

Intersession 2002

EDUC 472 - 4  
**Designs for Learning:  
Elementary Language Arts  
D04.00**

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Monday &amp; Wednesday 13:00-16:50 in 8651/2

**PREREQUISITE**

Educ 401/402

**DESCRIPTION**

*We are the meaning makers - every one of us: children, parents, and teachers. To try to make sense, to construct stories, and to share them with others in speech and in writing is an essential part of being human. For those of us who are more knowledgeable and more mature - parents and teachers - the responsibility is clear: to interact with those in our care in such a way as to foster and enrich their meaning making. (Gordon Wells)*

This course will focus on developing knowledge, skills and strategies to create a rich and stimulating Language Arts program in the classroom. Issues in Language Arts will be examined through current pedagogy 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. This course will provide you with a framework to examine and reflect on your understandings about learning and teaching language arts, and your role 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**

- Language and the learning process
- The process of reading and writing
- The development of listening and speaking skills
- Early literacy
- Reading and writing across the curriculum
- The connection between reading and writing
- Children's literature in the language Arts program
- Writers Workshop and Literature Discussion Groups
- Strategies for effective Reading and Writing Instruction
- Developing an effective Language Arts program
- Assessment and Evaluation

**REQUIREMENTS**

- Regular attendance and participation
- Completion of assigned professional readings
- Completion of reading and writing assignments
- Personal writing and reading throughout the session

**REQUIRED READINGS**

Calkins, Lucy McCormick. The Art of Teaching Writing.  
Fox, Mem. Radical Reflections, Passionate Opinions on Teaching, Learning, and Living.  
Tompkins, Gail E. Language Arts: Content and Teaching Strategies.