

ELA-930 – Successful Independent Reading

Independent Study Online Course Syllabus

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Number of Graduate Semester Units: 3 units
Target Audience: 4th - 12th grade teachers
Course Access: <https://connect.fresno.edu>

Course Description

Independent reading can be a dynamic and powerful experience that will help your students become more proficient readers! In this class you will learn about engaging readers, building motivation, creating a reading community, encouraging accountability and developing critical readers all through independent reading. You will explore and design an effective and supportive independent reading structure for your classroom. Get ready to be inspired and encouraged by the readings and the learning opportunities for you and your students! This is an online, standards based course that meets CCSS and NCTE standards.

Note: Required textbooks must be acquired separately.

Textbooks and Course Materials

Required Textbooks:

- Atwell, N. & Merkel, A. (2016). *The Reading Zone: How to Help Kids Become Passionate, Skilled, Habitual, Critical Readers*. (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Scholastic. ISBN-13: 978-0-545-94874-6.
- Miller, D. & Moss, B. (2013). *No More Independent Reading Without Support*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann. ISBN-13: 978-0-325-04904-5.

Optional Reading:

- Marinak, B. & Gambrell, L. (2016). *No More Reading for Junk: Best Practices for Motivating Readers*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann. ISBN-13: 978-0-325-06157-3.

Note: Students are responsible for purchasing their own textbook, analyzing the content, and applying what they learned to the course assignments. You are welcome to purchase used, ebook, or new versions to save money. You can order the book directly from the publisher or from one of several discount aggregators (for example): <http://books.nettop20.com>

Online Resources: Relevant online resources that support the course content and encourage further investigation will be available throughout the course assignments. Active hyperlinks are

utilized throughout the course and will link to the appropriate information when clicked. These include videos, podcasts, worksheets, online activities, journal articles and other resources.

Canvas: This course will be delivered totally online. Canvas is a web-based learning management system (LMS) that provides students access to online resources, documents, videos, assignments, quizzes, forums, etc. Canvas is easy to learn and has a user-friendly interface.

Course Dates

Self-paced; students may enroll at any time and take up to one year, from the date of registration, to complete assignments. Students may complete assignments in no less than three weeks for a 3-unit course (one week per unit).

National Standards Addressed in This Course

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)

(<http://www.nbpts.org/standards-five-core-propositions/>)

First published in 1989 and updated in 2016, [*What Teachers Should Know and Be Able to Do*](#) articulates the National Board's Five Core Propositions for teaching. The Five Core Propositions - comparable to medicine's Hippocratic Oath — set forth the profession's vision for accomplished teaching. Together, the propositions form the basis of all National Board Standards and the foundation for National Board Certification. Course assignments have been designed so students can demonstrate excellence against these professional teaching standards whenever possible.

- Proposition 1: Teachers are committed to students and their learning
- Proposition 2: Teachers know the subject they teach and how to teach those subjects to students
- Proposition 3: Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning
- Proposition 4: Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience
- Proposition 5: Teachers are members of learning communities

Common Core State Standards (CCSS) (www.corestandards.org)

The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy. College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade span.

Common Core Language Arts Standards addressed in this course include:

- Reading for Literature (RL): K-8, 9-10, and 11-12
- Reading for Information (RI): K-8, 9-10, and 11-12
- Writing (W): K-8, 9-10, and 11-12
- Speaking and Listening (SL): K-8, 9-10, and 11-12
- English Language Arts Standards (L): K-8, 9-10, and 11-12

National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Standards

This course specifically addresses the following standards established by the National Council of Teachers of English. <http://www.ncte.org/>

1. Students read a wide range of print and non-print texts to build an understanding of texts, of themselves, and of the cultures of the United States and the world; to acquire new information; to respond to the needs and demands of society and the workplace; and for personal fulfillment. Among these texts are fiction and nonfiction, classic and contemporary works.
3. Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).
4. Students adjust their use of spoken, written, and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.
5. Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.
6. Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions (e.g., spelling and punctuation), media techniques, figurative language, and genre to create, critique, and discuss print and non-print texts.
7. Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions, and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate, and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and non-print texts, artifacts, people) to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience.
8. Students use a variety of technological and information resources (e.g., libraries, databases, computer networks, video) to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge.
11. Students participate as knowledgeable, reflective, creative, and critical members of a variety of literacy communities.
12. Students use spoken, written, and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion, and the exchange of information).

Continuing Education Program Student Learning Outcomes

CE 1	Demonstrate proficient written communication by articulating a clear focus, synthesizing arguments, and utilizing standard formats in order to inform and persuade others, and present information applicable to targeted use.
CE 2	Demonstrate comprehension of content-specific knowledge and the ability to apply it in theoretical, personal, professional, or societal contexts.
CE 3	Reflect on their personal and professional growth and provide evidence of how such reflection is utilized to manage personal and professional improvement.
CE 4	Apply critical thinking competencies by generating probing questions, recognizing underlying assumptions, interpreting and evaluating relevant information, and applying their understandings to the professional setting.
CE 5	Reflect on values that inspire high standards of professional and ethical behavior as they pursue excellence in applying new learning to their chosen field.
CE 6	Identify information needed in order to fully understand a topic or task, organize that information, identify the best sources of information for a given enquiry, locate and critically evaluate sources, and accurately and effectively share that information.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for This Course

