George Mason University College of Education and Human Development Early Childhood Education

ECED 412.009 Language and Literacy Assessment and Instruction for Diverse Primary Grade Learners 3 Credits, Spring 2022

NET 1/24/2022–5/18/2022, In-Person/Online Hybrid*

In-Person Meetings: Thursdays/ 3:00–4:15 pm (1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/24, 3/31,

4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5)

Horizon Hall 4000, Fairfax Campus

* Online asynchronous learning sessions are also provided weekly.

Faculty

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Prerequisites

ECED 401 or 501, ECED 402 or ECED 502, and ECED 403 or 503

Prerequisites require a minimum grade of C for undergraduate courses and B- for graduate courses.

University Catalog Course Description

Examines ways to assess and develop reading, writing, and the language arts in primary grade classrooms. Addresses instructional strategies and practices that promote language and literacy development in culturally, linguistically, socioeconomically, and ability diverse children.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered using a hybrid lecture/discussion format and Blackboard (Bb).

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

- 1. Describe the complex nature of language acquisition as a precursor to literacy and the typical and atypical development of linguistic competence in the areas of phonetics, semantics, syntax, morphology, phonology, and pragmatics (i.e., use of language to get needs and wants met and use of functional communication for social interaction) with a focus on the language development of kindergarten through third-grade learners.
- 2. Identify and discuss (a) specific language-based conditions, such as dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, and auditory processing disorders; (b) at-risk learning-related issues due to attention deficit disorders; (c) the effects of disabling and at-risk conditions on young children; and (d) intervention methods to promote speech and language development and literacy (reading and writing) development in children with varied abilities and from diverse cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

- 3. Identify and describe effective, evidence-based, culturally responsive assessment and instructional strategies and materials, including explicit instruction, differentiated instruction, flexible grouping, and the use of technologies, to promote diverse kindergarten through third-grade learners' development in the following areas:
 - Oral Language for Diverse Learners in the Primary Grades
 - speaking and listening
 - phonemic and other phonological awareness skills, including phonemes, syllables, and rhyming
 - learning of standard English by speakers of other languages and dialects
 - creative thinking and expression, including storytelling, drama, choral and oral reading,
 - Reading and Literature Appreciation for Diverse Learners in the Primary Grades
 - phonemic and other phonological awareness skills, including phonemes, syllables, and rhyming
 - concepts of print
 - phonics, including an understanding of sound and symbol relationships, syllables, phonemes, morphemes, word analysis, and decoding skills
 - fluency
 - vocabulary and concept development
 - structure of the English language, including an understanding of syntax
 - reading comprehension strategies across content areas, including fiction and nonfiction text predicting, retelling, summarizing, and making connections with and beyond the text
 - appreciation of a variety of literature, including fiction and nonfiction texts
 - independent reading, including selecting fiction and nonfiction texts of appropriate yet engaging topics and reading levels
 - visual literacy, including viewing, interpreting, analyzing, and representing information and concepts in visual form with or without the spoken or written word
 - Writing for Diverse Learners in the Primary Grades
 - composing, including imaginative writing
 - written expression
 - usage and mechanics
 - spelling, including stages of development, generalization of spelling study to writing, systematic spelling instruction, and purposes and limitations of invented spelling
 - handwriting
 - writing processes, including planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing
 - writing cohesively for a variety of purposes and in a variety of modes, including narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and explanative
 - Technology for Diverse Learners in the Primary Grades
 - using technology for process and product work with reading and writing, to communicate, and to learn
- 4. Plan, implement, and reflect on evidence-based, culturally responsive assessment and

instruction that (a) recognizes the reciprocal nature of reading and writing; (b) promotes oral language (speaking and listening), reading, and writing in diverse learners in the primary grades; (c) integrates literacy across the curriculum; and (d) uses knowledge of how standards provide the core for teaching English to support diverse kindergarten through third-grade learners' achievement of the *Virginia Standards of Learning in English* and *Virginia's Early Learning and Development Standards*.

