ECE 536: Literacy Development in the Early Years

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer II 2025

Instructor Information

Instructor: Melanie Loewenstein Ph. D.
Office Hours: By appointment via phone or video conference
University Email Address: Melanie.Loewenstein@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication**:** email, phone, or text
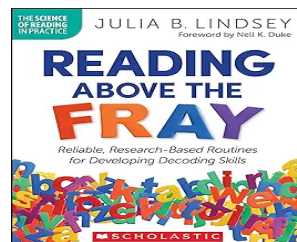Communication Response Time: within 48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Text

Reading Above The Fray: Reliable, Research-Based Routines for Developing Decoding Skills by Julia B. Lindsey
 ISBN-13: **978-1338828726**
 ISBN-10: **133882872X**

Course Description

This course provides a critical examination of the major areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing experiences of young children. Current research, educational practice, and instructional materials will be analyzed in relation to different theoretical views of the language arts. Special emphasis will be placed on integrating the language arts skills.

Student Learning Outcomes

• To identify and explain the various theories of language acquisition and development and to understand factors which influence language development.
• To identify the major components of an integrated language arts program and understand the rationale for various methods used in developing learning experiences for each component.
• To evaluate various techniques of nurturing children's listening abilities and to promote the development of oral language.

• To identify criteria for selecting quality literature for young children and to examine various methods of using literature to enhance communication skills
• To compare and contrast various approaches to literacy development (reading and writing) in young children.
• To identify instructional resources for teaching communication skills.

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Teacher Standards

Early Childhood Teacher Competencies
• Competency 5 Receptive language: The early childhood teacher understands the development of young children's receptive language development and knows how to provide experiential learning activities that enhance receptive language and complement learning in other areas.
• Competency 6 Expressive language: The early childhood teacher understands expressive language development in young children and knows how to provide a classroom environment that encourages young children to use oral language to express needs, feelings, and ideas.
• Competency 7 Emergent literacy: The early childhood teacher understands processes related to emergent literacy and can use understanding to develop a classroom culture that fosters a positive disposition toward literacy and encourages the emergence of literacy.
• Competency 8 Language development in native speakers of other languages: The early childhood teacher understands how having a home language other than standard English affects English language development and knows how to use young children's diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds to facilitate their English language development, as well as to enhance all children's awareness of the diversity of languages and cultures.
• Competency 15 Interdisciplinary connections/instruction: The early childhood teacher understands interrelationships among the content areas, recognizes skills and concept that may be applied across the curriculum, and can use this knowledge to enhance children's thinking and their ability to understand the world.
• Competency 20 Factors affecting development: The early childhood teacher understands how specific factors may affect individuals in one or more developmental domains and can provide learning experiences and environments that respond to the individual needs of all children.
• Competency 21 Assessment: The early childhood teacher understands how to use a variety of assessment strategies to monitor young children's progress in achieving outcomes and to plan learning activities in all domains.
• Competency 23 Assessment: The early childhood teacher understands how to use developmentally appropriate group management strategies to provide an atmosphere that enhances learning.
• Competency 25 Materials and resource: The early childhood teacher understands how various types of materials and resources, including current technology, can be used in early childhood classrooms to support learning in all domains for all children.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed
Students will need to use presentation software and other technologies implemented during this course, in addition to university technology requirements.

Instructional Methods
This course consists of a series of activities to assist you in achieving the outcomes/objectives for the course. The student will consistently work on various combinations of assignments, activities, discussions, readings, research, etc.

Course Requirements/Assignments

- Weekly Textbook Chapter Reflections/Discussions
- Early Childhood Literacy Issue/Topic Exploration Assignment
- ECE Literacy Instructional Strategy Webinar Creation Assignment
- ECE Literacy Curriculum Program Evaluation Assignment

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course
Professionalism at the highest level to be demonstrated for all course activities: •
showing initiative, thoroughness, and thoughtfulness in all course activities •
participating in and contributing to course activities
- • showing respect to peers and instructor
- • showing pride in one's work
- • demonstrate Netiquette
- • preparation and completion of all course activities
- • written assignments will be typed and corrected for grammar, spelling, and punctuation
- • check Degree Works for accuracy

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:
- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

Assessments
Student understanding of course objectives will be assessed through ongoing formal and informal assessment through assignments, activities, discussions, readings, research, etc.

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
The instructor's communication response time is within 48 hours and feedback on assignments is within 7 days after due date.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies
Refer back to the course information and course requirements sections of the syllabus for course specific procedures/policies.

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.
- http://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.
- http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx •

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
- Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form
- http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pd f
- Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form
- http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademic DishonestyFormold.pdf
- http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty .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
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 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/studentDisabilityReso urcesAndServices/

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.

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.* 6

- For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer.
- Web url: http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesPro cedures/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.

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

See Texas Education Agency (TEA) Teacher Standards under course requirements

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Course outline/calendars will be distributed by the instructor at the start of the course.

AI Use in Course

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

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 visitwww.tamuc.edu/counsel