

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
Secondary Education Program

SEED 669-003: Advanced Methods of Teaching English in the Secondary School
3 Credits, Spring 2021
Mondays, 4:30 – 7:10 pm, Online/Virtual

FACULTY

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PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES

Pre-requisites: SEED 569 (Requires minimum grade of B-); SEED 522 and SEED 540 recommended

Co-requisite: EDRD 619

UNIVERSITY CATALOGUE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Guides students in working effectively with national and local standards for teaching secondary English. Note: School-based clinical experience required. Offered by School of Education. May not be repeated for credit. Equivalent to EDCI 669.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Not Applicable

COURSE DELIVERY METHOD

This course will be delivered using a virtual (synchronous/asynchronous online sessions) format. Please note that our class will meet via Blackboard and other Web-based technologies. Individual writing/instruction conferences will be held three times across the semester.

During class meetings there will be large group, small group, and individual activities. GMU's Blackboard course framework will be used regularly throughout the course. Your GMU email address is required for communication with the course instructors and must be active by the first week of class. Please inform me of any accessibility problems the first day of class. In general, we will engage in four activities during our time together:

1. Mini-lectures, activities, and discussions related to English instructional methods led by the instructor and course participants and supported by the course texts and other selected readings
2. Discussions of the week's readings led by the course instructor and course participants
3. Small group meetings in which students concentrate on selected activities and readings, providing feedback and support for each other's lesson plans and projects
4. Individual, small group, and whole group meetings to engage in writing conferences and discuss readings, teaching planning efforts, class projects, and clinical experiences

Please note that because you have much to learn from each other, and because teaching is often a collaborative effort, you will frequently work in groups. This will give you a chance to share ideas, be exposed to a range of perspectives and experiences, and support each other as you continue to develop your teaching skills.

Technical Requirements

To participate in this course, students will need the following resources:

- High-speed Internet access with a standard up-to-date browser, either Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox. Opera and Safari are not compatible with Blackboard.
- Consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Online course sessions and modules will be hosted on Blackboard. A variety of Blackboard media will be used for asynchronous class meetings.
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of the course requirements.

Expectations

- **Technical Competence:** Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students are expected to seek assistance if they are struggling with technical components of the course.
- **Technical Issues:** Students should expect that they could experience some technical difficulties at some point in the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- You are expected to use proper online etiquette at all times. This includes respect for all participants and careful wording of responses. Remember that your writing reflects your voice in this class, and your tone or demeanor can be inferred from your writing. Therefore, thoughtful, respectful, and reflective comments are critical to participation. For a helpful guide, please visit <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

LEARNER OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

SEED 669 is designed to encompass a critical exploration and analysis of current developments in the teaching of secondary English with an emphasis on student-centered methods that encourage the integrated study of language arts. Areas of study include reading and writing development, the writing process, the processes involved in reading literary texts, reader response theories and research, oral language and listening skill development, as well as formative and summative techniques for assessing diverse learners as called for by the Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools and National English Education Standards and as outlined by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), and the International Reading Association (IRA).

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

This course focuses on best practices in English education including the use of technology and meeting the needs of diverse learners and English language learners as called for by the Standards of Learning (SOLs) for Virginia Public Schools and English/language arts standards as outlined by

the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

**NCTE/NCATE Standards for Initial Preparation of
Teachers of Secondary Language Arts, Grades 7-12**

Approved October 2012

Content Knowledge

- I. Candidates demonstrate knowledge of English language arts subject matter content that specifically includes literature and multimedia texts as well as knowledge of the nature of adolescents as readers.
 - Element 1: Candidates are knowledgeable about texts – print and non-print texts, media texts and contemporary texts, including young adult—that represent a range of world literatures, historical traditions, genres, and the experiences of different genders, ethnicities, and social classes; they are able to use literary theories to interpret and critique a range of texts.
 - Element 2: Candidates are knowledgeable about how adolescents read texts and make meaning through interaction with media environments.

