

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### **Electronic Requirements:**

Students **must have access to email** and the Internet, either at home, work or GMU campus. GMU provides students with free **email accounts** which **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 mail.

After introductory training, students will also be expected to access Blackboard prior to every class session to download readings and other pertinent course documents. **Blackboard can be accessed by going to <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>**

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### **General Requirements:**

A. Class attendance is both important and required. If, due to an emergency, you will not be in class, you must contact the instructor via phone or email. Students with more than two absences may drop a letter grade or lose course credit.

B. It is expected that assignments will be turned in on time (the beginning of the class in which they are due). However, it is recognized that students occasionally have serious problems that prevent work completion. If such a dilemma arises, please speak to the instructor in a timely fashion.

C. Graduate students must become familiar with APA (American Psychological Association) writing/formatting style. All written assignments prepared outside of class will be evaluated for content and presentation as graduate-level writing. The American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition (APA) style will be followed for all written work. All written work unless otherwise noted must be completed on a word processor and should be proofread carefully. The organizations of your papers (e.g. headings, organization, references, citations, etc.) should follow APA style. APA has a helpful website – <http://www.apastyle.org/pubmanual.html>. Portions of the APA manual also appear at the Style Manuals link on the GMU library web guide at <http://library.gmu.edu/resources/edu/>.

D. The completion of all readings assigned for the course is assumed. Because the class will be structured around discussion and small group activities, it is critical for you to keep up with readings and to participate in class.

### **Specific Course Requirements:**

1. The **completion of all readings** assigned for the course is assumed. In addition, reading in professional journals is required for the research report. Because the class will be structured around discussion and small group activities pertaining to literacy from birth to grade four, it is imperative that you keep up with the readings and participate in class.

2a. **Article Summaries:** Each student will choose two (2) articles from the assigned readings to be summarized: the two articles should come from two different class topics noted on the schedule. The summaries will be due on the day the article is discussed in class (as listed on schedule). An example will be provided.

Summary components:

- Include the purpose of the article; main points of the article; critical comments/reflection (strengths, weaknesses) and your own reflection on the article (reflection is based on previous knowledge or experience).
- The summaries must demonstrate graduate level writing (at a minimum this means that words are properly spelled; punctuation is appropriate; sentences are complete; verb/subject, pronoun/antecedent agree; and writing is appropriately concise and clear).
- Length: one-two pages (avoid exceeding two pages)
- Your article summary needs to include the article reference in APA style.
- Each student will need to discuss the summaries during the regular class discussion of that article (see Discussions below)

**The two summaries are worth a total of 20 points. Each summary is worth 10 points.**

2b. **Discussion of selected articles:** Students will lead an informal discussion concerning their two selected article summary critiques. All discussions must include at least two questions for the class or a few discussion points that include strengths or weaknesses of the article. *NOTE:* You need to summarize the article, not re-state the article in full. **The discussion leader activity plus your overall class participation is worth a total 10 points.**

3. **Read Alouds:** Students will demonstrate interactive read alouds of a children's literature book. Criteria for evaluation will include ability to state objectives for the read aloud. The read alouds will be modeled in class. **This assignment is worth 5 points.**

4. **Group Analysis** and class demonstration of specific **phonics instruction** synthesized from school setting & class readings. For this assignment a group of three/four students will analyze the type of phonic instruction (synthetic, analytic, embedded) in use in their classrooms/schools and demonstrate implementation. The group will compare their approach (ex: embedded) with another (ex: synthetic) and **present the comparison through a graphic organizer** including main points of the phonic approaches. Demonstration can take any form the group selects. Evaluation of this activity will include ability to translate research on phonics to a demonstration. **The group graphic organizer is worth 5 points.**

