



EDCI 517. 01W

READING & LEARNING IN K-12 CONTENT AREAS
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Melanie Loewenstein

Office Hours: By Appointment or anytime virtually

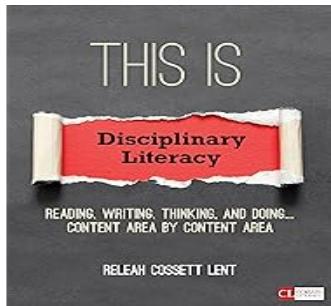
University Email Address (Preferred): Melanie.Loewenstein@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email is the fastest way to reach me
Communication Response Time: Please allow at least 24 hours turnaround time for a response.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required:



This Is Disciplinary Literacy: Reading, Writing, Thinking, and Doing...Content Area by Content Area (Corwin Literacy).

By Releah Cossett Lent

OER Book (Accessible Online)

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/tamu/reader.action?c=UERG&docID=6261866&ppg=1&pq-origsite=primo>

Other OER texts will be used throughout the course.

Hours: 3

This course is designed for graduate students in the emergency permit program seeking initial teacher certification. The focus is on reading comprehension, concept development and strategies for interacting with expository materials. The role of the teacher, the text, and the student are examined in the learning process. Text analysis methods, teacher-directed strategies, reader-based strategies, and literature are discussed as appropriate for all elementary and secondary grade levels

Student Learning Outcomes

1. The learner will analyze curriculum and instruction by using varied resources to enable all students to become successful readers and writers;
2. The learner will demonstrate how to assist students with acquiring the knowledge, skills, and ability to comprehend expository text, and to interact with and use teacher directed and reader-based content reading strategies;
3. The learner will employ techniques to encourage the development and use of higher order thinking skills in all students;
4. The learner will develop effective instructional strategies through the integration of teaching and technology; and
5. The learner will design reading and literacy instruction in the content areas that will enable all students to reach educational goals and achievements.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

This course occurs in a digital learning environment designed with a module format. Students must be able to access this format. Students will also need to use Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, and access Google Drive.

Instructional Methods

This course occurs in a digital learning environment designed with a module format. Modules will be open for 2-3 weeks. Module activities and assessments can be completed using collaborative or partner grouping. Discussions and reflection will also be used. Students will be exposed to Mini/Pocket Lectures, Cooperative Groups, Online Meetings/conferencing/breakout room meetings, and partner activities in an effort to provide instructional practice examples and models of teaching appropriate for the K-12 grade levels.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

- 1. REQUIRED READING:** Students are required to read the chapters in the syllabus. In doing so, students will be more prepared to engage in the content and assignments covered in the course.
- 2. EXPECTED HOURS OF OUTSIDE WORK:** For each 3-hour course, expect to spend 3-6 hours per week in reading, assignments, and projects.
- 3. WRITTEN WORK:** All work turned in must be typed, 12 pt. font, double spaced when turned in. All references must be cited in APA 7th edition format.
- 4. PARTICIPATION and PROFESSIONALISM:** Students are expected to attend online meetings/classes (when possible), if they cannot attend, a recording of live class sessions will be provided (be sure to watch these recordings). Students are also expected to participate in class discussions (via Discussion Board), communicate with the instructor, attend online office hours when help is needed, and collaborate with peers on group assignments. Students should represent themselves in a professional manner and treat their peers and instructor with respect. Remember, your work/assignments and interactions with others represent you!

How the Course is Organized

Required virtual learning sessions are scheduled at the beginning of each module. The majority of the learning is asynchronous. There are online resources for each major assignment in D2L--there are links to supplementary readings and handouts for class activities. Students should print these out or have access to them when needed. Google Slides, PowerPoint or Prezi slides, will cover the main points of the assigned reading chapters and interactive activities and videos are also provided for each week. Links to these can be found by going to "Content" and "Chapter/Course Notes" in D2L.

Find each Assignment link by clicking on the appropriate link on the left navigation bar, which will then reveal the Assignment link below it. The online instructions provide step-by-step directions for how to accomplish the assignment, links to sample papers and other resources such as report templates, and links to rubrics and checklists that will be used to assess the assignment. Please review these instructions and all associated documents carefully before beginning your assignments. **Complete instructions for all written assignments are included in D2L, also with the scheduled for the date the assignment is due.** Also, check weekly agendas and the Course Calendar for due dates.