- II. Candidates demonstrate knowledge of English language arts subject matter content that specifically includes language and writing as well as knowledge of adolescents as language users.
 - Element 1: Candidates can compose a range of formal and informal texts taking into consideration the interrelationships among form, audience, context, and purpose; candidates understand that writing is a recursive process; candidates can use contemporary technologies and/or digital media to compose multimodal discourse.
 - Element 2: Candidates know the conventions of English language as they relate to various rhetorical situations (grammar, usage, and mechanics); they understand the concept of dialect and are familiar with relevant grammar systems (e.g., descriptive and prescriptive); they understand principles of language acquisition; they recognize the influence of English language history on ELA content; and they understand the impact of language on society.
 - Element 3: Candidates are knowledgeable about how adolescents compose texts and make meaning through interaction with media environments.

Content Pedagogy: Planning Literature and Reading Instruction in ELA

- III. Candidates plan instruction and design assessments for reading and the study of literature to promote learning for all students.
 - Element 1: Candidates use their knowledge of theory, research, and practice in English Language Arts to plan standards based, coherent and relevant learning experiences utilizing a range of different texts—across genres, periods, forms, authors, cultures, and various forms of media—and instructional strategies that are motivating and accessible to all students, including English language learners, students with special needs, students from diverse language and learning backgrounds, those designated as high achieving, and those at risk of failure.

- Element 2: Candidates design a range of authentic assessments (e.g., formal and informal, formative and summative) of reading and literature that demonstrate an understanding of how learners develop and that address interpretive, critical, and evaluative abilities in reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and presenting.
- Element 3: Candidates 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.
- Element 4: Candidates design or knowledgeably select appropriate reading assessments that inform instruction by providing data about student interests, reading proficiencies, and reading processes.
- Element 5: Candidates plan instruction that incorporates knowledge of language—structure, history, and conventions—to facilitate students’ comprehension and interpretation of print and non-print texts.
- Element 6: Candidates plan instruction which, when appropriate, reflects curriculum integration and incorporates interdisciplinary teaching methods and materials.

Content Pedagogy: Planning Composition Instruction in ELA

- IV. Candidates plan instruction and design assessments for composing texts (i.e., oral, written, and visual) to promote learning for all students.
- Element 1: Candidates use their knowledge of theory, research, and practice in English Language Arts to plan standards based, coherent and relevant composing experiences that utilize individual and collaborative approaches and contemporary technologies and reflect an understanding of writing processes and strategies in different genres for a variety of purposes and audiences.
 - Element 2: Candidates design a range of assessments for students that promote their development as writers, are appropriate to the writing task, and are consistent with current research and theory. Candidates are able to respond to student writing in process and to finished texts in ways that engage students’ ideas and encourage their growth as writers over time.
 - Element 3: Candidates design instruction related to the strategic use of language conventions (grammar, usage, and mechanics) in the context of students’ writing for different audiences, purposes, and modalities.
 - Element 4: Candidates design instruction that incorporates students’ home and community languages to enable skillful control over their rhetorical choices and language practices for a variety of audiences and purposes.

Learners and Learning: Implementing English Language Arts Instruction

- V. Candidates plan, implement, assess, and reflect on research-based instruction that increases motivation and active student engagement, builds sustained learning of English language arts, and responds to diverse students’ context-based needs.
- Element 1: Candidates plan and implement instruction based on ELA curricular requirements and standards, school and community contexts, and knowledge about students’ linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

- Element 2: Candidates use data about their students’ individual differences, identities, and funds of knowledge for literacy learning to create inclusive learning environments that contextualize curriculum and instruction and help students participate actively in their own learning in ELA.
- Element 3: Candidates differentiate instruction based on students’ self-assessments and formal and informal assessments of learning in English language arts; candidates communicate with students about their performance in ways that actively involve them in their own learning.
- Element 4: Candidates select, create, and use a variety of instructional strategies and teaching resources, including contemporary technologies and digital media, consistent with what is currently known about student learning in English Language Arts.