- 5. Explain the importance of play-based learning in diverse primary learners' language and literacy development and describe ways to promote language and literacy development during conversation and play.
- 6. Adapt task and interactions to maximize language development, conceptual understanding, and skill competence within each learner's zone of proximal development.
- 7. Use strength-based language to discuss factors (e.g., social, cultural, linguistic, family, socioeconomic, affective, cognitive, and educational) that play a role in monolingual and multilingual language acquisition and literacy learning (reading and writing) in learners with varied abilities and from diverse cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- 8. Identify and discuss formal and informal assessment for diverse primary learners, including screening, diagnostic, and progress monitoring measures for (a) oral language; (b) reading, including phonemic awareness and other phonological awareness, letter recognition, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, reading levels, and comprehension; and (c) writing.
- 9. Discuss ways to use assessment data, including diagnostic and progress monitoring data, to inform instruction for acceleration, intervention, remediation, and differentiation.
- 10. Use research to support instructional decision-making.
- 11. Exhibit standards of professionalism, ethical standards, and personal integrity in interactions with classmates, the instructor, and others.
- 12. Use writing as an instructional and assessment tool to generate, gather, plan, organize, and to communicate for a variety of purposes; integrate correct written conventions (i.e., grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling); and format using current APA style.

Professional Standards – Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) Standards, Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Professional Preparation Standards, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Professional Standards and Competencies, and Virginia Professional Studies Competencies

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

Virginia Professional Studies Competencies

Language and Literacy

Virginia Early/Primary Education PreK-3 Endorsement Competencies

Methods

Knowledge and Skills: English/Reading

Required Texts*

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Author.

Souto-Manning, M., & Martell, J. (2016). *Reading, writing, and talk: Inclusive teaching strategies for diverse learners, K-2.* Teachers College Press.

Optional Texts (you do not need to buy these for this course)

Ray, K. W. (1999). Wondrous words: Writers and writing in the elementary classroom. National Council of Teachers of English.

Tompkins, G. E., & Rodgers, E. (2020). *Literacy in the early grades: A successful start for prek-*4 readers and writers (5th ed). Pearson. ISBN: 9780134990569

Course Performance Evaluation

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

Assignments	Due Dates	Points
Attendance and Participation • Self-Evaluation	Ongoing May 17	25
Observation Portfolio (Independent Inquiry plus		50
3 choices)	First memo: March 3	
Your Literacy HistoryLibrary Literacy DigChildren's Writing	Second memo (in class): April 14	
 Curriculum Materials Classroom Observation 	Final Portfolio: May 5	
• Independent Inquiry Integrated Literacy Lesson Plans		25
Early Readers and Writers Integrated Literacy Plan	March 24 <u>Note: 3 critically recognized</u> <u>texts are due in class 2/24</u>	10
Guided Reading Plans for Early and Transitional Readers	April 21	5
Content Area Integrated Literacy Plan	May 17 <u>Note: 1 nonfiction picture due in</u> <u>class 4/28</u>	10
TOTAL		100

^{*}Various articles will also be made available through Blackboard as additional readings.

• Assignments and Examinations

Observation Portfolio (50 points)

For this assignment, students will complete four reflections, (Option 6 plus three of the student's choosing), typically started through an in-class activity, over the semester. Reflections will be connected to specific observations, research, or activities that involve real world or personal experience related to literacy and teaching.

Option 1: Your Literacy History

Students will reflect in a two- to three-page memo about their experiences learning to read and being taught to read at home and/or school. Interviewing loved ones to collect more detailed information is encouraged. The writing should also make significant connections to course readings or other relevant sources.

Option 2: Library Literacy Dig

After examining a home, classroom, school or public library, students will reflect in a two- to three-page memo about the selection: its diversity of genre, topics, and representation with regard to authors and characters. The writing should also make connections to course readings or other relevant sources.

Option 3: Children's Writing

Using course lenses, such as a strengths-based approach, students will describe and analyze a piece of children's writing in a two- to three-page memo. The writing should also make significant connections to course readings or other relevant sources on writing development and the writing process.

Option 4: Curriculum Materials

Students will examine curriculum materials available in a classroom, or in the university library, and reflect in a two- to three-page memo on the affordances and constraints on literacy teaching and learning within their design. The writing should also make significant connections to course readings or other relevant sources.

