RDG 562.01W
Critical Issues in Literacy Education
COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer II 2015

Instructor: Dr. Tami Morton
Assistant Professor

Office Location: Sowers Education South #216

Office Hours: By appointment @ Collin Higher Education Center (CHEC) or you may contact via eCollege

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required:
None-ALL Readings will come from the TAMUC libraries and internet websites and may 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.
Objectives (Supported by TX Master Reading Teacher):

Domain V—Roles of the Master Reading Teacher

Standards Assessed:
Standard VI: The Master Reading Teacher facilitates appropriate, research-based reading instruction by communicating and collaborating with educational stakeholders, mentoring, coaching, and consulting with colleagues, providing professional development for faculty, and making decisions based on converging evidence from research.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. To read, assess, and internalize various literacy concepts through critical analysis.
2. 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. Articulate their critical analysis of readings through grand discussions postings via eCollege.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

- Written assignments must be well-written, typed, and error-free.
- Assignment Due Dates: All assignments are due on the date they are assigned. NO EXCEPTIONS. You are a professional and must present yourself responsibly.
- Specific assignment details will be given for each assignment.
- Modules – Five modules. Points assigned to tasks in each module. (total points subject to change) You will work through each module in eCollege. Specific assignments will be given at the beginning of each module. If you are not familiar with eCollege you will need to take the tutorial which you can access through eCollege. I will not teach the components of eCollege.

Learning Tools. This course is project/performance based and requires that you read, write, listen, speak (through chats and discussions) and view. You are expected to read all chapters and other assigned readings in order to understand the concepts and complete the tasks. You are expected to complete all tasks, turn in quality written work on time and exhibit all other aspects of professionalism required by your profession. You are expected to participate in all discussion threads and chats. You are expected to have a working knowledge of technology and how to select appropriate material for tasks.

Grading scale:
- 90 – 100% A
- 80 – 89% B
- 70 – 79% C
- 60 – 69% D
- Below 60% F
ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

eCollege Access and Log in Information
This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to:
https://leo.tamu-commerce.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 Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

In this course communication will occur using:
- Email – This should be used for personal communication such as an absence or concern specific to your needs.
- eCollege Announcements – This will be used if changes are made to Module Tasks or if additional content has been provided.

eCollege Student Technical Support
Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
☐ Chat Support: Click on 'Live Support' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.
☐ Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
☐ Email: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
☐ Help: Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc…)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Instructional / Methods / Tasks / Projects / Assessments

This course occurs in a digital learning environment designed with a module format. There will be five modules. Each module will include the module’s reading task, discussion, and performance task. You will be expected to read assigned material, participate in discussions and group tasks, reflect on your knowledge growth and complete all assigned tasks/projects by the due date. Late work will not be accepted. Therefore you need to demonstrate a level of time management that allows you to meet due dates as posted.

Participate in all online group/class discussions. There will be an opportunity to work as an individual, with a partner or in a group of 3-4 students. Working with a partner or in a group requires you to follow my CCC: collaboration, cooperation, and completion. This means, as an adult learner, you will collaborate with another student or students in a cooperative manner to complete a quality product. I truly believe two minds are better than one so I encourage partnerships or groups. However, I WILL NOT mediate should an issue arise pertaining to CCC; you are expected to find a resolution. You will always have the choice to opt out of the partnership or group and work as an individual. Therefore, you are expected to show a level of professionalism and stay actively engaged with your partner or the group through communication and contributions to complete the project.
**Read** required readings. The student will be expected to read the required text and any supplemental materials. This is an online course that presents written information as an alternate mode of lecture. Do not take this lightly; as an online course you are expected to read/reflect for meaning.

**Reflections:** throughout the course, the student may be asked to consider ideas presented in articles and threaded discussions. Some of the reflections will be assigned and submitted to the instructor, others will be for personal reflection and kept by the student.

**Written tasks:** Completion of all discussions/reflections and projects should exhibit professionalism in appearance and content at an **acceptable level of scholarship.** Projects are to be completed and turned in according to the due date posted in eCollege. Late work **will not** be accepted without an excused absence and/or extenuating circumstances as determined by the instructor with a late due date determined by the instructor. The campus library and/or computer labs are available for use in the event personal technology fails or supplies or assistance is needed.

- **All written assignments are expected to exhibit professional quality. You should demonstrate mastery of organizing, structuring, and editing in your writing. Begin that practice now!**

  **Written Assignments should be:**
  * **double spaced**
  * **1” top and left side margins, 1” bottom and right side margins**
  * **12 point font size, Times New Roman or Arial**
  * **referenced in APA current edition style**
  * **revised for clarity and meaning**
  * **edited for accuracy in grammar and mechanics**
  * **saved on flash drive or copied on paper for your records**

**IF NECESSARY:** Writing Assistance - The Writing Center in the Communications Skills Center is dedicated to helping writers take advantage of all opportunities for learning inherent in the writing process. Tutors are available to assist you with any area of writing. **Plagiarism of writings and/or other materials in any form will result in a grade of “F” for the course and may result in your dismissal from the program.** Please cite your references carefully and consistently! Remember, you could be asked to leave or drop out completely, if you are caught plagiarizing. See the link for the writing center: [http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx](http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx)

  Suggested sites:
  - [http://www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org)
  - [http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html](http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html)
  - [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml)

**Drop a Course**
A student may drop a course by logging into their myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled 'Drop a class' from among the choices found under the myLEO section of the Web page.”

**Incompletes**
If an incomplete is warranted due to a special need (determined by instructor), you only have access to your eCollege course for two weeks following the final day of the term.

**Administrative Withdrawal**
I reserve the right to administratively drop a student for excessive absences.

**University Specific Procedures:**

**ADA Statement**
**Students with Disabilities:**
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  
Room 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

### COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Schedule for Summer II 2015:  
Requirements for each module will include a readings and the following assignments: Inquiry Project and Discussion. Course modules will open on the first day of class, however, due dates will be different for each module. You will have 5-7 days to complete each module requiring time management skills. Do not contact me at the end of the module requesting an extension. An extension will not be granted.

**Module 1** July 13 – What’s Hot & What’s Not in Literacy  
   July 17 - Reading and Assignments Due

**Module 2** July 18 – Digital Literacies/New Literacies  
   July 24 - Reading and Assignments Due

**Module 3** July 25 – Informational/Nonfiction Texts  
   July 31 - Reading and Assignments Due

**Module 4** Aug 1 – Comprehension and Close Reading/Deep Reading  
   August 7 - Reading and Assignments Due

**Module 5** Aug. 8 – Final Digital Inquiry Project  
   August 13—Reading and Assignments Due