Professional Skills and Knowledge

- VI. Candidates demonstrate knowledge of how theories and research about social justice, diversity, equity, student identities, and schools as institutions can enhance students’ opportunities to learn in English Language Arts.
- Element 1: Candidates plan and implement English language arts and literacy instruction that promotes social justice and critical engagement with complex issues related to maintaining a diverse, inclusive, equitable society.
 - Element 2: : Candidates use knowledge of theories and research to plan instruction responsive to students’ local, national and international histories, individual identities (e.g., race, ethnicity, gender expression, age, appearance, ability, spiritual belief, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and community environment), and languages/dialects as they affect students’ opportunities to learn in ELA.
- VII. Candidates are prepared to interact knowledgeably with students, families, and colleagues based on social needs and institutional roles, engage in leadership and/or collaborative roles in English Language Arts professional learning communities, and actively develop as professional educators.
- Element 1: Candidates model literate and ethical practices in ELA teaching, and engage in/reflect on a variety of experiences related to ELA.
 - Element 2: Candidates engage in and reflect on a variety of experiences related to ELA that demonstrate understanding of and readiness for leadership, collaboration, ongoing professional development, and community engagement.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Christenbury, L., & Lindblom, K. (2016). *Making the journey: Being and becoming a teacher of English language arts* (4th ed.). Heinemann. ISBN 978-0325078212

Gallagher, K., & Kittle, P. (2018). *180 days: Two teachers and the quest to engage and empower adolescents*. Heinemann. ISBN 978-0325081137

Moon, B. (2001). *Studying poetry: Activities, resources, and texts*. Urbana, Ill: National Council of Teachers of English. ISBN 978-0814148501

Zoboi, I., & Salaam, Y. (2020). *Punching the air*. HarperCollins.

Choice Text – You will be responsible for selecting a choice text from a list of texts available on Blackboard for use in your Literature Circles.

Additional required readings will be assigned during the course of our class and will be made available on Blackboard and through the GMU Library databases.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Students will need access to art, craft, and drawing materials, and a smart phone/digital camera. You are also recommended to obtain a student membership in either the National Council of Teachers of English and/or the International Reading Association and to subscribe to one of the following journals:

- *English Journal*
- *Voices from the Middle*
- *English Education*
- *Research in the Teaching of English*
- *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*
- *Rethinking Schools*

These are important texts to support your English-teaching life:

- Burke, J. (2012; 4th edition). *The English teacher's companion: A completely new guide to classroom, curriculum, and the profession*. Heinemann.
- Culham, R. (2018). *Teach writing well: How to assess writing, invigorate instruction, and rethink revision!* Portsmouth, NH: Stenhouse.

I would also recommend that you purchase any or all of the following volumes, as they are tremendous illustrations of a justice-focused English teacher in action:

- Christensen, L. (2009). *Teaching for joy and justice: Re-imagining the language arts classroom*. Milwaukee, WI: Rethinking Schools.
- Christensen, L. (2015). *Rhythm and resistance: Teaching poetry for social justice*. Milwaukee, WI: Rethinking Schools.
- Christensen, L. (2017). *Reading, writing, and rising up: Teaching about social justice and the power of the written word*. Milwaukee, WI: Rethinking Schools.

COURSE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

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

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS (*See Blackboard for specific guidelines and evaluation rubrics for all assignments.*)

1. Class Attendance/Participation (20 points)

By virtue of agreeing to work together in this course we instantly formed a new community. This community will be rooted in mutual respect and shared responsibility; these foundations translate into consistent and punctual attendance and active participation in all class activities. Our face-to-face and synchronous class time will provide opportunities for (1) participation in activities, (2) presentations and demonstrations of effective teaching strategies, and (3) discussions and reflection on course readings, class activities, and assignments. You are expected to complete assignments for each class day, and contribute as both a listener and speaker in large and small group activities and discussions. We will begin each day with a “Write In” and end each day with a “Write Out”—a chance for you to reflect on the day’s readings and the day’s activities and begin to think about their relevance to our work.

