

**EDUC 472 - 4 Designs for Learning: Language Arts
(Elementary)**

Mondays 8:30 - 12:20

Section: D1.00

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PREREQUISITE

Educ 401/402

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will focus on developing knowledge, skills and strategies to create a rich and stimulating language arts program in the classroom. Issues in reading, writing, speaking and listening will be examined through current theory and teaching practice. Language acquisition will be viewed as a holistic, integrated process through which children's abilities develop naturally as they make meaning of their world.

You will have opportunities to examine your personal beliefs about children, the teacher and the curriculum; and to explore the congruency between theory and practice. The course will provide you with a framework to examine and reflect on your understandings about learning and teaching the language arts, and your role as teacher in engaging children in communicating and searching for meaning.

The course will comprise a broad range of experiences. These will include professional readings, discussion and written response, seminars, demonstrations, individualized tasks and small-group work threaded through cooperative learning strategies. Upon completion of this course you should have an extensive repertoire of strategies and materials to use in the language class.

TOPICS

- * the acquisition of language
- * the reading process
- * the writing process
- * the development of oral language and listening skills
- * the linking of reading and writing
- * the integration of the six Language Arts strands
- * reading and writing across the curriculum
- * assessment and evaluation
- * children's literature in the Language Arts classroom
- * developing an effective Language Arts program

REQUIREMENTS

- * regular attendance and participation
- * completion of assigned professional readings
- * completion of short written assignments (including a professional journal)
- * completion of one oral and two written projects

READINGS (Choose between **ONE** of the following texts)

Atwell, Nancie. In the Middle Upper Montclair, New Jersey: Boynton/Cook, 1987. ISBN 0-86709-163-0.
(For teachers focusing on the teaching of reading and writing in the upper intermediate grades.)

or

Calkins, Lucy. The Art of Teaching Writing Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1994. ISBN 0-435-08809-2.
(For teachers focusing on the teaching of reading and writing in the primary and early intermediate grades.)

In addition, book of readings available on first day of class and other texts as assigned through the semester.