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

This document is a guide. The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change*.

Assessments/Assignments

- 1) Discussions and Quizzes** After reading the required chapters for each module, students are asked to join discussion threads and take quizzes. Students must provide substantive responses that indicate that they fully understand the topic. Students are encouraged to share their experiences and perspectives related to each topic. The quizzes indicate some understanding of the content from the reading, Powerpoints, and videos. SLOs: 1,5,6
- 2) Performance Project/Task (PPs)** Each module includes PPs that show understanding of the course topics. PPs include projects like writing literacy histories, instruction strategies to use to cover content, and analyzing textbooks. SLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4
- 3) Content Area Resource Anthology (CARA)** The final performance project is a content area resource anthology compiling what has been learned during the semester. Students will select a topic important to their teaching, then research the information. Evidence of both online and print resources must show the knowledge gained in the explored topic. SLOs: 1, 2, 5

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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

This document is a guide. 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 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 firmly believes students need feedback as soon possible after an assignment is turned in. The instructor will make sure to begin grading all quizzes and assignments and giving feedback as soon as possible after the due date. Any items turned in early will not be graded until after the due date. For the projects (presentations, demonstrations) the instructor will need two weeks to complete the evaluations. Please email your professor at any time if there are questions or concerns about grading.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY

PROCEDURES/POLICIES 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.

1. **ATTENDANCE** is monitored by your viewing and completion of content in D2L (This can be monitored by your professor—we can see your login activity). **Participants are expected to participate actively and constructively. Your attendance and**

participation will impact your grade, particularly if you are on the borderline of a grade. Contact the instructor (via email) if you anticipate any issues that will interfere with your participation in the course and give the reason explaining the situation. This is a common courtesy that is expected by all professors. It is also part of forming that "community of learners" that we need in our online environment. We are trying to encourage professional development and life-long learning skills. Remember: **Class activities and group discussions cannot be made up;** therefore, reinforcing the idea that participation and communication is important.

This document is a guide. The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change*.

Confused on an assignment? **CHECK THE MODULE AGENDAS** and D2L first. You are responsible for obtaining class materials/assignments/notes and being prepared. If you are unable to make an optional live class meeting, it is your responsibility to watch the recording of the video, and get the necessary materials and assignments from a designated class member. I will assign you to a buddy (or two). You can then exchange telephone numbers and e-mail with him/her. By exchanging information, your buddy agrees to "catch you up" and explain any class materials/assignments/notes. It is your responsibility to contact your buddy for this information.

2. **LATE WORK** must be turned within a week of the student's return to daily activities from illness to earn credit. Check D2L for agenda to see what you have missed. If work is late and is unexcused, a late penalty will be deducted (10%) for each day (up to 5 days).
3. **MISSED QUIZZES/TESTS** Students will only be allowed to make up missed quizzes if they inform the instructor of the reason for their missed submission and have a written excuse. If a late submission is not submitted and is unexcused, students may take the quiz/test and earn a maximum of 70% (70 points out of 100).
4. **Scholarly Expectations:** All works submitted for credit must be original works created by the scholar uniquely for the class. It is considered inappropriate and unethical, particularly at the graduate level, to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor. Work submitted at the graduate level is expected to demonstrate critical thinking skills and be of significantly higher quality than work produced at the undergraduate level. In addition, all assignments turned in should have gone through the editing process. In addition, all work should go through the writing/editing process.
5. **Plagiarism is a BIG DEAL.** Plagiarism of writings and/or other materials in any form will result in a grade of "F" for the course and WILL result in your dismissal from the program. Please cite your references carefully and consistently!

Plagiarism: Plagiarism **WILL NOT** be tolerated and will result in an automatic **F** in the course. Various versions of your work and final papers may be run through Turnitin software - this is not meant to "catch" you in the act, but rather assist you in seeing possible areas that may be unintentionally plagiarized and allow for editing your work.

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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/studentGuid_ebook.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/generallnformation/attendance.aspx>

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

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty>

[Formold.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

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Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

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/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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](#) 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 East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903- 886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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

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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.



COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Schedule for Spring 2026

Module topics/dates are tentative and subject to change

Module 1 - 21st Century Literacy

Module 2 – Organizing for Teaching

Module 3 – Reading and Writing in the Content Areas

Module 4 – Creativity and Cultural Diversity

Module 5 – Evaluation and Assessment