Attendance in this class is *critical*. Students are expected to be on time and well prepared to participate in class as active, thoughtful discussants. Absences and tardies will impact your grade. **Two tardies or early departures are equal to one absence, and missing 30% or more of class sessions will result in automatic failure of the course.** If you must be late to or miss a class, you must contact me ahead of time. Please note that this policy makes no distinction between “excused” or “unexcused” absences or tardies.

My goal is to develop a comfortable classroom community where risk-taking is encouraged; we can only grow through such open-heartedness. One of the most important commitments is to engage with students individually and in small groups, so that I can best understand your needs and goals and best support your growth. These individual interactions will happen via conferences at various points across our class, via phone and web-based conferences as students desire, via regular individual feedback that we provide on your discussion postings and assignments, and via Blackboard meetings.

2. Wonder Notebook (20 points)

Field Experience notes, learning reflections and assignments, some completed in class and others as homework, will enable you to explore and/or practice the ideas presented in class sessions and in the required readings; these assignments should reflect a careful consideration of the course content. The format of assignments will be varied and designed to reflect the range of possibilities recommended for use in today’s secondary classrooms. Wonder Notebook assignments should be brought to all class sessions; they will be used as the basis of class discussions and activities and will be shared periodically with classmates and the instructor.

Your Wonder Notebook should include sections for (1) Field experience observation notes and reflections, and (2) Reflections on assigned course readings.

In the Field Experience section of your Wonder Notebook, please consider the following questions as possible foci for observation and reflection:

- **Curriculum and Instruction in Writing** - Write a brief description of the approach to the teaching of writing used by your cooperating teacher and/or the school. As part of this assignment, (a) peruse the school/district program of study. How is the writing curriculum described? What strategies are recommended? What approach to

the teaching of writing seems to be reflected in the document? (b) Discuss with your cooperating teacher his/her own approaches to writing instruction. What strategies does he/she recommend? (c) At least once during the semester (and preferably more often), arrange to observe a writing lesson/activity. Observe the teacher's instructional procedures very carefully; if possible, discuss the objectives, procedures, and planned assessment with the teacher.

- **Student Writing** - Arrange for one of the teachers in your field placement to read through a class set of student writings. (a) Describe the content of the writing: what was the assignment? How much time, in-class, and/or at-home, was allotted for writing? What format/genre of writing was done? Are these drafts or revised versions? (b) Based on what you see in these papers, assess the strengths and needs of these student writers. What do these student writers do well? What difficulties are evident in their writing? Using what you have learned from your reading about writing instruction, try to identify patterns in the student writing. What instructional "next steps" would you recommend for these writers? (c) How does this teacher record/evaluate student writing? (If the cooperating teacher approves it and provides guidelines, try responding to or grading the student writing). (d) Make a copy of at least one student paper (with the students' names deleted), and try writing comments on it.
- **Curriculum and Instruction in Reading/Literature** - Write a brief description of the approach to the teaching of reading/literature used by your cooperating teacher and/or the school. As part of this assignment, (a) peruse the school/district program of study. How is the literature curriculum described? What strategies are recommended? What approach to the teaching of reading/literature seems to be reflected in this document? (b) Discuss with your cooperating teacher his/her own approaches to literature instruction. What strategies does he/she recommend? (c) At least once during the semester (and preferably more often), arrange to observe a reading/literature lesson/activity. Observe the teacher's instructional procedures very carefully; if possible, discuss the objectives, procedures, and planned assessment with the teacher.
- **Works of Literature in the Curriculum** - What works of literature are included as part of the curriculum at your assigned school? Who teaches what books at what grade level? In order to get a sense of the literature taught at your assigned school, ask for a copy of the departments' book list, browse the English department's book room, and/or interview the department chair and/or your cooperating teacher. Are there any newly-purchased books? If so, what are they and how/why were they selected? Are multicultural works included in the curriculum? How about adolescent literature? How many works are assigned each academic year? How often do students read self-selected works?
- **Teacher Interview** - At some point during the semester, please arrange a convenient time for an interview /discussion with the cooperating teacher, department chair and/or the school administrator in charge of the English department. Find out as much as you can about the profession. Why did this teacher become an English teacher? Why does he/she stay in the field? What are the most rewarding aspects of teaching English? What are the most discouraging aspects? What important issues

