George Mason University  
College of Education and Human Development  
Literacy Program  

EDRD 619.002– Literacy in the Content Areas  
3 Credits, Spring 2020  
Monday, 7:20-10:00 pm, Thompson Hall L028-Fairfax

Faculty  
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Office Hours: By Appointment  
Office Location: By Appointment  
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Email Address: lking3@gmu.edu

Prerequisites/Corequisites  


University Catalog Course Description  
EDRD 619: Offers understanding of language and literacy process as it applies to teaching in secondary schools. Emphasizes reading and writing in content areas, and instructional strategies to support students’ literacy development. Focuses on ways reading, writing, speaking, and listening are developed and used in learning discipline-specific curriculum, including adaptations for culturally diverse and exceptional learners.

EDRD 419: Assists students in understanding the language and literacy process as it applies to teaching in middle and high schools. Focuses on instructional strategies to support literacy development, including adaptations for culturally diverse and exceptional learners.

Course Overview  
Not Applicable
Course Delivery Method
This course will be delivered using a hybrid format to include lecture and discussion on campus and online.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives
This course is designed to enable students to do the following:
1. **Explain** theories of adolescent literacy and the role of literacy in learning in content areas.
2. **Examine** the significance of teaching reading and writing together and how process instruction facilitates learning.
3. **Identify** evidence-based strategies that middle/high school students can use to successfully comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate content-related texts.
4. **Design** learning strategies and plans (including word analysis skills, meaningful vocabulary, and concept instruction) to scaffold adolescents’ literacy development in specific content areas.
5. **Integrate** technology into lesson plans to support content learning.
6. **Explain** the specific challenges students with varying levels of literacy and linguistic proficiency face in each discipline.
7. **Analyze** the role metacognition plays in the learning process and the role strategy instruction plays in developing metacognitive awareness.

Professional Standards (International Literacy Association)

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

Standard 1: Foundational Knowledge- Middle and High School Content Classroom Teacher Candidates understand the theoretical and evidence-based foundations of reading and writing processes and instruction.

Standard 2: Curriculum & Instruction- Candidates use instructional approaches, materials, and an integrated, comprehensive, balanced curriculum to support student learning in reading and writing.

Standard 3: Assessment & Evaluation- Candidates use a variety of assessment tools and practices to plan and evaluate effective reading and writing instruction.

Standard 4: Diversity- Candidates create and engage their students in literacy practices that develop awareness, understanding, respect, and a valuing of differences in our society.

Standard 5: Creating a Literate Environment- Candidates create a literate environment that fosters reading and writing by integrating foundational knowledge, instructional practices, approaches and methods, curriculum materials, and the appropriate use of assessments.

Standard 6: Professional Learning & Leadership- Candidates recognize the importance of, demonstrate, and facilitate professional learning and leadership as a career-long effort and responsibility.

Required Texts


Recommended Texts


Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, hard copy).

1. Assignments and/or Examinations

A. Participation: (10%). Participation is a critical aspect of this course. Attending class and engaging with peers is expected. Displaying professionalism in this course is essential to the teaching-learning process. Professional dispositions are addressed in SEED and it is expected that students adhere to the primary dispositions: Professionalism, Respect, Participation, Responsibility and Reflectiveness, Interpersonal skills, Feedback, and Social and Cultural Diversity. (see further explanation in Blackboard). Participation will be evaluated with the following rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria for Evaluation</th>
<th>Meets Expectations</th>
<th>Approaching Expectations</th>
<th>Below Expectations</th>
<th>Does not meet Expectations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparedness</td>
<td>Consistently well-prepared for class; completed all in-class reflections; regularly asked questions or made observations and analysis appropriate to the topic. Actively participated in all in-class small group activities and class discussions. Missed no more than 1 face-to-face class, and arrived on-time (9-10 points).</td>
<td>Usually prepared for class; occasionally asked questions or made observations and analysis appropriate to the topic. Actively participated in most small group activities and class discussions. Missed no more than 2 face-to-face classes and/or usually on-time (8 points).</td>
<td>Sometimes prepared for class; rarely asked questions or made observations that indicated familiarity with the topic. Rarely actively participated in small group activities and class discussions. Missed no more than 3 face-to-face classes (7 points)</td>
<td>Consistently not prepared for class; never asked questions or made observations that indicated familiarity with the topic. Never actively participated in small group activities and class discussions. Missed greater than 3 classes and/or was consistently late or departed early. (0 points)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Online Investigations (15%): Throughout the semester, you will have online assignments that involve an array of activities, mostly including recording your thoughts, reactions, opinions, connections, and questions, related to assigned readings and videos. These activities are designed to encourage you to think deeply about the materials and course concepts. All instructions and due dates for these assignments will be posted to Blackboard. **It is essential that students complete the modules on time and read all the**
assigned material since this content will not be repeated in class. Late work not accepted.

There are 5 online assignments (as noted in the course schedule). Assignments for fully online weeks are worth 30 points (5 assignments x 30 points each = 150 points).

