

Spring Semester 2003

EDUC 367 - 4

Dr. Jean Warburton

**Teaching Children from Minority Language  
Backgrounds in Elementary Classrooms**

Office: TBA  
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**E01.00**

Wednesday 16:30-20:20

**PREREQUISITE:**

60 credit hours

**DESCRIPTION**

This course is intended to provide you the opportunity to consider how effective elementary school curriculum and instruction are organized when students come from a wide variety of linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Participants will examine the following topics: languages as meaning-making systems; pre-school language development; orality and learning; learning to write learning to read; classrooms as environments fostering language/literacy development; evaluation of language skills. Recognizing that our learners come from diverse backgrounds and bring diverse talents to the classroom, examining these topics should prepare teachers well for operating effective instructional programs in elementary classrooms.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Statement of issues and concerns: 10%
2. Book review: 25%
3. Classroom observation: 25%
4. Final term paper or action research proposal: 40%

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

Toohey, K. (2000). *Learning English at School: Identity, social relations and classroom practice*.  
Gibbons, P. (1991). *Learning to learn in a second language*.

Additional selected readings on reserve.