5. **Theory Application Maps:** Students will create a visual representation of literacy practices occurring in their classroom (may include photos, drawings, or other materials). An initial representation will be done in the first class. Students may then add other literacy practices, or strategies that are used in instructing students in literacy. The theory application assignment will consist of aligning literacy practices with literacy theories (behaviorism, psycholinguistics, cognitive psychology, sociolinguistics, engagement – discussed in class). Students will need to be specific about what aspects of the instructional approach reflect the theories learned. Note that instructional implications/examples may draw from more than one theory. Students will briefly explain their theory/practice understanding. **This assignment is worth 10 points.**

6. **Performance Assessment Assignments: Emergent Literacy Scenario (IRA Standard 1 – Foundational Knowledge - 1.1, 1.2., 1.3)**

This assignment is designed for you to demonstrate your understanding of emergent literacy in all young students' reading and writing development (linguistic, motivational, cognitive, and sociocultural factors). Your scenario could be real or hypothetical but must represent a young child noting how the child's behaviors, observations, and cognitive and language processes, and his/her reactions to home/school environment indicate the main elements of emergent literacy. The assignment will consist of three parts – presentation overview, powerpoint, and references.

The three PBA sections will consist of

1. A one to two page overview of the purpose of the presentation, importance for student's literacy development, and rationale for selection of the audience (educators, administrators, families, second language learners).
2. A technology-based presentation (such as Powerpoint) for other educators/or other audience (administrators, families) that demonstrates your understanding of the essential components of emergent literacy. Include in the presentation:
  - a. History of major theories in the field of literacy and relationship to emergent literacy (reading readiness theory should be included)
  - b. Description of emergent literacy principles and how they contribute to a student's writing and reading process (social, cognitive and physical process)
  - c. Emergent literacy practices that are appropriate for English Language Learners (second language acquisition)
  - d. Examples of possible emergent literacy practices in a classroom that foster individual students motivation to read and write (non-examples for contrast and comparison)
3. Select at least three scholarly articles to be used in preparation of the presentation. Two of the three articles may be from class readings. Appropriate (APA) citation of research included in the presentation.

In this assignment, all aspects of emergent literacy discussed in class and in readings must be present in the presentation, including language development.

**This assignment is worth 25 points.**

**This performance-based assessment (PBA) MUST be uploaded and submitted to Taskstream for evaluation when the assignment is due. ONLY PBAs posted to Taskstream will be graded. This means NO final grades will be posted until all materials are on Taskstream.**

#### **8. Research Paper:**

Each student will write a 6 to 8 page research paper (not including references) related to a literacy topic from class discussions (topics stated on the class schedule). *Since this class focuses on literacy from birth to grade four the topic for the paper must address typical literacy learners in this age range.* The paper needs to draw from multiple sources (including library resources (see below the suggested list of literacy related journals) and assigned in-class readings) and address the diverse families and children who live in Northern Virginia. Details about the paper will be provided and discussed in class. We will also discuss in class when you will be responsible for having drafts of your writing to share some classmates and provide and receive feedback.

Criteria for evaluation will include ability to analyze and synthesize reference materials and other sources as well as writing clarity and coherence (writing that demonstrates graduate level writing). Specific criteria for different sections and aspects of the paper will be discussed in class. Each student will also make a 5 minute informal class presentation on her/his topic to the class on the last class session.

**The paper and presentation are worth 25 points. Final paper is due via email on July 14, 2011.**

\*The above performance-based assessments are designed to provide evidence that program candidates meet **required program completion standards**. Successful completion of these performance-based assessments **and a grade of B or better** in the course are required to move to the next course in the ASTL/Literacy course sequence. **If you are concerned that you may be having difficulty meeting these standards, please speak to your course instructor and your advisor.**

**All assignments will be discussed in class. Rubrics for major assignments will be posted on Blackboard and are included in the syllabus.**

#### **Suggested Literacy Related Journals for Research Paper**

**You must use peer-reviewed (scholarly) work. Best to search the GMU databases**

- Early Childhood Research Quarterly
- Journal of Early Childhood Literacy
- Journal of Literacy Research (formerly Journal of Reading Behavior)