face English teachers today? What are the biggest challenges for the future? What suggestions does this teacher have for you as you enter the profession? Write a summary of your interview and what you learned from it.

In the Field Experience section of your Wonder Notebook, you are required to take notes on 4 to 5 areas of foci which can be self-selected or derived from the list of suggested areas.

- a. Observations you made about the teacher's role in facilitating student learning during the time when you were observing
- b. Observations about classroom community building and classroom management
- c. Interesting things you learned about student learning/thinking through your work with the students prior to you leading an aspect of instruction
- d. New, effective, or ineffective approaches to differentiation, discourse, or assessment that you observed prior to you leading an aspect of instruction

The number of entries will depend on your area of foci (e.g., if one of your areas of foci is "Curriculum and Instruction in Writing" you might need multiple entries to gather information related to your school's writing curriculum, your cooperating teacher's approach to writing, and observations of writing lesson plans, but if your area of focus is "Teacher Interview" you might be able to complete the entry in a single sitting).

3. Literature Circles – Group Project (15 points)

You will collaborate with your group members (3-4 members per group) to complete the following:

- a) Conduct a 10-minute literature circle each class (beginning in mid-February) on assigned chapters of a choice text which should include completed literature circle notes on assigned/selected responsibilities and perceptive and thoughtful contributions to the discussion. The notes will be collected after the presentation.
- b) An originally created (by your group), recorded 2-4 minute trailer or a self-selected technology-based artifact on the book, which should be discussed with the instructor prior to the presentation. Check out the following resources for book trailer tips:
<http://www.movellas.com/blog/show/201410221257345866/project-remix-authors-corner-extract> <http://www.worldbookday.com/booktrailers-online/>
<http://readingagency.org.uk/young-people/003-skills/5-tips-for-making-a-book-trailer-thatworks.html>
- c) Implement a 15-20 minute segment of the lesson plan and not a summary of the lesson; the segment should include one instructional strategy (examples - peer collaboration, close reading, fishbowl, discussion, think-pair-share) a writing activity (examples - journaling, prompt response, collaborative writing, reflective commentary) OR a formative assessment (writing activity/strategy can be used as one of the formative assessments). The lesson should focus on critical discourses and exploration of essential questions, overarching themes, plot elements, cultural and historical milieu, and global issues in the assigned chapters. The written lesson plan should be for a 90-minute block. The lesson is not related to your unit plan lessons; it is derived from your chapters of your choice text.
- d) You are required to turn in an electronic copy of the lesson plan (one per group) as well as completed lit. circle notes (handwritten or typed) on assigned/selected responsibilities on the day of your presentation. The entire presentation should not exceed 45 minutes.

4. Clinical Experience Project/Video Reflection Task (15 points)

During the Methods II clinical experience, you will record yourself teaching a lesson for which you have developed a detailed lesson plan. You must develop a lesson plan (or co-plan it with your mentor) and record the lesson while teaching it. You are required to video record yourself teaching a 30-45-minute lesson and use the video (uploaded to the GoReact video coding platform) to reflect upon the lesson's effectiveness.

