ENT 441 Teaching Reading and Literature  
**Fall 2015**  
**Mondays 5:10-8:00 p.m. - GBB 202**  
**Instructor: Leanne Deschamps**  
**Office Hours: Mondays (8:00-9:00 p.m. and by appointment) – LA 109**  
[Leanne.deschamps@mso.umt.edu -- 406-240-5559](mailto:Leanne.deschamps@mso.umt.edu) (call or text)

**Course Description**

This course is designed for college students who are interested in teaching reading and literature in grades 5-12. Through reading strategy workshops, literacy texts, collaborative discussions, lesson presentations, and reflections, teaching candidates will engage in numerous opportunities to develop their understanding of secondary reading and literary theory, practice, and pedagogy.

English language arts teachers instruct their students in all aspects of communication: reading, writing, speaking, listening, and media literacy. While national and state standards guide this process, there are no specific texts that are required for every student, for every grade level, for every school throughout the nation. Rather, language arts teachers are skill builders, teaching students effective reading strategies before, during, and after reading a text.

As English language arts teachers, we have likely loved reading from our childhood and feel a sense of responsibility to help students develop a love and appreciation of literature as well. Some of our students may lack basic literacy skills, let alone a love of reading. In this class, we will work collaboratively to learn how to engage students with texts, how to develop a repertoire of effective reading strategies, and how to help students expand their literacy skills to comprehend increasingly-complex texts.

**Objectives**

1. **To provide beginning teachers with the knowledge of and experience with teaching reading and literature, including an understanding and practice in the following:**
   - the reading processes and strategies
   - response to literature: theory and practice
   - different genres, structures, and forms of literature
   - different theories of teaching reading and literature
   - inquiry projects and essential questions for literature
   - the effect of language, culture, gender, prior knowledge, and background upon readers
   - identifying and assessing the developmental stages and abilities of readers
   - formative and summative assessments of reading

2. **To provide beginning teachers with opportunities to practice and develop the following abilities:**
   - design, implement, and evaluate lessons that teach reading strategies and explore literature
   - design lesson plans, units and year-long curriculum for literature
   - use classroom management strategies (group size, pacing, etc.) that support students’ literacy learning
   - design and teach integrated language arts lessons that support readers as they develop their responses to and understanding of literature
   - design and use assessment strategies to provide information about students’ abilities and accomplishments
   - interpret assessment of students’ reading abilities for students, parents, and supervisors
3. To develop in beginning teachers the following professional behaviors and dispositions:
   • affirm that all readers have value and worth
   • understand the developmental stages of growth in reading literature
   • know how to invite, develop, accept, and respect responses to literature
   • encourage all readers to value their own and others’ ideas
   • help students grow as critical, creative readers, writers, and thinkers
   • model the value of literacy, lifelong learning, and collaboration

Course Topics
   • reading and viewing as literacy processes
   • reading strategies and response to literature strategies
   • reading workshops and literature discussions (literature circles, Socratic seminars, etc.)
   • inviting, extending, and responding to students’ responses and critical inquiry
   • classroom management and differentiated instructional strategies (formative and summative)
   • types of literary genres and their characteristics
   • helping students develop, trust, and extend their responses
   • classroom and large-scale reading assessments
   • lesson design, unit design, and curriculum development
   • integrating inquiry and different literary theories into lesson plans
   • research in literature and critical pedagogy
   • guidelines for selecting literature/censorship issues
   • state and national standards for reading and literature (Common Core State Standards)
   • Montana’s Indian Education for All

Learning Outcomes
   • Teacher candidates will value learning in the discipline and professionalism to inform teaching practices.
   • Teacher candidates will know how to plan and manage instruction for students, create/select/use appropriate resources, and make effective instructional decisions.
   • Teacher candidates will know multiple strategies for teaching and assessing their students’ literacy.
   • Teacher candidates will value the principles of learning communities (integration of ideas, cooperative endeavors, and respect for individual worth).
   • Teacher candidates will demonstrate professional behaviors and dispositions (diversity, equity, fairness, and personal integrity).

Required Texts


Required Web-based Resources

*Birthright Born to Poetry – A Collection of Montana Indian Poetry* compiled by Dorothea M. Susag with Montana OPI (2013): *Birthright Born to Poetry*

*The Expanding Canon: Teaching Multicultural Literature in High School* with Beverly Ann Chin, Scholar and Educator (Annenberg Media and Thirteen WNET in collaboration with NCTE, 2003): *Annenberg Learner*

Montana Common Core Standards: *MCCS*

Optional Texts (must select one group). I recommend you wait to purchase these books until class begins. I will have samples available.