B. Professional Learning Community (PLC) Presentation (15%): You will collaborate with a group of peers to critically analyze a professional text. You will meet 3 times with your group. Two times during class and one outside of class (this can be a virtual meeting) to discuss the text. Your group will then create a 12-15 minute interactive presentation addressing the following questions:

- What is the author’s purpose in writing the book?
- What are the key ideas? Are the major points covered effectively?
- How do the author’s ideas connect to your understanding of adolescent literacy?
- How does the author connect to your understanding of disciplinary literacy in your content area?
- How can this book inform your future teaching?

C. Strategy Lesson Plan/In-Class Teaching Assignment: (20%) You will develop and teach a lesson to your peers based on the Virginia Standards of Learning from your discipline. The lesson will incorporate literacy strategies and be no longer than 30 minutes. More information (lesson plan template, guidelines, rubrics, etc.) will be available in class and on Blackboard. The 4 steps to completion are as follows:

   **Step 1. Write a lesson plan** that uses literacy strategies to guide students throughout the lesson.

   **Step 2. Teach** the lesson to a small group of peers in class and record it using GoReact.

   **Step 3. Respond** to your peers by providing feedback on your group members’ lessons in GoReact. Specifically, each group member will be using the reflection questions from Part 4 to guide comments on your lesson.

   **Step 4. Reflect** thoughtfully on your lesson and evaluate how well the lesson helped guide learners in meaning-making. You will use the comments from your peers (in GoReact), along with your own thoughts to write a 3-4-page reflection. Following is your guide: (rubric available on Blackboard).

   **Introduction:** Briefly discuss the development and execution of the lesson. Was this lesson written/executed in a way that helped students meet the established goals? Why or why not?

   **Discussion:** Consider the effectiveness of each segment of the lesson:

   a. Did the before reading activities prepare students to read and make meaning from the text? Why or why not?
   b. How did the during reading activities help students make meaning from the text?
   c. How did the activities that occurred after reading help students make meaning from the text? How did the assessment help you know what they had learned?
Conclusion: Explain your new understanding about guiding students’ learning with literacy strategies. What did you learn from this experience? How will you integrate this into your future teaching?

E. Disciplinary Literacy Inquiry Project (20%). You will complete an inquiry on methods of supporting students’ comprehension in your content area. Using resources from class, and an additional 6 peer-reviewed articles, you will develop your understanding of how to guide and deepen students’ comprehension. There will be an article matrix provided with article choices, or you may locate your own. At least 1 article must address ELLs.

Use the following questions to guide your inquiry:

1. Why is it important to be literate in your content area? What are the specific skills, knowledge, and dispositions of your discipline? How does this connect to the the real life literacy needs of adolescents?

2. What are the specific literacy challenges your content area presents? Why might students struggle with these aspects of literacy (reading, writing, speaking, and listening)? Particularly, how might it impact ELLs?

3. What methods and/or instructional strategies can support students’ literacy development in your content area? How do these methods and/or instructional strategies support student learning? What do you need to think about when designing lessons?

This project has 2 components:

1. **Annotated Bib**: Write your annotated bibliography according to the following guidelines.
   a. Provide correct APA (6th ed.) reference information for each article.
   b. Write annotations for each article that include:
      i. a brief **summary** of the article that states its central focus and/or topic, and describes the authors’ ideas.
      ii. an **analysis** of its contribution to the conversation—how does it fit into the larger context of the discussion about your topic?
      iii. An **evaluation** of the utility of the ideas presented.

2. **Poster Presentation**: Create a poster summarizing your inquiry to share with your peers. You should incorporate your thinking about the guiding questions. The poster should be a compilation of brief text mixed with tables, pictures, graphs, and/or other formats. You **must include at least 3 QR Codes**. Posters will be shared in a gallery walk on the final night of class.

F. Field Experience (20%)

**Directions**: Candidates MUST complete the **Online Field Experience Registration** NO LATER than the first week of classes. This course requires a total of **15 hours of Field Experience**. Signed log of hours for indicating successful completion of the time requirement must be submitted via blackboard in order to receive credit for the field experience. (Log sheet will be posted on Blackboard).

There are two components required for completion of the Field Experience assignment.

**Part 1**: (5%) **Observation analysis**: During your field experience you will spend time observing the teacher’s instruction. As you watch and participate in the classroom, note the particular ways the teacher(s) integrates literacy into daily instructional routines. Consider how concepts and ideas explored in class and readings connect to your experience in the classroom. You will choose **2 specific moments** to analyze and develop a one-page analysis of each moment. One pager should include (a) a brief introduction to the moment, including background and context of class and (b) an analysis of how the observation ties into course concepts and impacts your thinking about supporting students’ comprehension.

**Part 2**: (15%) **Lesson implementation and reflection (observed or co-taught)**:
Students are asked to teach, record, and reflect on a lesson taught in a classroom during the field experience.
For students who are taking their Methods II course at the same time as this course, this assignment should connect to the Methods II Clinical Field Experience Project. Please see the instructor for more details if you are not concurrently enrolled in the Methods II block.

