

READ 6010
The Teaching of Reading
Spring 2009 (online)

Instructors:

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Required Texts

Allen, J. (2000). *Yellow brick roads: Shared and guided paths to independent reading, 4-12*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse.

Reutzel, R. D., & Cooter, R. B. (2009). *Essentials of teaching children to read: The teacher makes the difference (2nd ed)*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Course Philosophy

Learning occurs in dialogue, with each person in the class (the course instructor included) as a teacher and learner. Each person should be depended on to share ideas, make feedback, offer suggestions, and otherwise take responsibility for the teaching and learning that occurs in this course.

This course is about teaching students how to read—with fluency, with purpose, with understanding, with confidence, with a sense of pleasure, and with a critical eye. Given the importance of literacy in today's society and in an individual's life, I can think of no more important subjects than those covered in this course.

Course Overview

In this course, you will

- explore your own literacy
- read and respond to professional literature
- be a co-learner in acquiring knowledge of reading development and instruction
- reflect on your learning

Course Prerequisites:

- Reasonable proficiency with computer, including using email and word processing programs
- UGA MyID
- Frequent and reliable access to computer in order to complete the course to satisfaction of the instructor. If you lack access to a computer with a high speed internet connection, it is highly recommended that you defer taking this course until you have access or take the on-campus section.

Course Requirements:

Completion of Eight Modules (see each module for point distributions)

Grading Scale: 94-100=A 90-93=A- 86-89=B+ 81-85=B 77-80=B-
Below 77 is a C+ or lower.

Modules

This course is divided into eight modules. You have approximately two weeks to complete each module. Please be sure to keep checking the WebCT calendar or the syllabus for due dates, when a module begins and ends, etc. A module will be closed at 9:00 p.m. on the final day. Any assignments submitted after the module closes will not receive credit.

Course Readings

Although the assignments will vary from module to module, one assignment will remain consistent in all eight modules: the course readings. The course readings are based upon readings of your textbooks (and occasionally on readings of articles, which will be specifically mentioned in that module).

For the course readings in each module, you are expected to do the following:

- (1) Post an initial response to the readings *at least two days before the module closes*. As a ballpark estimate, the minimum length for this response should be 300-400 words, but you are welcome to write more. Your response should be based off of the guiding questions that will be posted for that module. Your response should be substantive, drawing from specific examples and from the main ideas in the readings. Additionally, you can draw from your teaching experiences, from your readings in other courses you've taken, or from other sources. Feel free to challenge or extend any ideas that you encounter.
- (2) Post a response to somebody else's response to the reading, due by the date that the module closes. This response should be 200-300 words at a minimum. This response, too, should be supported by the course readings, by your personal experiences, by other people's comments, or by other readings you have done.

A Word on Netiquette

Use good "netiquette":

- Check the discussion frequently so that your responses are timely and on the topic
- Focus on one subject per message and use titles that are self-explanatory
- While disagreement is fine, avoid judgment comments that may be taken personally
- Include quotes, references, page numbers, and sources whenever possible
- Vague or general comments may be interpreted as a sign that you haven't read the material.
- Humor is fine but can be misinterpreted without face-to-face cues.

Course Content:

MODULE	DATES 2009	TOPICS	READINGS
	January 5	Orientation	
1	January 8 to Thursday January 22	Living the Professional Life	R&C-1 A-1, 13
2	January 23 to Thursday February 5	Views of Readiness, Motivation, and Read-Alouds	A-2, 3, 4
3	February 6 to Thursday February 19	Phonemic Awareness and Phonics	R&C-2
4	February 20 to Thursday March 5	Vocabulary and Fluency	R& C-3 R&C-4
5	March 6 to Tuesday March 24 (Spring Break)	Shared Reading and Guided Reading	A-5, 6
6	March 25 to Tuesday April 7	Independent Reading and Assessment; Select Additional Reading for Module 8	A-7, 8, 11 R & C-6
7	April 8 to Tuesday April 21	Comprehension, Content-Area Literacy; Critical Literacy	R & C-5 A-9, 10
8	April 22 to Tuesday May 5	Course Synthesis; Special Interest Readings	
	Friday May 8	Final Reflection Due Course Evaluation	

NOTE: There are many helplets at the WebCT homepage when you have difficulties.

Technology Helplet

Created by Rachel J. Pinnow, 2002; updated 12.04.04

[How do I post to the Discussions area in WebCT?](#)

[How do I post to an individual folder in the Discussions area of WebCT?](#)

[How do I post a document I composed in Word into a message in WebCT?](#)

[How do I download an attached file in WebCT?](#)

[How do the links operate in this course?](#)

Posting to the Discussions area of WebCT

The WebCT "Discussions" area is made up of many "folders". Each of these folders has been strategically named according to the title of your module. Thus, make sure that you post your assignment to the correct folder.

To post to the Discussions area:

1. Click on the word "Discussions" on the Navigation bar to your left. This will take you to the Discussions area.
2. Once you are inside the "Discussions" area, click on "Compose Discussion Message". This will take you to the compose message screen.
3. When composing a message to be posted to the Discussions area, first choose your **topic**. *Please be mindful* as choosing the incorrect topic area will post your message to the incorrect discussion area, which may result in lost participation points.
4. After choosing your topic, type in your **subject**.
5. Now simply place your cursor in the blank "message" screen and begin typing.
6. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you have already typed your message or document in Word (or a similar program) and simply want to copy it into the message box, all you must do during this step is copy your document in Word, place your cursor inside the 'message' box, **right click** your mouse and choose "paste".

Posting to an individual folder in WebCT

You can post to any discussion folder by entering that folder (just click on it) where you will be given the exact same message posting screen as in the 'compose' option. If you would rather enter into a folder in order to post your information, simply click on the title of the folder and post according to the instructions above.

Posting a message in Discussions area of WebCT via an original Word document:

All students are encouraged to type their documents in Word first in order to preserve spelling and grammar integrity of written documents.

If you have already typed your message or document in Word (or a similar program) and want to copy it into the message box, copy your document in Word, place your cursor inside the WebCT 'message' box (either in the Discussions area or a folder), **right click** your mouse, choose **paste** and this will copy your Word document into the message window. Now click on WebCT's "post" option at the bottom of the page to post your message.

Downloading an attachment in WebCT

1. Click on the discussion message with the attached file that you want to access.
2. Once the message opens, click on the **large paper clip** with the words "**See attached**".
3. Next, click on the **small circle** to the left of the file title then click on the "**Download**" button.
4. Your computer will then ask you where you want to save the document, so all you need to do is direct the file where you want it saved.

Links

Please note that all links leading to web sites *outside* of this course will open in new browser windows. However, links that are *internal* to this course will open in the same browser window or in a WebCT browser window.