**Group #1**

**Group #2**

**Group #3**

**Group #4**

**Evaluation – Undergraduate (500 points)**

- Regular class attendance, respectful discussion participation, and weekly homework completion = 10 points
- Original discussion board forum post (5 discussions) - 20 points per discussion = 100 points
- Poetry Lesson Plan – Design, Presentation, and Reflection = 60 points
- Mini Presentation on Choice Book(s) = 80 points
- Literature Unit Plan = 200 points
- Final Course Synthesis and Reflection Paper = 50 points

**Evaluation – Graduate (600 points)**

- Regular class attendance, respectful discussion participation, and weekly homework completion = 10 points
- Original discussion board forum post (5 discussions) - 20 points per discussion = 100 points
• Poetry Lesson Plan – Design, Presentation, and Reflection = 60 points
• Mini Presentation on Choice Book(s) = 80 points
• Literature Unit Plan = 200 points
• Final Course Synthesis and Reflection Paper = 50 points
• Synthesis Essay of Literacy Instruction Articles = 100 points

Grading

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Scale</th>
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<th>Points (Graduate)</th>
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<td>0-298</td>
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Course Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class, to actively participate in each week’s discussions, and to participate in the forums outside of class. If a student does not attend class, he or she may not be able to fully participate in the forums because they are based entirely on the previous week’s classroom activities. Thus, the student will lose the 20 points for the forum discussion. In some cases, we do not have an assigned forum discussion, but we are actively learning about literacy through in-class activities.

Because life is full of unexpected surprises, sometimes we cannot meet every obligation in our lives. Students will be allowed to make up the points from a missed class by finding a short article from Education Week, English Journal, Voices from the Middle, or an NCTE column. Please choose an article that is pertinent to our coursework for the evening. Cite the article. Then, share key details of the article in the forum and include a critique of that article. Offer advice for other teaching candidates to show how the article is useful for literacy instruction. This work should be substantial enough to replace a three-hour class. The due dates for the make-up work follow the due dates attached to the forum for the week missed. That is, if you miss Week Five (September 28), your make-up work is due by Sunday following Week Five (Oct. 4). If we do not have a specific forum assigned for the week, your makeup work for the missed class is due on the Sunday six days after the missed class. No late make-up work will be accepted. This option is limited to two classes per student. After this, no make-up work will be accepted for missed classes.

If you leave class early, your forum grade will automatically be reduced by half. There will be no exceptions, and no make-up work will be allowed.
Late Work Policy

With the exception of the missed class make-up assignments (see above), late work will be assessed a full letter grade per day it is late (including weekends). After four days (including weekends), late work will not be accepted. Please contact the instructor in writing through email in advance of any planned absences to discuss accommodations.

Course Assignments

❖ Discussion Forums
  (Assigned September 14, September 28, October 12, October 26, and November 16)

The course requires one original post to the discussion forum hosted in the course Moodle five times throughout the semester and a meaningful response to at least two other participants’ forum posts. The forum includes discussion prompts to promote respectful communication of ideas even if teacher candidates differ in their opinions. Participants are expected to post detailed, thoughtful, and respectful comments that address the prompts. Comments such as, “I agree,” or “I don’t know,” are not sufficient responses. If you agree or disagree with a statement, theme or idea in the text, explain why you agree or disagree. Participants are also expected to respond to their classmates’ forum posts. In general, a response to a classmate could be structured as, “I was particularly interested in this idea as well because…” or “I agree/disagree with your comments because…” or “I think this is an important idea for teaching because…” I encourage students to take time to thoughtfully post your own ideas and respond to others’ ideas. Writing should not appear to be rushed or without careful consideration of ideas.

See Discussion Rubric for evaluation criteria. Please review the rubric and your own feedback to understand what is expected in these posts. Although your posts are more informal than other writings in the class, please edit for misspellings and grammatical errors.

Please note that in online discussion, it is often difficult to detect tone of voice. Sarcasm, humor, and anger can sound the same. Please be sure you are communicating the way you want to be heard, and don’t leave your comments up to the readers’ imaginations to interpret.

Original discussion posts are due on the Thursday following our Monday class (11:59 p.m.). Discussion responses are due on Sundays during the assigned forum post week (11:59 p.m.).

