RDG 562
Critical Issues in Literacy Education
COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer II-2012

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required:
None-ALL Readings will come from the TAMU-C libraries and internet websites and be found by you and/or your professor

Textbooks Optional:

Course Description:

This course is designed to increase awareness and understanding of critical issues surrounding the evolving concept of literacy. This course will study selected issues affecting educational thought and schooling practices emphasizing critical analysis of the cultural, political, and sociological contexts of school-societal problems.
Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Course participants will be able to read, assess, and internalize various literacy concepts through critical analysis.
2. These steps (including the critical analysis) will assist course participants to be able to apply and share the knowledge gained as they become or continue to be literacy leaders. Impact of the literacy program on students based on cultural factors, political factors, and sociological factors.
3. Course participants will be able to articulate their critical analysis of readings through grand discussions postings via eCollege.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

A. Expectations: Students in this course are exposed to diverse perspectives in the context of critical literacy that will expand your thoughts, perceptions, and knowledge all in the context of literacy research. This depth of knowledge action will occur through readings, activities, discussion and online interactions with the professor and peers.

B. Attendance and Participation, including Professional Attitude: Students must attend online classes (based on how they are set up by the professor) and participate in online class activities, including ALL readings, assignments, and online discussions based on these readings, assignments. Students should be prompt and ready to contribute. Participation in online class discussions, on assigned readings and related material, and contributions to class or group tasks are expected. Students will receive a grade based on this active participation and attendance for each online class (based on how they are set up by the professor).

33% of your total grade will come from an attendance and participation, including a professional attitude grade which of course is related to your attendance and participation. If you are unable to meet attendance and participation goals set up in the course EACH WEEK you will not receive attendance/participation points and this will impact your final grade. Based on the point system below, I as your professor will be very specific about grading. You as a professional graduate student must meet the criteria listed to receive the points listed.

EACH WEEK Participation and Attendance Points: (Up to 100 points will be given each week based on the criteria above (must attend online classes, must participate in online classes must complete all activities, readings, assignments. The maximum 100 points will be based on these.

OVERALL Participation and Attendance Points: (500 pts. = 5 classes (over the 5 weeks in the Summer II session) @ 100 possible pts.)

- 500-450 points = A
- 449-400 points = B
- 399-350 points = C
- 349-300 points = D
- Below 299 points = F
C. 67% of your total grade will come from assignments, readings, and activities deemed by the professor to enhance your FULL understanding and knowledge for a total of 1000 points (the above assignments, readings, and activities will equal 200 points for each class).

**OVERALL Assignments, Readings, and Activities Points:** (1000 pts.=5 classes (over the 5 weeks in the Summer II session) @ 200 possible pts.)
- 1000-900 points = A
- 899-800 points = B
- 799-700 points = C
- 699-600 points = D
- Below 599 points= F

**Grading:**

Students will be evaluated based on their participation, attendance
   See above for participation and attendance-500 points (33%)

Students will be evaluated base on all assignments, readings, and activities deemed by the professor
   See above for Assignments, Readings, and Activities-1000 points (67%)

All these components of the class will equal 100%.

**ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

**eCollege:** eCollege will be used for this course. You get to eCollege through your MyLeo account.

**COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

**MyLeo:**
As a student, your email account is through MyLeo. Please check the status of your accounts as this is the only way the university and I have on contacting you and informing you of important information. It is available to you 24/7 at https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx.

**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

**Course Specific Procedures:**

**A. Class Attendance, Participation, Completing Assignments, Readings, and Activities Policy:** Expectations for attending class are in accordance with the statement on attendance set forth in the Texas A & M University-Commerce Graduate Catalog. It is essential to attend and participate in online classes.

Missing one class (which includes missing attendance, participation, assignments, readings, and activities) without contacting the professor will result in a failing grade. Please contact me by email, phone if there is an issue.
It is your responsibility to obtain assignments, readings, activities, or other class information via eCollege. If you do not do this and miss deadlines for assignments, readings, activities DO NOT ASK ME FOR AN EXTENSION TO TURN IN LATE. You will receive a zero for these if they are not completed on time.

C. Expectations of Instructor and Students: I will be available for meeting with you outside class time. I will be courteous, encouraging, and willing to counsel you about this course.

For your part in this class, my expectations are similar. I expect you to (1) read the text and complete any assignments before the due date/time, (2) attend and participate in online class activities and discussions, (3) act in an encouraging and courteous manner to all others in this online course during discussions, etc.

D. Written Assignments: All written assignments are expected to be and MUST be in APA format and exhibit professional quality (see option requirements for textbook). You should demonstrate mastery of organizing, structuring, and editing in your writing. Therefore, if you need extra help, the writing center can assist you. You can get assistance on line at http://faculty.tamu-commerce.edu/scarter/rfwOWL.htm

Written Assignments should be:

*Use APA 6th edition style*  
*double spaced*  
*1" top and left side margins, 1" bottom and right side margins*  
*12 point font size*  
*Times New Roman or Arial*  
*revised for clarity and meaning*  
*edited for accuracy in grammar and mechanics*  
*saved on computer disk or copied on paper for your records*

Website Assistance for APA 6th edition can be found at various websites. See below for examples:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/  
www.siue.edu/~prose/classes/APAFormatTemplate.doc

E. Academic Integrity/Honest Statement: This course demands a high level of scholarly behavior and academic honesty on the part of students. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: (1) turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or instructor without obtaining permission from this instructor in advance; (2) turning in another person’s work, in part or in whole, as your own; (3) copying from professional works without citing them; and (4) any form of cheating on exams. Violations of academic integrity/honesty while carrying out academic assignments may, at the discretion of the instructor, receive a zero on the particular work in question, receive an F in the course, or will be brought before a higher level of governance for possible dismissal from the university.

F. Financial Aid Support: You will be dropped from class if you have not paid the balance due on their accounts. If you need assistance to pay your balance, please contact the Loan Office (903-886-5051). There are also forgivable loans. You may want to check in to this by contacting the Bursar’s Office for more details.
University Specific Procedures:
A. The Americans with Disabilities Act: ADA is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

B. Student Conduct: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).