



**UNCO 1301 FIRST YEAR SIGNATURE COURSE
POWER OF WORDS AND STORIES TO CREATE THE LIFE OF THE MIND**

Course syllabus: Online Spring 2022

Texas A&M University-Commerce info on COVID-19 www.tamuc.edu/

PROFESSOR INFORMATION

Professor: Josh Thompson, Ph.D. (he, him) (I prefer to be called Dr. Thompson)

Office Location: Ed South 204

Office Hours: by appointment, before and after class

Office Phone: 903-886-5537

Cell Phone: 214-663-6102

Office Fax: 903-886-5581

University Email Address: Josh.Thompson@tamuc.edu

Professor's Webpage: <http://faculty.tamuc.edu/jthompson>

Course Webpage: <http://faculty.tamuc.edu/jthompson/powerWords>

Location: BA106 BA256 BA257 BA340

Supplemental Instructors (SI)

Mwajuma Katembo mkatembo@leomail.tamuc.edu

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Rachael Rose rose5@leomail.tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: For general questions, I prefer you to post questions in D2L Virtual Office. That way others may see our communication and they may benefit. Please email me anytime to ask a question about your particular work. Always put **PowerWords** in the subject line so we know which class you are writing about. You may call or text my cell phone anytime between 9am-9pm, Mon-Fri, or up until 3pm on Saturdays.

Communication Response Time: Expect to hear back from me within the next working day or two. Please ask again anytime I don't answer promptly or completely.

COURSE INFORMATION

No Textbook Required –

Required Readings, as provided by the professor in D2L. For example:

Coneway, B., & Fredman, T. (2019). Bridging the gap in early literacy development. *Early Years* 40(2) pp. 25-29.

Literature Circle Book Club (Required: choose one):

Ada, A.F. (2016). *A magical encounter: Latino children's literature in the classroom (3rd ed.)*. Transformative Education Services. *

Brown, B. (2018). *Dare to lead: Brave work, tough conversations, whole hearts*. Random House.*

Brown, B. (2021) *Atlas of the heart: Mapping meaningful connections and the language of human experience*.*

Cameron, J. (1992). *The artist's way: A spiritual path to higher creativity*. TarcherPerigee. *

Csikszentmihályi, M. (1996). *Creativity: Flow and the psychology of discovery and invention*. NY: Harper Perennial.

Curtis, D. & Jaboneta, N. (2019). *Children's Lively Minds: Schema Theory Made Visible*. Redleaf Press.*

Golinkoff, R.M., & Hirsh-Pasek, K. (1999). *How babies talk: The magic and mystery of language in the first three years of life*. Dutton.*

Mooney, C.G. (2018). *Choose your words: Communicating with young children*. Redleaf Press.*

Nemeth, K.N. (2012). *Many languages, building connections: Supporting infants and toddlers who are dual language learners*. Gryphon House.*

Pink, D.H. (2006). *A whole new mind: Why right-brainers will rule the future*. NY: Penguin Group. *

Pinker, S. (1994). *The language instinct: How the mind creates language*. HarperPerennial. *

Resnick, M. (2017). *Lifelong kindergarten: Cultivating creativity through projects, passion, peers, and play*. MIT Press.*

Robinson, K. (2011). *Out of our minds: Learning to be creative*. Capstone. **

Schmidt, C.A. (2019). *Developing Social Competency in Young Children*. Redleaf Press.*

Singer, D., Golinkoff, R.M., & Hirsh-Pasek, K. (2009). *Play = learning: How play motivates and enhances children's cognitive and social-emotional growth*. NY: Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0199733828 **

Tannen, D. (1994). *Gender and discourse*. Oxford University Press. *

* On reserve in the Waters Library www.library.tamuc.edu

** Available online at www.library.tamuc.edu

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

Children learn their native language without formal lessons or teachers. This amazing power of acquisition is still available to you, the young adult learner. In fact, how you learn words and stories creates an interior life, the life of the mind that informs and directs the way you live your life. Socrates said, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” Aristotle countered, “The unintentional life is not worth examining.”

Course Goal: The work of first year college students is to master certain ways of learning and knowing, academic stuff. Becoming self-aware of their own learning processes could help them succeed in cultivating their own life of the mind.

Signature Courses must meet the following Core Curriculum Student Learning Outcomes:

1. In written, oral, and/or visual communication, students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
2. Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

The successful learner will be an active and engaged participant in discussion forums by analyzing, constructing/creating, and evaluating information presented within the texts, external readings/resources, student research, and class activities.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Professional Behaviors: Attendance at weekly f2f meetings and online in D2L is expected; regular, consistent participation is important. Participating in weekly class meetings is required (Wednesdays 5pm-7.30pm). We do important things every week of class – don’t miss it. Excessive absences (Missing 3 classes, or 15 days without logging into D2L) may prompt an administrative withdrawal.

- Read reading assignments, view videos in D2L, lecture notes, and PowerPoint presentations.
- Check Leo eMail frequently, at least twice a week.
- Discussions: Participate in frequent online class discussions, whole class or small groups. Most are asynchronous – not live.
- Quizzes: Read all assigned readings. Participate in frequent quizzes as posted in D2L modules.

You will self-evaluate your professional behaviors TWICE, once at the beginning, and again at the end of the course.

Technical Skills Needed:

- Check LeoMail frequently, at least twice a week.
- Use AdobeReader to access required digital files.
- Create papers and presentations in MS Office, or Open Office, or Pages.
- Communicate regularly and robustly with colleagues and peers through Discussion.

