Course Number and Section: EDCI 657.41E
Course Title: Content Area Literacy
Semester: Spring 2014

Instructor: Wayne M. Linek, Ph.D.
Office: Metroplex—Room 103
Office Hours: Rockwall: Monday immediately before and after class
            Metroplex: By appointment
Email: Wayne.Linek@tamu.edu
Phone: (903) 413-6013 Use Email, cell phone is for emergencies only, please leave a message
*To meet face to face with the instructor during office hours, schedule an appointment via email.

Course Information

Materials—Textbooks, Online Readings, and Optional Supplementary Readings:

Textbooks Required (Purchase Online):
One current content area reading textbook (2004-2014) that will be provided by the instructor.

Required Online Readings provided by the instructor:

Optional English Language Learner Readings:


Optional Reading for Strategy Resources:


Lubliner, S. (2005). Getting into words: Vocabulary instruction that strengthens comprehension

McKenna, M. C. (2002). Help for struggling readers: Strategies for grades 3-8


Stephens, E. C., & Brown, J. E. \textit{A handbook of content literacy strategies}


Course Description: Examination of research on learning in the content curriculum areas of science, math, social studies, and music; emphasis on strategies content area teachers may use to foster content area learning.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Students will comprehend, analyze, and critique assigned readings related to metacognition, content literacy, and disciplinary learning. Further, students will engage in: writing to learn activities, dialogue with colleagues, problem solving, and collaborative/reflective inquiry as it relates to teaching, learning, English Language Learners (ELLs), and professional development.
2. Students will role play authors of content area literacy textbooks in order to compare and contrast perceptions of current themes/trends in teaching and learning in content areas. They will then write critiques of content area textbooks and write letters to the authors making suggestions for revisions.
3. Students will learn about the content literacy lesson cycle and apply it by serving as topic facilitators.
4. Students will learn about and engage in conference proposal evaluation processes.
5. Students will propose and engage in an individual project that extends their learning about content area literacy, increases their growth as a researcher, and/or helps them meet professional goals.
6. Students will review metacognition, content literacy, and disciplinary learning concepts by presenting unique creative syntheses.
7. Students will document progress on their doctoral residency plans and share that progress with the class.
8. Students will self-evaluate knowledge gained in the course and personal/professional growth from a metacognitive perspective.

Course Requirements and Assignments:

Outcome 1 (15% of final grade). Demonstrate comprehension, critical analysis, in depth discussion (online and in class), and synthesis of assigned readings related to metacognition, content literacy, disciplinary learning, and ELLs. Formative assessment of performance and growth will occur weekly. Summative assessment will occur on the Final Written Evaluation.

Outcome 2 (15% of final grade). Author Role Play and Letter to Author: Role play the author of a content area textbook during each class. Access the appropriate Author Role Play format in doc sharing and complete it as you read. You will be expected to espouse the beliefs and suggested practices of your author based on your reading of their textbook on specific topics. At the end of the semester, you will write a critical evaluation of your content area textbook based on the knowledge you’ve gained in the course and comparisons with other content area textbooks. This critical evaluation will be written in the form of a letter to the author (see model Letter to Author under document sharing). Email the final revised letter to the author with a copy to the instructor.

Outcome 3 (15% of final grade). Topic Facilitation: Facilitate peer learning on topics from the required readings using the concepts of unique research based Before, During, and After content literacy strategies. Prepare a content reading lesson on your topic identifying and explaining the before, during, and after strategies. The before and during strategies should be presented one class session prior to the actual discussion. The before reading strategy should provide activation and assessment of participant’s prior knowledge WITHOUT FLUFF. The during strategy should provide a guide for self monitoring of comprehension, identifying and understanding important concepts, as well as preparation for critical thinking about the readings. The after strategy should engage all seminar participants in discussion that leads to understanding of important concepts and critical evaluation of readings. An outline of your lesson plan should be provided to the instructor via email a minimum of one week prior to presenting your before and during strategies. After lesson plans are reviewed and approved by the instructor, revise the lesson plan and post it on eCollege under Doc Sharing “Outcome #3: Lesson Plans” for everyone to see. After facilitating the final discussion, complete the Topic Facilitation Self Evaluation form found under “Outcome #3” in Doc Sharing and submit it via email to the instructor.