Option 5: Classroom Observation

Students will observe literacy teaching practices (in-person or virtually) and reflect on those practices in a two- to three-page memo. The writing should also make significant connections to course readings or other relevant sources.

Option 6: Independent Inquiry (required for 512 students)

With prior approval from the instructor, students will develop a topic of inquiry (with a stated research question) related to literacy, and write a two- to three-page memo on their findings. The writing should also make connections to course readings or other relevant sources.

Integrated Literacy Plans for Early and Transitional Readers and Writers (25 points)

The Integrated Literacy Plans will consist of the following three assignments:

Two-day Early Readers and Writers Integrated Literacy Plan (10 points)

This two-day literacy plan will demonstrate the thoughtful development of literacy experiences linked to the exploration of topics and ideas emphasized in a *critically recognized children's book*. The two-day unit will include the following:

- o A review of **three** unique children's books that have been critically recognized by one awarding organization discussed in class. Also, at least one book must be written by an author of color, and another must represent a different language or culture in the story (due on BB on designated date prior on provided template prior to lesson plan).
- One lesson plan, using an abbreviated Mason lesson plan template, that details a read
 aloud experience using one of the critically recognized children's books that
 intentionally supports readers' comprehension of the text
- One two-day writing lesson, using an abbreviated Mason lesson plan template, that engages children fully in the writing process (planning, drafting, revising, editing, publishing).

**Please note: "Worksheets" are not appropriate tools for promoting children's literacy development. Additionally, for these lessons, students should do the active thinking and development of the literacy opportunities, students should not simply download a lesson from online and use that as the literacy experience.

Two-day Guided Reading Lesson Plans for One Reading Group (5 points)

This set of lesson plans for one small reading group will demonstrate the thoughtful development of literacy experiences to guide students in developing effective reading strategies and skills to enhance independence. This set of lessons will include the following:

- One authentic text identified as suitable for teaching reading strategies to an early reader group (reading levels D-I*)
- o One two-day early reader guided-reading lesson plan, using the early reader lesson plan template provided on Blackboard
- o Connections to course readings, specifically those from the guided reading articles and resources folder on Blackboard and/or other relevant texts are recommended.

*Please note: Students need to use a book for the guided reading assignment that is an <u>authentic</u> <u>text</u>. This means, students **may not** use *Reading A-Z* or mini-readers specifically crafted as part of a leveled reading set.

Three-day Integrated Literacy Plan (10 points)

This three-day literacy plan will demonstrate the thoughtful development of literacy experiences linked to the <u>integration of another content area</u> (math, science, or social studies) into the literacy experience. Students will select a content area topic identified in the <u>Standards of Learning for Virginia</u>. The <u>three-day unit</u> will be described in a thematic organizer that illustrates a diverse set of literacy experiences designed to support young children's active engagement in reading and writing experiences related to an anchor text grounded in a specific content area. The thematic organizer will

- o identify the overall theme for the literacy plan;
- o provide a list of related texts (fiction and non-fiction) to support children's learning;
- o identify how the related texts could be used;
- o identify relevant word wall words for the theme and from the texts;

- o articulate a list of relevant literacy-based centers that support the readers' and writers' vocabulary development, comprehension, and fluency;
- o articulate diverse assessment strategies for documenting children's reading and writing performances across the three-days; and
- o identify at least one culminating project.

**Please note: "Worksheets" are not appropriate tools for promoting children's literacy development. Additionally, for these lessons, students should do the active thinking and development of the literacy opportunities, students should not simply download a lesson from online and use that as the literacy experience.

