EDUCATION 654  
Language Arts in the Elementary School  
Generic Syllabus

Credit: 3 hours

Prerequisites: None. Graduate or Post-Baccalaureate Status

Course Description: A course providing a review of current research and practices for teaching the language arts. Special emphasis is placed on teaching writing process in the elementary school.

General Statement of the Conceptual Framework: The COEHD’s Conceptual Framework provides direction for the development of effective professionals. It is a living document that continuously evolves as opportunities and challenges emerge. The four components of the CF are the institutional standards used for candidate assessment in undergraduate and graduate programs. They are Knowledge of Learner (KL), Strategies and Methods (SM), Content Knowledge (CK), and Professional Standards (PS). Diversity and Technology are included in the assessment process as themes that are integrated throughout all programs in the educational unit (diversity) (technology).

Course Objectives: Components of the Conceptual Framework coded to objectives:

1) professional standards (PS)
2) knowledge of the learner (KL)
3) strategies and methods (SM)
4) content knowledge (CK)
5) technology (T)
6) diversity (D)

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Define the language arts processes and understand how these processes develop in children. (KL, CK, diversity)
2. Identify practices and approaches to teaching language arts. (PS, CK, SM)
3. Establish a personal philosophy and theoretical base for teaching the language arts, using current research and experience in the field as starting points (PS, CK, KL, SM, diversity)
4. Develop and use lesson plans and materials that will help children discover the joys of language, become fluent in the language arts, and see the relationships among all areas of learning. (PS, SM, KL, CK, diversity, technology)
5. Plan lessons with adaptations to meet student needs, including for students from diverse cultures, diverse language backgrounds, gifted students, and other special needs students (KL, diversity, technology)
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the effective traits of writing and the process approach to writing and be able to implement effective writing strategies in the classroom. (CK, PS, diversity, technology)
7. Assess writing skills of students based on writing traits using rubrics. (KL, SM, CK)
8. Work with peers and teachers to plan and share ideas and materials to develop effective lessons to meet the diverse needs of students (PS, KL, SM, diversity, technology)
9. Effectively research and report findings concerning elements of language arts instruction. (CK, SM, PS, technology)
10. Become proficient in self-evaluation, respond to constructive criticism, learn from mistakes, demonstrate flexibility, display reflective thinking, and begin to accept responsibility for personal growth and development as a teacher. (PS)
11. Demonstrate acceptable and accurate communication skills in both written and oral work. (If improper language use is noted by the instructor, the student will need to make an extra effort to improve in that area. Lack of effort to correct the problem will result in a significant grade reduction on assignments and in the course.) (PS, CK)

Professional Development Activities: As you complete any professional development activity, you are required to enter it into PASS-PORT.

Course Evaluation: Students will be graded on written and/or oral reports, as well as any other assignments required by the instructor. They will also be evaluated on individual, class, and group participation. Students will take at least two written examinations. Each instructor reserves the right to establish additional course requirements and/or methods of evaluation. The grading scale is as follows:

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A & : 93 - 100 \\
B & : 85 - 92 \\
C & : 75 - 84 \\
D & : 69 - 76 \\
F & : 68 \text{ or below}
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No grade of “D” or “F” may be counted toward a degree. No more than 6 hours of “C” grades may be counted toward a degree. A graduate student is in good standing and is considered to be making satisfactory progress if a 3.0 semester and 3.0 cumulative GPA is earned in all graduate courses. General Catalogue, 2006-2007, page 308
References

Books:


Journals:

Language Arts

School Talk

Primary Voices K-6

Websites:

http://ncte.org

http://canteach.com

http://www.edina.k12.mn.us

http://www.sabine.k12.la.us

http://www.angelfire.com/wi/writingprocess

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