Directions: Students will teach or co-teach (depending on each individual’s situation) one lesson during the field experience which incorporates the use of literacy strategies. This lesson should engage students in reading and/or writing for comprehension. Examples will be discussed in class. Student should discuss this with the classroom teacher during the first meeting.

1. Develop, teach and video record a lesson that incorporates an instructional strategy from the course and implement it with a small group or whole class.
2. Get feedback from the classroom teacher.
3. Collect student sample(s) [if able] and bring to campus to share with the class.
4. Upload the lesson and lesson plan to GoReact.
5. Select a 5-10-minute portion of your video that you would like to share with your classmates. The selected portion should represent something that you want to analyze. Mark that portion of your lesson in GoReact by using the annotation feature that allows you to add a question, comment or suggestion and provide a brief explanation for why you elected this segment of instruction.
6. Watch the selected portion of the lesson.
7. Write an individual reflection that considers the discussion that took place with your mentor teacher, peer comments, and discussion with your classmates.

Specific guidelines will be provided in class.

Other Requirements
Regular class attendance and viewing/completion of the online materials is expected and critical. Class time will provide opportunities to ask questions, hear others’ ideas, and deepen your understanding of the material. Thorough preparation is important each week because class activities are designed to extend, critique, and synthesize the readings. In class activities will build upon readings and other content provided on Blackboard.

*The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus and assignments as deemed necessary*

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Total Value</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Investigations</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Throughout semester as indicated on the weekly course schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLC Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy Lesson Plan/In-Class Teaching Assignment</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disciplinary Literacy Inquiry Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Experience Assignment</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observation Log (5%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesson Reflection (10%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours Log- REQUIRED</td>
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</table>

Graduate Grading Scale

A   = 94%-100%
A-  = 90%-93%
B+  = 87%-89%
B   = 80%-86%
C   = 75%-79%
F   = below 75%
*Note: “C” is not satisfactory for a licensure course; “F” does not meet requirements of the Graduate School of Education

**Late Work Policy:** Late work will result in a deduction of 10% of the grade per day. The work is late unless otherwise approved by the instructor prior to the due date.

**NOTE:** Maintain copies of all projects to document progress through the Secondary Education Program. Projects may become part of your professional portfolio, and useful when you have your own classroom.

**Professional Dispositions**
Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See [https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/](https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/)

**Class Schedule**
Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments/Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1:</strong></td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td>Read the syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27</td>
<td>MEET ON CAMPUS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Key concepts: adolescent literacy, content literacy, disciplinary literacy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ch. 15 from <em>50 Instructional Routines</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 3</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Key concepts: academic language, academic literacy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ch. 1 <em>Improving Adolescent Literacy</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chs. 9, 24 &amp; 37 from <em>50 Instructional Routines</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3:</strong></td>
<td>How do we prepare students to learn?</td>
<td>Ch. 2 <em>Improving Adolescent Literacy</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 10</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Key concepts: motivation &amp; engagement,</td>
<td>Chs. 3, 13, 17, 21, 26, &amp; 40 from <em>50 Instructional Routines</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DUE: Online investigations posted to Blackboard by midnight.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5: February 24</td>
<td>MEET ON CAMPUS</td>
<td>How do we engage students in deep reading and robust vocabulary learning?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6: March 2</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
<td>How do we deepen students’ interaction with text through questioning?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7: March 16</td>
<td>MEET ON CAMPUS</td>
<td>How do we learn from practitioner texts?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9: March 30</td>
<td>MEET ON CAMPUS</td>
<td>How do we support students in synthesizing their learning?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10: April 6</td>
<td>ONLINE</td>
<td>Lesson Demonstrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11: April 13</td>
<td></td>
<td>How do we use writing to learn and assess?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **MEET ON CAMPUS** | **DUE: Online Investigations posted to Blackboard by midnight.**  
**DUE: In-Class Lesson Reflection** |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Week 12:**     | **How can we use multiple sources to support student learning?**  
**April 20**      | Review DLP progress  
**MEET ON CAMPUS** |
| **Week 13:**     | **How do we reflect on and revise our instruction?**  
**April 27**      | **DUE: Online Investigations posted to Blackboard by midnight.**  
**ONLINE**       |
|                   | **DUE: Share the selected video portion of your field experience lesson with a peer and provide feedback.** |
| **Week 14:**     | **Course evaluations**  
**May 4**        | **DUE: DLP poster session & annotated bibliography.**  
**MEET ON CAMPUS** |
| **Week 15:**     | **EXAM WEEK**  
**May 11**       | **DUE: All parts of the Field Experience Assignment**  
**EXAM WEEK** |

**Core Values Commitment**  
The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: [http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/](http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/).

**GMU Policies and Resources for Students**  
**Policies**
- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see [https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/](https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/)).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see [http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/](http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/)).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason 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 with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see [https://ds.gmu.edu/](https://ds.gmu.edu/)).
• Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources
• Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to tk20help@gmu.edu or https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/.

• For information on student support resources on campus, see https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking:
As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/.