❖ Poetry Lesson Plan - Due September 28

Students will design a lesson plan to teach a poem by implementing focused reading strategies with the required components: the learning target(s), identified grade level, Montana Common Core standards addressed, materials needed, lesson activities, and assessment. A description of this project and a rubric will be provided for planning purposes after the course begins.

❖ Literature Unit Plan - Draft due November 9

Draft due November 9
Teach Lesson November 30
Final Unit Plan due December 11

Over the course of the class, each participant will develop one unit plan consisting of at least four distinct lessons spanning 1-2 days each. A description of this project and a rubric will be provided for planning purposes after the course begins.
Mini Presentation on Choice Book – Due November 23

Students will present outside choice books to the class, modeling a reading strategy with the class. A description of this project and a rubric will be provided for planning purposes after the course begins.

Final Course Synthesis and Reflection Paper – Due December 14

A written reflection on the course and your experience with learning about teaching reading and literature will provide a basis for our discussion during our final class meeting on December 14. A description of this project and a rubric will be provided for planning purposes after the course begins.

Synthesis Essay of Literacy Instruction Articles – Graduate Credit Only - Due December 7

Participants taking this course for graduate credit are required to write an additional synthesis essay of about 800 words. Select five contemporary articles related to Common Core, reading assessment, strategies for nonfiction texts, literacy in the digital age, gender and reading, use of textbooks, or another topic with instructor’s approval. The articles should have been published within 24 months of this course. Analyze the articles and their significance in light of this course. A formal assignment and rubric will be provided for planning purposes after the course begins.

Course Policies

- Academic Policy – Academic honesty is expected. Students should complete their own work. Students should not turn in parts of other scholars’ publications. References should be cited in APA or MLA format for all written work, including forum discussions, submitted for this class. Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, will be addressed directly by the instructor. Please see the section on Academic Conduct from the University of Montana Student Conduct Code - UM Student Conduct Code
- You must elect to take this course for a traditional letter grade.
- A grade of “Incomplete” may be assigned at the instructor’s discretion when a student has petitioned in writing to receive an incomplete grade. The instructor may consider an incomplete grade only when a student has been in regular attendance, has participated fully in class, and is currently passing the course. Please refer to the section titled “Incomplete Grade Policy” in the University of Montana Catalog for more information - Academic Policies and Procedures
- Students with disabilities may obtain support for classes through Disability Services in the Lommasson Center 154. Please consult with me at the start of class if you have accommodations for your classes. I want to ensure all students receive the necessary support to be successful in this course.
- Please note this semester’s calendar for fee payment and drop/add deadlines, as well as other important dates.
Professional Membership

Students in the English Teaching Program are required to join National Council of Teachers of English as student members - National Council of Teachers of English
Students are also encouraged to join NCTE’s state affiliate, Montana Association of Teachers of English Language Arts as student members - MATELA
Schedule of Topics and Activities

Please find more detailed descriptions of weekly class activities and assignments in the course Moodle.

**Week One (August 31):** Effective Readers, Schemata, and Public’s Concern for Reading Skills

**Week Two (September 7):** No Class – Labor Day

**Week Three (September 14):** *Rigorous Reading* due, Choice Books, Text Complexity, Common Core/CCR Standards, Poetry Engagement/Interpretation

**Week Four (September 21):** *Rigorous Reading* due, Stafford poem lesson draft due, Two Sample Texts due, Poetry Reading Strategies

**Week Five (September 28):** Poetry lesson due, Poetry Teaching Presentations

**Week Six (October 5):** Final Poetry Lesson and Reflection due, Designing a Literature Unit

**Week Seven (October 12):** The Novel Unit – *Of Mice and Men*, What’s the Big Idea?, Literary Lenses

**Week Eight (October 19):** The Novel Unit – *Of Mice and Men*, What’s the Big Idea?, Essential Questions, Theme Mapping

**Week Nine (October 26):** Multicultural Literature in a Curriculum Plan, Challenged/ Banned Books and Rationale for Teaching Texts

**Week Ten (November 2):** Year-long and Unit Plan Curriculum Design

**Week Eleven (November 9):** Literature Unit Plan due (Peer Review)

**Week Twelve (November 16):** Revised Literature Unit Plan due, AP/Honors English Reading Strategies

**Week Thirteen (November 23):** Mini Presentations on Choice Books

**Week Fourteen (November 30):** Literature Unit Plan Teaching Presentations

**Week Fifteen (December 7):** Literature Unit Plan Teaching Presentations

**Week Sixteen (December 14):** Designing a Reading Classroom, Final Course Synthesis and Reflection Papers due, and Course Evaluation

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