- Language Arts
- Literacy Research & Instruction
- Reading Research Quarterly
- Reading and Writing Quarterly
- School Library Journal
- The Reading Teacher
- Yearbooks of the Literacy Research Association/National Reading Conference
- Yearbooks of the Association of Literacy Educators & Researchers/College Reading Association

**EVALUATION:**

Assignment	Points
Article Summaries [2 summaries]	[10 each] 20
Discussion of Selected Articles and Overall Participation in Class	10
Group Graphic Organizer on Phonics	5
Interactive Read Aloud	5
Theory Application Map	10
*Performance Assessment Assignment: Emergent literacy scenario/presentation	25
Research Paper	25
<b>All Course Assignments</b>	100

**Grading Scale**

- A 93 – 100
- A- 90 – 92
- B+ 85–89
- B 80–84
- C 75–79

**Tentative Class Schedule**

This schedule may be changed at the discretion of the professor or as needs of the students or the ASTL Literacy Emphasis Program dictate.

Week – Class	Topics	Readings	Deliverables
1. 6/7/11	Orientation and Introductions  Historical Perspectives: Language & Literacy	Alexander & Fox (2004) <i>A historical perspective on reading and practice</i>  NAEYC/IRA (1998) Joint Position Statement  Allington & McGill-Franzen (2000)	<i>Blackboard Explanation/ Demonstration</i>

2. 6/9/11	Major Literacy & Development Theories	Anderson (1994). <i>Role of the reader's schema in comprehension, learning, and memory.</i>  Mason & Sinha (1993)  Ruddell & Ruddell (1994)	<b>DUE: Sign up (sheet provided) for 2 articles to critique &amp; lead class discussion</b>
3. 6/14/11	Oral Language Development & Interactive read-aloud techniques	Barone & Morrow Ch 6  Snow, Burns, & Griffin (1998)  Morrow: Ch 4  Parsons (2010-2011)	<b>Bring a children's literature book</b>  <b>Sign up for read-alouds/think aloud demonstrations. Research Demonstration</b>
4. 6/16/11	Phonological and Phonemic Awareness	Barone & Morrow: Chs 2 & 3  Yopp & Yopp (2000)	
5. 6/21/11	Phonics	Stahl, S., Duffy-Hester, A., & Stahl, K. (1998). <i>Everything you wanted to know about phonics (but were afraid to ask)</i>  Barone & Morrow: Ch 8  Morrow Ch 5  Mesmer & Griffith (2005)  Dahl, K., L., Scharer, P. L. Lawson, L. L., & Grogan, P. R. (1999).	<b>Three Read Alouds</b>  <b>Due: Choice of topic for research paper (tentative)</b>
6. 6/23/11	Theoretical Perspectives in literacy	Theory Presentations  Morrow: Chapter 5	<b>DUE: Theory Assignment</b>
7. 6/27/11	Concept of Word & fluency	Flanigan (2007)  Barone & Morrow: Chapter 12 - Kuhn  Barone & Morrow: Chapter 11 – Stahl	<b>Three Read Alouds</b>  <b>Small Group Work – Phonics Demonstrations</b>
8. 6/29/11	Comprehension and vocabulary	Block & Lacina (2009) Stahl, K. (2009) Morrow Ch 6 Beck & McKeown (2007)	<b>Three Read Alouds</b> <b>DUE: Group Phonics Demonstrations and Graphic Organizers</b>

9. 7/5/11	ONLINE CLASS On-Line Class: Discussion – Writing Theory & Reading-Writing Connections	Morrow: Chapter 7 & 8 Additional reading TBA	<b>Complete Online Assignment</b>
10. 7/7/11	Balanced Literacy & Motivation  Emergent Literacy Scenarios/Conferences	Morrow: Chapter 9  Avalos, Plasencia, Chavez & Rascon (2007).  Barone & Morrow: Chapter 16  Taboada, Guthrie, & McRae (2007)	<b>Three Read Alouds</b>
10. 7/12/11	Emergent Literacy Scenarios	Presentations: Bring e-copies to class to upload to TaskStream	<b>DUE: Emergent literacy scenarios</b>  <b><u>UPLOAD AND SUBMIT TO TASKSTREAM TO ENSURE FINAL GRADE</u></b>
11. 7/14/11 LAST CLASS	Review of Balanced Literacy		<b>Research Papers DUE</b> <b>Email to Instructor</b>