Holistic Reflection - Following the lesson presentation, write a reflective statement that includes technical, practical, and critical reflections related to your lesson. For this assessment, you'll apply Van Manen's (1977) three hierarchical levels of reflection to your holistic reflection, as explained in Yost, et.al (2000):

- **Technical reflection** focuses on effective application of skills and knowledge in the classroom so reflection focuses on analyzing the effects of strategies used. (Example: "Will using a timer help Susan stay focused on her work?")
- **Practical reflection** focuses on the assumptions underlying a specific practice and the consequences of that practice on learning. It implies the assessment of the educational implications of actions and beliefs. (Example: "Did using a 'flipped classroom' design allow my students to learn more, faster-than more traditional instruction?")
- **Critical reflection** includes emphases from technical and practical reflection and goes deeper. It focuses on questioning moral and ethical dimensions of decisions related, directly or indirectly, to the classroom. Candidates make connections between situations they encounter and the broader social, political, and economic forces that influence those events. (Example: "I wonder if creating structures that provide learners with more responsibility for their learning will make them more independent and self-motivated learners. And will these skills carry over into the real world?")

SUBMIT: (a) the lesson plan for the recorded lesson on Bb, (b) the holistic reflection on Bb, (c) the video recording on GoReact, (d) log of fieldwork experience on Bb.

5. Unit Plan (Performance-Based Assessment – 30 points)

As a culminating project for this course you will use the "backwards design" process to develop a plan for teaching a two to four-week long, literature-based unit which actively involves students in meaningful learning; carefully individualizes to accommodate the diverse strengths and needs of students; effectively integrates reading, writing and oral language; and provides authentic assessment. Please include at least one 'paired text' as a part of the unit. The unit must include at least one literary work(s), and center on a theme, as well as build on the strengths and needs of a diverse student population. Specific daily lesson plans, including all support materials, should be included for any five block-length lessons from the unit; each lesson plan should make clear connections between stated objectives and planned assessment. To evaluate how well these unit plans meet the NCTE

standards for effective planning, the units will be scored using an evaluation rubric based on those standards.

Eligible, complete Unit Plans may be revised and/or edited and resubmitted for a “higher grade” up until the final deadline. Each complete Unit Plan handed in will receive either (1) R/E (needs to be revised, edited and resubmitted), (2) R (needs to be revised and resubmitted), (3) E (needs editing before resubmission), or (4) A (accepted – no revision required). **Incomplete Unit Plans handed in on the initial due date or late will not be eligible for revision and resubmission.** Eligible Unit Plans may be revised and resubmitted as many times as you wish until the final deadline. At that point of “final deadline,” codes become letter grades (A = A, E = B, R = C, and R/E = D) and no more resubmissions will be considered.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A. Class Attendance & Participation

Class attendance is both important and required (see Academic Policy 1.6 in the GMU Catalog). If an emergency situation arises and you must miss class, please contact me **PRIOR** to the class session via phone or email. You are responsible for obtaining information given during class discussions despite attendance. It is also your responsibility to discuss the readings and class content with a classmate to ensure understanding.

Our course Blackboard site (mymasonportal.gmu.edu) will include information and resources important to your successful completion of the course. You should access Blackboard prior to every class session to download readings and other pertinent course documents.

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 complete all readings prior to the class for which they are assigned in order to be able to fully participate in class. It is your responsibility to come to class with insights, questions, comments, and concerns from the readings.

You will need a laptop computer in class each day. Please remember that it is easy for your electronic devices to be distracting to you and others. In order to create a positive learning atmosphere, electronic devices should only be used for educational purposes. Engaging in activities not related to the course (e.g., gaming, email, texting, etc.) or typing during discussions and presentations is prohibited and will affect your participation grade.

Please see me with questions and/or concerns about assignments, expectations, or class activities. I am happy to clarify and lend assistance on projects and assignments, but please come to me within a reasonable timeframe. I look forward to collaborating with each of you as you work towards your goals.