MAXIMUM TIME ALLOTMENT FOR BEFORE AND ASSIGNMENT OF DURING—15 MINUTES.
MAXIMUM TIME ALLOTMENT FOR AFTER—75 MINUTES.

Outcome 4 (10% of final grade). Conference Proposal Evaluation: Sign up to review ALER Conference Proposals (Dr. Linek will provide conference proposals only if you are unable to be accepted as a reviewer). Create an individual written first draft evaluation for each conference proposal, then begin working with a peer review group on the “Conference Proposal Peer Review” link under Course Home. During the writing process, you will conference with at least two of your classmates in a revision/editing group. This process requires you to proactively contact classmates and form revision/editing triads. We will discuss/form the revision/editing groups in class; however, be aware, you must actively communicate to ensure that you give and receive feedback from your group in a timely manner. Final drafts of conference proposal evaluations are to be posted on
eCollege under Doc Sharing “Outcome #4 Conference Proposal Evaluation.” Each individual will submit in one document their first draft/s, the revised final draft/s, and a reflective analysis on what you’ve learned via email to the instructor.

Outcome 5 (15% of final grade), Individual Project: Choose one of the following individual projects (note: all projects will be presented to seminar participants either face to face or electronically for discussion and feedback. All written products presented face to face will be posted on eCollege under ‘Individual Projects’ under Course Home. All written products presented electronically will be posted, discussed, and revised under the “Individual Project” link under Course Home. After projects have been revised based on feedback from peers, each individual will submit in one document their first draft, the final draft, and a self evaluated rubric to the instructor via email. Rubrics are posted under Doc Sharing “Outcome #5: Individual Project.”

A. Prepare and submit a conference proposal for ALER, IRA, LRA, AERA, SERA, TALE, or any other state, regional, national, or international level professional education conference approved by the instructor.

B. Prepare one research literature review paper on an approved topic that incorporates seminal and current research from high quality, first or second tier, peer reviewed journals. The research literature search results and articles must be approved by the instructor before writing the paper. A list of research articles that you propose to cover must be brought to the second class meeting. The paper should be 8 to 10 pages in length and follow APA format. To bring the research literature review full circle and to give you practice presenting research findings, as if you were defending a dissertation or presenting at a national conference, you will give a formal presentation on your literature review that will include a PowerPoint.

Suggested Topics:
- Working with English Language Learners or Culturally Diverse Learners in Content Area Literacy
- Affective Dimensions in Content Literacy or Disciplinary Learning (Attitude, Interest, Motivation)
- Assessment in Content Literacy
- Research Based Strategies for Content Area Literacy in one or more disciplines such as: Mathematics, Art, Music, Science, Social Studies, Teacher Education, etc.
- Research Based Strategies for Differentiated Instruction in Content Literacy
- Integrating Curriculum and/or Literature in Content Areas
- Research Based Strategies for Comprehension, Studying, Vocabulary and Concept Development, Writing to Learn, or Working with Struggling Readers in Content Areas
- Technology Integration in Content Area Teaching and Learning
- Or any other topic that relates to metacognition, content literacy, and/or disciplinary learning

C. Prepare a dialogue journal for a professional book that you selected and was approved by the instructor. On the first page of the journal write an introduction for the book/s that includes your rationale for selection. While reading complete your dialogue journal. At the end of the journal write a book review including a critique of the content and explain how you will apply what you have learned to your current or future practice. You will present your “end of journal” book review and provide a handout to seminar participants.

D. Use APA format to propose, prepare, and present an individual project that incorporates a professional project that you would like to pursue. For example, you may pursue a research project, write a grant proposal, write an article, create a strategy log, prepare an inservice program for teachers, prepare a conference presentation, etc. The only limits are your imagination and instructor approval. Specific requirements include:
- A one page written proposal (draft and final) for each seminar participant describing:
  1. What you want to do
  2. Why you want to do it
  3. How the project connects to the concepts of metacognition, content literacy, or disciplinary learning
  4. Steps you will use to approach and complete the project
  5. A projected time line delineating each step
- Interim group sharing for perception checking, problem solving, and revision.
- Written criteria for peer feedback for each seminar participant.
- Presentation of completed project to seminar participants.