• Other Requirements

Attendance and Participation (25 points)

Because active participation and engagement are imperative for optimal learning, preparation for and participation in in-class and online activities will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Students attend class, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class period.
- Students use laptops and personal devices are to be used for instructional purposes only.
- Students complete readings and prepare for class activities prior to class as evidenced by their ability to discuss and write about the concepts presented and examined in the texts as well as participate fully in related activities.
- Students are actively involved in in-class and online learning experiences as evidenced by (a) participating in all activities, (b) engaging in small- and large-group discussions, (c) completing written work related to the activities, and (d) supporting the participation and learning of classmates.
- Students show evidence of critical reflective thinking through in-class and online discussions, activities, and written reflections.
- Students display professional dispositions at all times while interacting with the instructor and other students.
- Students complete participation activities across the semester that complement the scheduled course topic. Instructors will periodically collect artifacts from the activities. Students in attendance and who actively engage in the learning experience will receive credit for their efforts. Graded participation activities are not announced and are implemented at the discretion of the instructor.
- Students submit attendance and participation self-evaluation.

Written Assignments

All formal written assignments will be evaluated for content <u>and</u> presentation. The American Psychological Association, Seventh 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. (Use spell check!) If students are not confident of their own ability to catch

^{*} In order to participate in online activities, students will need to have or create a Gmail account (or link your @gmu.edu account to Google Drive) and a Goodreads account.

errors, they should have another person proofread their work. When in doubt, they should check the APA manual. Students may consult the Writing Center for additional writing support. Students will do the following:

- 1. Present ideas in a clear, concise, and organized manner. (Avoid wordiness and redundancy.)
- 2. Develop points coherently, definitively, and thoroughly.
- 3. Refer to appropriate authorities, studies, and examples to document where appropriate. (Avoid meaningless generalizations, unwarranted assumptions, and unsupported opinions.)
- 4. Use correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar.
- 5. Type the paper with double spacing, indented paragraphs, 1-inch margins all around, and 12-point Times New Roman font.
- Grading

$$A + = 98 - 100$$
 $A = 93 - 97$ $A - = 90 - 92$ $B + = 87 - 89$ $B = 83 - 86$ $B - = 80 - 82$ $C + = 77 - 79$ $C = 70 - 76$ $D = 60 - 69$ $F = < 60$

Incomplete (IN): This grade may be given to students who are passing a course but who may be unable to complete scheduled coursework for a cause beyond reasonable control.

All CEHD students are held to the university grading policies as described in the Academic Policies section of the current catalog, which can be accessed at http://catalog.gmu.edu. Those students seeking Virginia initial teaching licensure must earn a C or better in all undergraduate licensure coursework.

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/.

Class Schedule

Note: Readings are due by the beginning of the in-person class each week, while assignments are due by 11:59pm on the date listed.

Date	Topics	Assignments & Readings Due
Week 1	Introduction -	Welcome!
Jan 27	Becoming an Effective Language and	
	Literacy Teacher in the Primary Grades	Virginia's Early Learning and
		Development Standards
	Examining the Virginia's Early Learning	
	and Development Standards and the	Virginia English Standards of
	Virginia Standards of Learning for	Learning for Kindergarten Through
	English Kindergarten Through Third	Third Grade
	Grade	
		Souto-Manning & Martell: Chapter 1
Week 2	Oral Language, Culture and Diversity –	Souto-Manning & Martell: Chapter 2
Feb 3		and 4
	Oral Language Development:	

	Speaking and listening, language acquisition, pathways towards standardized English, phonological skills (phonemes, rhymes), specific language-based conditions, varied abilities	
	Language Diversity: Cultural, linguistic, ability and socioeconomic differences in language learning for English, duel	
	language learning for English, dual language, and multilingual students	
Week 3	Writing Development and Instruction	Souto-Manning: Chapter 6
Feb 10	Part 1 –	S. T. T.
	Composing, writing for a variety of purposes, writing process approach, writing strategies and skills	Choose 2 articles from Blackboard
Week 4 Feb 17 Week 5 Feb 24	Writing Development and Instruction Part 2 — Conventions of writing (e.g., grammar, capitalization, punctuation, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics), handwriting Writing and research technologies Analyzing and Interpreting Data to Inform Instruction Reading Comprehension Part 1 Text Factors • Selecting and Using Texts at the Appropriate Reading Levels Analyzing and Interpreting Data to Inform Instruction	Choose 2 articles from Blackboard Souto-Manning & Martell, Chapter 5 Choose 2 articles from Blackboard Due in Class (2/24) - Three Unique Critically Recognized Children's Books Come to class prepared to share the
		texts with a small group
Week 6 Mar 3	Reading Comprehension Part 2 – Reader Factors • Selecting and Using Texts at the Appropriate Reading Levels	Choose 2 articles from Blackboard Due to Bb (3/3) – Observation Portfolio: Memo 1
Week 7 Mar 10	Word Studies – Phonology, Orthography and Vocabulary Part 1 - Developing Letter and Word Recognition	Souto-Manning & Martell: Chapter 3 Choose 2 articles from Blackboard