B. Assignment Guidelines

All assignments should be turned in (via email OR on Blackboard as noted in the course schedule) by either class time (if needed for class) or by 11:59 p.m. on the date noted in the course schedule. You are expected to submit assignments on time regardless of your class

attendance on the day an assignment is due. You will also be assessed on your writing proficiency (grammar, spelling, coherence, etc.) in addition to the requirements of each assignment. Incompletes will only be an option for students who have consistently attended and participated in class and have completed and turned in all required work except the final projects. **Unless arrangements have been made beforehand with me, 10% of the total points will be deducted from the assignment for each day the assignment is late.**

Policy on Incompletes: If circumstances warrant, a written request for an incomplete must be provided to the instructor for approval prior to the last class. Requests are accepted at the instructor's discretion. Your written request should be regarded as a contract between you and the instructor and must specify the date for completion of work. This date must be at least two weeks prior to the university deadline for changing incompletes to letter grades.

Assignments should be word processed using 12-point Times New Roman font, and double-spaced with one-inch margins. Writing quality (including mechanics, organization, and content) is figured into the overall score for each assignment, so proofread carefully and use formal, academic English. Be sure to use **APA format** (6th ed.) when providing citations for relevant research (see resources on Blackboard).

PLEASE NOTE THAT I PREFER ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS. Electronic submissions **MUST** be saved with your last name in the filename. Ex: Ewaida_MiniUnitPlan.doc. Please combine your work into one file.

C. Communication

Email is my preferred form of communication, so please check your GMU email account frequently, as that will be the account I use to contact you. I am always available via email, but please allow 24 hours response time for replies during the week, and 48 hours during weekends and holidays.

If you would like to talk with me, I will be available after class, as well as during class breaks. I am also happy to meet with you at other times by appointment.

Important to note, the course scheduled may need to be modified during the semester. If this occurs, notice of such changes will be by announcement in class, by written or email notice, and/or by changes to this syllabus posted on Blackboard.

GRADING

SEED 669

Assignment	Points
Class Attendance, Discussions, and Online Investigations (Participation)	20
Wonder Notebook	20
Literature Circles Group Project	15
Clinical Experience Project/Video Reflection Task	15
Unit Plan	30
Total	100

All assignments will be evaluated holistically using a mastery grading system, the general rubric described below, and a specific rubric provided with each assignment. A student must demonstrate “mastery” of each requirement of an assignment; doing so will result in a “B” level score. Only if a student additionally exceeds the expectations for that requirement—through quality, quantity, or the creativity of her/his work—will she/he be assessed with an “A” level score. With a mastery grading system, students must *choose* to “go above and beyond” in order to earn “A” level scores.

- “A” level score = Student work is well-organized, exceptionally thorough and thoughtful, candid, and completed in a professional and timely manner. Student followed all format and component guidelines, as well as including additional relevant components. Student supports assertions with multiple concrete examples and/or explanations. Significance and/or implications of observations are fully specified and extended to other contexts. Student work is exceptionally creative, includes additional artifacts, and/or intentionally supports peers’ efforts.
- “B” level score = Student work is well organized, thorough, thoughtful, candid, and completed in a professional and timely manner. Student followed all format and component guidelines. Student supports assertions with concrete examples and/or explanations. Significance and/or implications of observations are fully specified.
- “C” level score = Student provides cursory responses to assignment requirements. Student followed all format and component guidelines. Development of ideas is somewhat vague, incomplete, or rudimentary. Compelling support for assertions is typically not provided.
- “F” level score = Student work is so brief that any reasonably accurate assessment is impossible.

Graduate (SEED 669) Grading Scale

A = 95-100%

A- = 90-94%

B+ = 87-89%

B = 83-86%

B- = 80-82%

C = 70-79%

F = Below 70%

PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITIONS

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. Dispositions include the values, commitments, and ethics expected of professional educators and will be evaluated throughout your academic and professional preparation. (These may be found at: <https://cehd.gmu.edu/teacher/professional-disposition>.) Teaching is a demanding career that requires you to conduct yourself in a professional manner at all times, be collegial with peers and supervisors, and conscientiously attend to job-related details. It involves initiating tasks and following through in a timely manner. Establishing habits supportive of these dispositions is an important part of your preparation as an educator and as such will be emphasized throughout this course. See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/polices-procedures/>

PROPOSED CLASS SCHEDULE

(ONLINE = activities completed synchronously online/ asynchronously as noted)

Note: This schedule and all of its contents are subject to change, as we attempt to construct the most responsive, worthwhile learning experience possible.