Required Reading References (Available on Blackboard)

- Alexander, P. A., & Fox, E. (2004). A historical perspective on reading research and practice. In R. B. Ruddell & N. J. Unrau (Eds.). *Theoretical models and processes in reading (5th edition)* (pp. 33-68). Newark, DE: International Reading Association.
- Allington, R. L., & Mc-Gill-Franzen, A. (2000). Looking back, looking forward: A conversation about reading in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. *Reading Research Quarterly*, 35, 136-153.
- Anderson, D. (1994). Role of the reader's schema in comprehension, learning, and memory. In R. B. Ruddell (Ed.) *Theoretical models and processes in reading (4<sup>th</sup> edition)* (pp. 469-482). Newark, DE: International Reading Association.
- Avalos, M. A., Plasencia, A., Chavez, C., & Rason, J. (2007). Modified guided reading: Gateway to English as a second language and literacy. *The Reading Teacher*, 61, 318-329.
- Block, C. C. & Lacina, J. (2009). Comprehension instruction in kindergarten through grade three. In S.E. Israel & G. G. Duffy (Eds.). *Handbook of research on reading comprehension* (pp 494-509). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Dahl, K. L., Scharer, P. L., Lawson, L. L., & Grogan, P. R. (1999). Phonics instruction and student achievement in whole language first-grade classrooms. *Reading Research Quarterly*, 34(3), 312-341.
- Flanigan, K. (2007). A concept of word in text. *Journal of Literacy Research*, 39, 37-70.
- Laman, T. T., & Van Sluys, K. (2008). Being and becoming: Multilingual writers' practices. *Language Arts*, 85(4), 265-275.



- Mason, J. M., & Sinha, S. (1993). Emerging literacy in the early childhood years: Applying a Vygotskian model of learning and development. In B. Spodek (Eds.), *Handbook of research on the education of young children* (pp. 137-150). New York, NY: Macmillan.
- Mesmer, H.A., & Griffith, P.L. (2005). Everybody's selling it-But just what is explicit, systematic phonics instruction? *The Reading Teacher*, *59*, 366-376.
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (1998). Learning to read and write: Developmentally appropriate practices for young children. A joint position statement of the International Reading Association (IRA) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). *Young children*, *30-46*.
- Parsons, A.W. (2010-2011). Interactive reading is a SNAP! *Journal of the Virginia State Reading Association*, *33*.
- Ruddell, R. B., & Ruddell, M. R. (1994). Language acquisition and literacy processes. In R. B. Ruddell, M. R. Ruddell, & H. Singer (Eds.), *Theoretical models and processes in reading (4<sup>th</sup> edition)* (pp. 83-103). Newark, DE: International Reading Association.
- Snow, C., Burns, S., & Griffin, P. (1998). Preventing reading difficulties before kindergarten. In C. Snow, S. Burns, & P. Griffin (Eds.), *Preventing reading difficulties in young children* (pp. 137-171). National Research Council.
- Stahl, K.A.D. (2009). Assessing the comprehension of young children. In S.E. Israel & G. G. Duffy (Eds.), *Handbook of research on reading comprehension* (pp 428-248). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Stahl, S. A., Duffy-Hester, A. M., & Stahl, K. A. D. (1998). Everything you wanted to know about phonics (but were afraid to ask). *Reading Research Quarterly*, *33*(3), 338-356.
- Taboada, A., Guthrie, J.T., & McRae, A. (2007) Building engaging classrooms. In R. Fink & J. Samuels (Eds.), *Inspiring Reading Success* (pp. 141-166). International Reading Association.
- Yopp, H.K. & Yopp, R.H. (2000). Supporting phonemic awareness development in the classroom. *The Reading Teacher*, *54*, 130-143.