Outcome 6 (10% of final grade), Creative Synthesis: Individually or in a small group, create and share in class a unique creative synthesis of your learning about content area literacy, metacognition, and/or disciplinary learning. After completing the presentation, submit a self-evaluated rubric via email to the instructor. Rubrics are posted under Doc Sharing “Outcome #6: Creative Synthesis.”

Outcome 7 (10% of final grade), Doctoral Residency Progress: Document progress on your doctoral residency plan. Share your plan verbally on the second night of class. On the last night of class, share your accomplishments verbally and bring
documentation so that Dr. Linek can sign off on completed residency activities. Include a list of these activities on your final written evaluation.

**Outcome 8 (15% of final grade), Final Written Evaluation:** Access the format in Doc Sharing and prepare a final written evaluation that addresses each outcome, evaluates each requirement, evaluates personal/professional growth, and suggests a final grade for the course. The final written evaluation must be submitted via email to the instructor by midnight on May 5, 2014. **NOTE: I will return the document to you UNGRADED if you do not assign yourself a letter grade.**

**Grading:** Criteria for each requirement will be stipulated by the instructor in rubrics posted on eCollege under Document Sharing. Students will collaboratively generate standards for each criterion. The following holistic scoring format will be adapted for each course requirement:

- **5 = Highly Impressive** - well above average in thought, organization, and professional choices as evidenced by products handed in. In control of own decision-making and learning processes.
- **4 = Commendable** - in command of thought, organization, and professional choices as evidenced by products handed in. Developing good control of own decision-making and learning processes.
- **3 = Average** - probably functional in terms of thought, organization, and professional choices as evidenced by products handed in; but in need of more instruction. Developing some control of own decision-making and learning processes.
- **2 = Developing** - somewhat lacking in thought, organization, and responsibility as evidenced by products handed in. Not consistently aware of professional choices. Little control of own decision-making and learning processes. In need of some remediation.
- **1 = Questionable** - lacking in thought and organization as evidenced by products handed in. Lack of awareness of professional choices. Little to no control of own decision-making and learning processes. In need of major remediation.
- **0 = Not Attempted** – no product handed in or presented to document work.

Final course grades will be determined jointly by the student and the instructor based on the student’s self evaluation, the instructor’s judgment, and the following scale:

- **A** All requirements completed with at least a 4.5 average score
- **B** All requirements completed with at least a 3.5 average score
- **C** All requirements completed with at least a 2.0 average score
- **F** Some or all requirements completed with below a 2.0 average score

**Technology Requirements**

Students must have access to email and the Internet, either at home, work, or TAMU-C campus. TAMU-C provides students with free email accounts that must be accessed for information sent from the university. Further, eCollege will be utilized for: announcements, some required readings, document sharing, email, turning in assignments via drop box, and grading. High speed internet access/connection, not dial-up, is highly recommended.

You must have MS Word and MS PowerPoint to create and hand in assignments. A flash drive is highly recommended for in class sharing of PowerPoint presentations. Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

- Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).
- Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.
- It is strongly recommended that you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, log in to eCollege, click on the 'myCourses' tab, and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

**Access and Navigation**

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning and Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To access readings, rubrics, etc., go to: https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact: IT Support Services at 903-468-6000 (during business hours), the HelpDesk at 1-866-656-5511 (toll-free 24/7), or the HelpDesk at helpdesk@online.tamuc.org
Communications and Support

It is best to contact the instructor via email at Wayne.Linek@tamuc.edu. You should receive a response within 2 to 3 working days. DO NOT email the same question repeatedly if you do not receive a response immediately. Responses will typically be sent to your leo email account. When engaging in online discussions, please remember the Core Rules of Netiquette as follows:

Rule 1: Remember the Human
Rule 2: Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life
Rule 3: Know where you are in cyberspace
Rule 4: Respect other people's time and bandwidth
Rule 5: Make yourself look good online
Rule 6: Share expert knowledge
Rule 7: Help keep flame wars under control
Rule 8: Respect other people's privacy
Rule 9: Don't abuse your power
Rule 10: Be forgiving of other people's mistakes
Rule 11: Adhere to timelines for all postings and responses