Date	Topic	Readings Due	Assignments Due
<p>Class 1: Jan. 25 ONLINE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions/Course overview • Teacher identity and reflection • Beliefs & Five Aspects of School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christenbury & Lindblom (Chapter 1) • Gallagher & Kittle (Chapters 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identity Map (completed in class)
<p>Class 2: Feb. 1 ONLINE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frameworks for Unit Design • Outlining a unit and introductory activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christenbury & Lindblom (Chapter 5) • Gallagher & Kittle (Chapter 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonder Notebook Entry #1 - Unit Theme and Text proposal
<p>Class 3: Feb. 8 ONLINE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature and Analysis • Clinical experience overview • Introduction to Literature Circles/Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christenbury & Lindblom (Chapter 9) • Read articles on Lit Circles (on Bb) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify Choice Text for Literature Circles
<p>Class 4: Feb. 15 ONLINE</p> <p><u>Writing Conferences, Round #1</u> 4:30-5:30</p> <p><u>Class</u> 5:45-7:10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Conferences, Round #1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read articles on Standards of Learning (Bb) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonder Notebook Entry #2 • Bring Unit Plan Map and Calendar to Writing Conference Session (peer or professor review)
<p>Class 5: Feb. 22 ONLINE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature and Analysis (continued) • Lesson Planning • Clinical experience check-in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gallagher & Kittle (Chapter 3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin Literature Circles • Bring Lesson Plan #1 for Peer Review

<p>Class 6: Mar. 1 ONLINE/ ASYNC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonfiction and Informational Texts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christenbury & Lindblom (Chapter 6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Online Investigations by 11:59 PM on 3/7
<p>Class 7: Mar. 8 ONLINE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiated Instruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christenbury & Lindblom (Chapter 8) • Articles on accommodations/adaptations (Bb) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonder Notebook Entry #3
<p>Class 8: Mar. 15 ONLINE</p> <p><u>Writing Conferences, Round #2</u> 4:30-5:30</p> <p><u>Class</u> 5:45-7:10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary & Els • Writing Conferences, Round #2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christenbury & Lindblom (Chapter 7) • Read articles on Els (Bb) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit Plan Draft • Peer review in “Home Teams”
<p>Class 9: Mar. 22 ONLINE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature Circles – Group Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature Circles – Group Presentations
<p>Class 10: Mar. 29 ONLINE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Models of Teaching Writing ○ Evaluating Essays • Grammar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles on Instruction and Grammar (Bb) • Articles on 5 Traits of Writing (Bb) • Listen to NWP Radio Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonder Notebook Entry #4
<p>Class 11: Apr. 5 ONLINE/ ASYNC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Formulaic Writing ○ Assessments ○ Genres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moon (Chapters 1 & 2) • Gallagher & Kittle (Chapters 6-8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Investigations due at 11:59 PM on 4/4

<p>Class 12:</p> <p>Apr. 12</p> <p>ONLINE</p> <p><u>Writing Conferences, Round #3</u></p> <p>4:30-5:30</p> <p><u>Class</u></p> <p>5:45-7:10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Conferences, Round #3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer review in “Home Teams”
<p>Class 13:</p> <p>Apr. 19</p> <p>ONLINE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics and Social Justice • Barriers to Teaching Today 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christenbury & Lindblom (Chapter 10) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonder Notebook Entry #5
<p>Class 14:</p> <p>Apr. 26</p> <p>ONLINE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Experience Reflections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit Plan • Wonder Notebook
<p>Exam Period:</p> <p>May 3</p> <p>ONLINE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Evaluations • Dispositions Evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Experience Video/Reflection • Dispositions Evaluation

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

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/>.

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/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <https://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/>).
- 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/> .