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Instructional Methods

Class meets weekly. Assigned readings must be completed before class. Lectures include powerpoint, videos of children and adults talking, hands-on materials, and handouts. Active participation in class discussion is expected from everyone. Class leadership is welcomed and encouraged; bring a song, a book or story, a game to play, or insights from the readings or field work with your case study participant. Upload work in D2L, such as pictures of inspiring spaces, materials you are making for Gallery Walk, and questions about language acquisitions with young children. Regular quizzes over the assigned required readings help deepen your knowledge of the course content. Timely completion of online discussions is required.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Successful students come to class prepared, on-time, and ready to engage and participate in active learning. Online work frequently requires extensive reading beyond the textbook. Plan to work in D2L about two to three hours per week, with regular textbook reading assignments about two-hours every week. Time making materials will vary, but expect to spend around 10 hours total over the course of this semester.

GRADING

A holistic grading approach is sought. Rather than a scorecard with points, students must account for their mastery of the course objectives, and thus their grade in the course. This is done through the use of the Professional Behavior Survey. You will **self-evaluate your professional behaviors TWICE**, once at the beginning, and again at the end of the course.

Assessments (each worth 10 points, 10% final grade)

1. Readings, Discussions, Quizzes, & Participation (whole class, small group, & Literature Circle Book Club) (10% of course requirements)

Aligns with Student Learning Outcomes: 1-3

2. Unit 2 includes Tools for observing, listening, documenting, and analyzing language production. Demonstrate familiarity with all the tools, and competence in one or more. (10% of course requirements)

Aligns with Student Learning Outcome: 1

3. Unit 3 outlines outcomes for a Child Language Study. Demonstrate competence in analyzing original language artifacts for communicative competence. (10% of course requirements)

Aligns with Student Learning Outcome: 2

Survey of Children's Literature

4. Annotate 50 children's books, categorized by genres (10% of course requirements)

5. Participate in Literature Circle Book Club (10% of course requirements)

Aligns with Student Learning Outcomes: 1-3

6. Final Summative Reflection (20% of course requirements)

Aligns with Student Learning Outcomes: 1-3

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7. Participate in our LIONIZING Event. Create, make, do, craft, compose, choreograph, write, sing, sculpt, paint an original project based on your analysis of language acquisition. (30% of course requirements)

Aligns with Student Learning Outcomes: 1-3

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements. LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Preferred Form of Communication: For general questions, I prefer you to post your question in Virtual Office. That way others may see our communication and they may benefit. Please email me anytime to ask a question about your particular work. You may call or text my cell phone anytime between 9am-9pm, Mon-Fri, or up until 3pm on Saturdays.

Communication Response Time: Expect to hear back from me within the next working day or two. Please ask again anytime I don't answer promptly or completely.

Communicate with me as needed. Use Josh.Thompson@tamuc.edu or C&I department office phone 903-886-5537 or cell phone 214-663-6102 (preferred).

Feedback on student work: Quizzes and online exams are auto-graded. Short answer questions require manual grading, as do all objects uploaded in assignments or online Gallery Walks.

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Generally, I catch up reviewing your work around the end of the month – please permit me two to three weeks to respond to your work with my feedback. If you don't hear from me within a month, please ask me to review your work again.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Attendance

Attendance online is expected; regular, consistent participation is important. We do important things every week of class – don't miss it. Excessive absences (missing 3 f2f class meetings, or 10 days without logging into D2L) may prompt an administrative withdrawal.

Participation

This course builds cumulative knowledge and insight; you cannot pass the class by just completing assignments all at one time. You must follow along and contribute as chapters, units, discussions, and projects unfold throughout the semester.

Grading

A holistic grading approach is sought. Rather than a scorecard with points, students must account for their mastery of the course objectives, and thus their grade in the course. This is done through the use of the Professional Behavior Survey. You will **self-evaluate your professional behaviors** TWICE, once at the beginning, and again at the end of the course.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- 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
Waters Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#)

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document and/or consult your event organizer. Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counselingcenter.



**UNCO 1301 Power of Words and Stories to Create the Life of the Mind
 COURSE OUTLINE –revised 1/3/2022**

Texas A&M-Commerce Covid 19 Information, <https://www.tamuc.edu/stay-healthy-lions/>

DATE	TOPIC	READING no textbook	ASSIGNMENT
Unit 1 January 12 19 26	What is language? Early Language Acquisition	Coneway & Fredman 2019 King 2018	Unit 1: Discussions, Quizzes Lit Circle – report 1 Unit: Introduction Discussions Quizzes Due Jan 31
Unit 2 February 2 9 16 23	Life of the Mind Words and Stories	In D2L U2	Unit 2: Discussions, Quizzes Tools for observing language Discussions Quizzes Due Feb 28
Unit 3 March 2 9 16 Spring Break 23 30	Language Diversity	In D2L U3	Unit 3: Discussions, Quizzes Lit Circle – report 2 Case study of language learner Discussions Quizzes Due Mar 31 Last day to drop is 3/31
Unit 4 April 6 13 20 27	Learning about Learning through Language Acquisition	In D2L U4	Unit 4: Discussions, Quizzes Children’s Literature Create Discussions Quizzes Due April 30
Unit 5 4 11	LIONIZING Event		Gallery Walk posts, discussion, reflection Lit Circle – report 3 Final summative reflection Due Wed, 5/11 @ 8pm
All work due Wednesday, May 11, 2022 @ 8pm			

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