EDRD 630  
Scoring Rubric for Article Summaries

	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations
APA Reference 1 point		Minimal Errors	Numerous Errors
Purpose 1 point		Clearly stated and reflects the authors stated purpose	Purpose statement is unclear and does not reflect the authors stated purpose
Summary 3 points	Summarizes and synthesizes the key points concisely and accurately	Summarizes the article accurately	Describes different points covered in the article
Critical Comments/ Reflection 4 points	Addresses specific strengths and weaknesses by providing a clear reason for why the points are strengths or weaknesses. Compares and contrasts the points to other readings covered in the course. Reflection summarizes thoughts about the article and includes a rationale for the statements made	Addresses strengths and weaknesses and tells why each point is a strength or weakness. Reflection describes thoughts about the article	Addresses only strengths. Reflection describes thoughts about the article
Clarity of Writing (Mechanics) 1 point		Minimal grammatical or spelling errors	Multiple errors

**EDRD 630 – Theory Application Map  
Rubric 10 points**

	<b>No Evidence</b>	<b>Developing</b> (Limited evidence)	<b>Proficient</b> (Clear evidence)	<b>Exemplary</b> (Clear, convincing and substantial evidence)
<b>Literacy Practices</b>	No evidence of literacy practices in assignment (0 points)	Few literacy practices (1 – 2) are described and aligned with theorists (1 point)	Some literacy practices (3-5) are described and aligned with theorists (2 points)	A variety of literacy practices (6-8) are described and aligned with theorists (3 points)
<b>Theory</b>	Description and synthesis is unclear with practices (0 points)	Describes and synthesizes the key points of one theorist accurately and concisely. Link between practice and theorist unclear. (1 point)	Describes and synthesizes the key points of most of the theorists accurately and concisely. Evident link between practice and some of the theorists. (3 points)	Describes and synthesizes the key points of theorists accurately and concisely. Evident link between practice and theorist for all practices (5 points)
<b>Presentation</b>	Does not present key concepts and ideas (0 points)	Concepts or ideas are not focused or developed; the main purpose is not clear. Main points are difficult to identify (.5 point)	Concepts or ideas are focused but the main purpose is not clear. Main points are presented in a disjointed manner (1 point)	Thoughtful ideas are clearly organized, developed, and supported to achieve a purpose; the purpose is clear. Main points are clear and organized effectively. (2 points)

**EDRD 630: Scoring Rubric for Literacy Research Papers – 25 points**

	<b>Exemplary</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Developing</b>
<b>Introduction and Overview</b>  <b>5 points Possible</b>	States purpose/rationale for studying the topic States definitions related to the topic Summarizes key points by synthesizing and analyzing relevant research and theory 5 points	States purpose/rationale for studying the topic States definitions related to the topic Does not include any current research pertaining to topic  4- 3 points	Limited introduction and no definitions/key points of research stated   2-0 points
<b>Literature Review (current trends)</b>  <b>10 points Possible</b>	Describes and summarizes current questions and issues in the literature on the topic Summarizes key points by synthesizing and analyzing relevant research and theory Links key points to related research and theory by using relevant references 10 points	Describes and summarizes current questions and issues in the literature on the topic Summarizes key points by synthesizing and analyzing relevant research and theory Does not link key points of new research to prior research 9 – 5 points	Limited description of articles/no summary   4 – 0 points
<b>Conclusions and Implications (Future Directions)</b>  <b>10 points Possible</b>	Describes and summarizes future directions: Potential research on the topic and applications of the topic to practice; Links key points to related research and theory by using relevant references 10 points	Describes and summarizes future directions: potential research on the topic and applications of the topic to practice No review of key points  9-5 points	Limited description of future research/application to practice   4-0 points