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	Phonemic awareness/phonological	
	awareness	
	 Concepts of print 	
	 Letter recognition 	
	 Sound-symbol knowledge 	
	Decoding and word attack skills	
	Providing Explicit Phonics Instruction	
Mar 17	Spring Recess – No class	
Class 8	Word Studies – Phonology, Choose 2 articles from Blackboard	
Mar 24	Orthography and Vocabulary Part 2 -	Choose 2 articles from Blackboard
Wiai 24	Systematic Spelling Instruction	Due to Bb (3/24) – Early Readers
	Purposes and Limitations of	and Writers Integrated Literacy
	*	Plan
	Invented Spelling	1 1011
	Stages of Spelling	
	Orthographic Patterns	
	 Phonetics 	
	 Morphology 	
	Phonology	
	Vocabulary Development	
	Concept development	
	Associate and Developing Wand	
	Assessing and Developing Word	
	Knowledge	
	Single word recognition	
	 Decoding 	
	 Word attack skills 	
	Word recognition in context	
Week 9	Literacy Assessment Part 1 –	Choose 3 articles from Blackboard
Mar 31	Using Formal and Informal Assessments	
	Analyzing and Interpreting Assessment	
	Data	
	Determining Appropriate Reading Levels	
	Using Assessment Data for Instruction and	
	Flexible Skill-Level Groupings	
Week 10	Literacy Assessment Part 2 –	Choose 2 articles from Blackboard
Apr 7		
	Analyzing and Interpreting Data to Inform	
	Instruction	
Week 11	Instruction for Reading Independence	Choose 2 articles from Blackboard
Apr 14	Part 1 –	D 101 (444) 01
	Adapting Tasks and Interactions	Due in Class (4/14) - Observation
		Portfolio: Memo 2

	Matching each child's zone of	
	proximal development	
	Progress Monitoring Data	
	Using to inform instruction for	
	acceleration, intervention, remediation,	
	and differentiation.	
Week 12	Instruction for Reading Independence	Choose 1 article from Blackboard
Apr 21	Part 2 –	
	Selecting and Using Texts at the	Due to Bb (4/21) - Guided Reading
	Appropriate Reading Levels	Lesson Plan
	 Providing Experiences That 	
	Promote Creative Thinking and	
	Expression (e.g., storytelling,	
	drama, choral/oral reading)	
	• Fluency – Reader's Theater	
	Providing Opportunities for Independent	
	Reading by Selecting Fiction and	
	Nonfiction Books	
Week 13	Content-Area Literacies Part 1 –	Choose 2 articles from Blackboard
Apr 28	English, mathematics, science, health,	
	history and social sciences, art, music,	Due in Class (4/28) - One nonfiction
	drama, movement, and technology	picture book, potentially to be used
	Using Fiction and Nonfiction Texts	for content area integrated literacy
	 Predicting 	plan.
	Retelling	
	 Summarizing 	
	 Making connections 	
Week 14	Content Area Literacies Part 2	No readings this week
May 5	Visual Literacy	
	• Viewing,	Due to Bb (5/5) – Observation
	 Interpreting, 	Portfolio: Final Portfolio
	 Analyzing, 	
	 Representing information 	
May 9-10	Reading Days – No class	
Class 15	Finals Week – No class	Due to Bb (5/17) – Content Area
May 19		Integrated Literacy Plan
		Due to Bb (5/17) – Attendance and
		Participation Self-Evaluation
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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 http://ds.gmu.edu/).
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to VIA should be directed to <u>viahelp@gmu.edu</u> or https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments. 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: http://cehd.gmu.edu.