

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
College of Education & Human Development
FAST TRAIN PROGRAM

EDCI 510-6MA: LINGUISTICS FOR PreK-12 ESOL TEACHERS
May 2 – August 12, 2011

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Office hours: By appointment, phone, email M-F (weekends in emergency)

This course takes place online, at Blackboard.gmu.edu, using the Blackboard course software. Participants will receive an email with directions for accessing the course material.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description

This graduate course provides an introduction to language as a system, with a particular focus on teaching English as a second language to students in public schools, Grades PK-12. Among the topics addressed are first and second language acquisition processes; English phonology, morphology, syntax, and discourse; implications for teaching English language learners the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing; and implications for teaching content-specific language (math, science, social studies). In addition, candidates will review major grammatical structures encountered in standard ESL textbooks and posing difficulty for English language learners, including grammatical metalanguage, lexicon, verb formation and verb tenses, phrase structure, modals and auxiliary verbs, phrasal verbs, articles, mass and count nouns, prepositions, and relative clause formation. The course will employ frameworks, repertoires, strategies and activities to raise intercultural awareness and respect of others, including non-European languages and instructional and curricular implications of multilingualism as a resource, rather than a problem.

Course Delivery

Course is delivered in a combination of ways in order to meet the needs of all learners and learning styles. Methods of instruction include:

- Online presentations and assignments (weekly learning modules);
- Class discussions (all students are actively involved through the consideration and posing of questions that provoke critical thinking and thoughtful dialogue);
- Cooperative learning (small-group structure emphasizing learning from and with others);
- Collaborative learning (heterogeneous groups in an interdisciplinary context); and
- Self-guided learning.

Course Outcomes

Students completing EDCI 510 will be able to:

1. Demonstrate applications of linguistics to teaching and learning in PK-12 contexts; integrate and connect the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) to develop curriculum that addresses the whole person.
2. Teach strategies to help PK-12 students in U.S. public schools to:
 - extend the forms and functions of language use
 - monitor their own pronunciation and grammar in spoken and written forms
 - learn new vocabulary
 - extend and use their native languages to promote proficiency in English
3. Adopt a multilingual, multicultural orientation to teaching and learning English as an *additional* language; anticipate learning difficulties based on students' native languages; and include home languages into the classroom.
4. Use knowledge of language as a system to scaffold literacy instruction at various grade levels with content area textbooks (e.g., social studies, math, and science); analyze texts critically for their "hidden curriculum" and "selective tradition."
5. Answer ESL students' questions about grammar, to distinguish between errors and mistakes and to know how to address them in a supportive and sensitive manner.
7. Utilize knowledge of English phonology, morphology, syntax, and discourse to develop meaningful contextualized learning activities for ESL students.
8. Analyze pedagogical implications of discourse variety and register including English as an International Language and African American Vernacular English, discourse varieties and register, including elements of politeness and slang.

Relationship to Program Goals and Professional Standards

EDCI 510 addresses the following program goals and professional standards.

Graduate School of Education Goals

Diversity

- ✓ Infuse diversity into the experience, training, and practice of students, faculty, and staff
- ✓ Ensure that diverse issues are reflected in curriculum and syllabi

Reflective, Research-Based Practice

- ✓ Encourage reflective and research-based practice for GSE faculty and for our students in their own practice

Research and Scholarship

- ✓ Promote the intellectual stimulation of a GSE learning community

Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC) Principles

Principle #1: The teacher understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) he or she teaches and can create learning experiences that make these aspects of subject matter meaningful for students.

Principle #2: The teacher understands how children learn and develop, and can provide learning opportunities that support their intellectual, social and personal development.

Principle #3: The teacher understands how students differ in their approaches to learning and creates instructional opportunities that are adapted to diverse learners.

Principle #4: The teacher understands and uses a variety of instructional strategies to encourage students' development of critical thinking, problem solving, and performance skills.

Principle #7: The teacher plans instruction based upon knowledge of subject matter, students, the community, and curriculum goals.

Principle #8: The teacher understands and uses formal and informal assessment strategies to evaluate and ensure the continuous intellectual, social and physical development of the learner.

Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Standards

Domain 1: Language

Candidates know, understand, and use the major concepts, theories, and research related to the nature and acquisition of language to construct learning environments that support ESOL students' language and literacy development and content area achievement.

Standard 1.a. Describing language. Candidates demonstrate understanding of language as a system and exhibit a high level of competence in helping ESOL students acquire and use English in listening, speaking, reading, and writing for social and academic purposes.

Standard 1.b. Language acquisition and development. Candidates understand and apply concepts, theories, research, and practice to facilitate the acquisition of a primary and a new language in and out of classroom settings.

Domain 2: Culture. Candidates know, understand, and use the major concepts, principles, theories, and research related to the nature and role of culture and cultural groups to construct learning environments that support ESOL students' cultural identities, language and literacy development, and content area achievement.

Standard 2.a. Nature and Role of Culture. Candidates know, understand, and use the major concepts, principles, theories, and research related to the nature and role of culture in language development and academic achievement that support individual students' learning.

Standard 2.b. Cultural Groups and Identity. Candidates know, understand, and use; knowledge of how cultural groups and students' cultural identities affect language learning and school achievement.

Domain 3: Planning, Implementing, and Managing Instruction

Candidates know, understand, and use standards-based practices and strategies related to planning, implementing, and managing ESL and content instruction, including classroom organization, teaching strategies for developing and integrating language skills, and choosing and adapting classroom resources.

Standard 3.a. Planning for Standards-Based ESL and Content Instruction. Candidates know, understand, and apply concepts, research, and best practices to plan classroom instruction in a supportive learning environment for ESOL students. Candidates serve as effective English language models, as they plan for multilevel classrooms with learners from diverse backgrounds using standards-based ESL and content curriculum.

Standard 3.b. Managing and Implementing Standards-Based ESL and Content Instruction. Candidates know, manage, and implement a variety of standards-based teaching strategies and techniques for developing and integrating English listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and for accessing the core curriculum. Candidates support ESOL students in accessing the core curriculum as they learn language and academic content together.

Standard 3.c. Using Resources Effectively in ESL and Content Instruction. Candidates are familiar with a wide range of standards-based materials, resources, and technologies, and choose, adapt, and use them in effective ESL and content teaching.

Course Texts

Required:

Luria, H. & Seymour, D. M. & Smoke, T. (2006). Language and linguistics in context. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Celce-Murcia, M. & Larsen-Freeman, D. (1999). The Grammar Book: An ESL/EFL Teachers Course. 2nd edition. Rowley, MA: Newbury House.

Recommended:

Freeman, D. & Freeman, Y. (2004). Essential Linguistics: What You Need to Know to Teach Reading, ESL, Spelling, Phonics, and Grammar. Heinemann, NH

Additional Readings can be found at the additional readings on Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

EDCI 510 will meet on-line at <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>, weekly. As a community of online learners, it is incumbent upon each of us to participate regularly and to complete weekly assignments. Students will also be expected to complete collaborative group projects and to undertake self-guided learning.

The success of an online class is based largely on engagement and interaction among participants and collaborative learning. We are all teachers and we are all learners in this class. That means we all have a responsibility to share our perspectives and ask difficult questions, not just to demonstrate that we are participating, but also to contribute to our colleagues' learning process.