Course and University Procedures

Course Specific Procedures

Preparation, Participation, Knowledge, and Professionalism: Check your Leo email and eCollege at least twice a week for updates, assignments, and notifications. Bring a copy (hard or electronic) of the readings to each face-to-face class session. Complete assignments prior to class as all work is due at the beginning of class. Note that some assignments will require out-of-class and/or online work prior to in-class discussion. Be prepared to discuss, question, analyze, critique, and debate readings, research, and other class assignments. Voluntarily participate regularly in class and online discussions. Demonstrate professional behavior in all you do. Lack of preparation, participation, and/or professionalism (please see the Code of Student Conduct in the Texas A&M University Commerce Student’s Guidebook) may result in removal from class or lowering of your final grade. Plagiarism may result in dismissal from the doctoral program. See the following link for an explanation of plagiarism
http://www.mydistancecourses.org/owl/course/view.php?id=29

Attendance: Although class meets officially from 4:30 to 10:00 pm, if many people cannot make it to class by 4:30 pm, we will start at 5:00 pm and take only one 20 minute break. However, Dr. Linek will be available from 4:30 to 5:00 pm for individual concerns. Attend all classes. Arrive on time and remain until class is dismissed. If you cannot make it to class on time due to professional responsibilities, discuss this with the instructor after the first class to create a make-up plan. If you must miss a class due to a professional responsibility and know ahead of time, discuss this with the instructor on the first night of class to create a make-up plan. If you must miss a class due to an unforeseen excused absence or professional responsibility, email or phone the instructor before class. Then create a written make-up proposal and submit it within one week of the occurrence via email to the instructor. Do not complete the proposed make up work until you receive approval from the instructor. Once approval from the instructor has been granted for makeup work, it must be completed within two weeks to receive credit. Make-up work will not be permitted for unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence will lower final grades by one letter. Missed assignments, lack of make-up work, etc. will also negatively impact final grades. For a definition of an excused absence, please see the Texas A&M University-Commerce Catalog or Student’s Guidebook.

Suggested Make Up Assignment for an Excused Absence: Prepare a dialogue journal for the readings you missed discussing in class. Then suggest options for other in class discussions missed. For example, you could prepare an additional reaction paper on a self-selected professional journal article concerning issues pertinent to teaching and learning in your discipline, content area, grade level, and/or professional responsibilities. A reaction paper should be one to two typed pages and conform to APA 6th edition. The reaction paper should include: a content summary of the article, your reaction to its contents, and a discussion of how you will implement what you learned (include a copy of each article). Articles selected must be approved by the instructor prior to writing reaction papers.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement: 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@tamuc.edu
Student Disability Resources & Services

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 the Code of Student Conduct in the Student Guidebook at http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf.

Inclement Weather: In case of inclement weather, cancellation of classes will be announced via PAWS (Pride Alert Warning System), the university homepage, and on KETR 88.9 FM. Please check your email immediately for instructor verification of class cancellation and check eCollege for alternative assignments.

Bibliography

Any chapter from an Education Related Handbook of Research.


Graves, M. F., & Lian, L. A. (2002). On line resources for fostering understanding and higher-level thinking in senior high school students. The fifty first yearbook of The National Reading Conference (pp. 204-215). Oak Creek, WI: The National Reading Conference.


**EDCI 657 Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Meet in Rockwall 7:20 to 10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/10</td>
<td>Face to Face in Rockwall 4:30 to 10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/24</td>
<td>Face to Face in Rockwall 4:30 to 10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/10</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>Face to Face in Rockwall 4:30 to 10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/31</td>
<td>Face to Face in Rockwall 4:30 to 10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/14</td>
<td>Face to Face in Rockwall 4:30 to 10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/28</td>
<td>Face to Face in Rockwall 4:30 to 10:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/5</td>
<td>No Class, but Final Written Evaluation Due via Email by Midnight</td>
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Note: Additional online assignments will be due on dates not yet listed in the course schedule. Decisions on due dates will occur on the first night of class to accommodate students’ schedules.