Student Learning Outcomes for This Course By the end of this course student will be able to:	National Standards Addressed in This Course*	Continuing Education Program Student Learning Outcomes Addressed**
1. Identify goals and objectives of independent reading in the classroom.	NCTE 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12 NBPTS 1-4	CE 1, 2, 4, 6
2. Identify key components of an effective independent reading plan and demonstrate a clear understanding of each component.	NCTE 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12 NBPTS 1-4	CE 1, 2, 4, 6
3. Explain how independent reading helps achieve Common Core State Standards (or other appropriate standards).	NCTE 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12 NBPTS 1-4	CE 1, 2, 4, 5, 6
4. Participate/collaborate in a professional community by sharing ideas and experiences regarding independent reading.	NCTE 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12 NBPTS 1-4	CE 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
5. Identify reading resources for students and teachers on the internet.	NCTE 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12 NBPTS 1-4	CE 1, 2, 4, 6
6. Develop techniques and strategies for building community, fostering intrinsic motivation, and developing critical reading skills through independent reading.	NCTE 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12 NBPTS 1-4	CE 1, 2, 4, 6
7. Reflect on understanding of independent reading and the process of developing an independent reading structure for the classroom.	NCTE 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12 NBPTS 1-4	CE 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

* Please refer to the section on **National Standards Addressed in This Course**

** Please refer to the section on **Continuing Education Program Student Learning Outcomes**

Topics, Assignments, and Activities

Module Title	Module Assignments and Activities	Points Possible for Each Assignment
Welcome Module	• Introduction video • Introduce yourself forum • Moodle online tutorial • Course syllabus	
Module 1 – Independent Reading – What are the goals?	• Read Foreword, Chapters 1 & 2: <i>The Reading Zone</i> • Read “What Really Matters when Working with Struggling Readers” (Allington) • Read “Literature – SOS!” (Rosenblatt) • Read “I’ve Got Research, Yes I Do” (Miller) • Donalyn Miller “Leading to Reading”	

Module Title	Module Assignments and Activities	Points Possible for Each Assignment
	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jggjvauQmYU 1.1 Discussion Forum: Initial Thoughts on Independent Reading	10 pts (1.1)
Module 2 – Selecting Reading Materials	- Read Chapter 3 <i>The Reading Zone</i> - Read “Levels or Labels” (Serafini) 2.1 Assignment: Create Reading Resources Template for Classroom/Students 2.2 Forum: Choice & Student Reading	50 pts (2.1) 10 pts (2.2)
Module 3 – Motivation	- Read <i>No More Reading for Junk (Optional)</i> - Read “Assessing Motivation to Read” (Gambrell, Malloy, Marinak & Mazzoni) - Read “Creating classroom cultures that foster reading motivation” (Gambrell) - Read “Promoting Reasons for Reading: Teacher Practices that Impact Motivation” (Guthrie) - Read “Assessing adolescents’ motivation to read” (Pitcher et al) (grades 7+) - Read “Elementary Reading Attitude Survey” (McKenna & Kear) (grades 1-6) 3.1 Assignment: Read and analyze how motivation is addressed in a reading program 3.2 Create “Motivation Profile” for students (via Google Form, etc) 3.2 Forum: Reflection on intrinsic and extrinsic motivation.	50 pts (3.1) 25 pts (3.2) 10 pts (3.3)
Module 4 – Building a Reading Community	- Read Chapter 4 <i>The Reading Zone</i> - Read Donalyn Miller “40 Books” and excerpt from The Book Whisperer - Donalyn Miller “Creating a Book Talking Culture” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6nV-aJe5gY - Donalyn Miller “Launching Independent Reading at the Beginning of the School Year” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnBx6IzfwHA 4.1 Assignment: Create a “book talk” element for your classroom and outline how you will incorporate book talks and build community. 4.2 Forum: Book Talk Resource Sharing	60 pts (4.1) 10 pts (4.2)
Module 5 – Accountability	- Read Chapter 5 <i>The Reading Zone</i> - Watch Donalyn Miller “The 40 Book Challenge” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnXK81q6MWE - Read: “Can Reading logs ruin reading for kids?” (Atlantic) - Read “On Reading Logs” (Scholastic) 5.1 Assignment: Create an outline for encouraging accountability	25 pts (5.1)

Module Title	Module Assignments and Activities	Points Possible for Each Assignment
	5.2 Discussion Forum "Reading logs and star charts"	10 pts (5.2)
Module 6 – Supporting Independent Reading	- Read <i>No More Independent Reading Without Support</i> - Read "Linking Strategic Literacy" (excerpt from Creating Lifelong Readers through Independent Reading – Moss & Young) 6.1 Assignment: Create a framework for reading conferences including schedules, questions, recordkeeping, and goal-setting for your students. 6.2 Forum: Reflection on supporting independent reading	25 pts (6.1) 10 pts (6.2)
Module 7 – Critical Reading	- Read Chapter 6, 7 and 8 <i>The Reading Zone</i> - Read excerpt <i>In the Middle</i> (Atwell) (optional) - Read "Reading Workshop 2.0" (Serafini) 7.1 Assignment: Outline 3 strategies for developing critical reading skills through independent reading. Identify how each strategy will reinforce critical reading skills and how you will assess. 7.2 Forum: Share ideas regarding critical reading	25 pts (7.1) 10 pts (7.2)
Module 8 – Online Resources and Standards	- Read Chapters 9 and 10 <i>The Reading Zone</i> - Read "Creating opportunities to read more so that students read better" (Gambrell) - Read "The Power of Pleasure Reading" (Wilhelm) - Read Common Core State Standards 8.1 Assignment: Reflection on the Standards 8.2 Assignment: Develop structure and framework for independent reading in the classroom. Create presentation for colleagues. 8.3 Forum: Final Reflection	60 pts (8.1) 100 pts (8.2) 10 pts (8.3)
Module 9 – Wrapping it Up	- Final Reflection Forum - Course Evaluation - Course Completion Checklist - Grade Request / Transcript Request	
TOTAL POINTS / HOURS		500 points

Grading Policies, Rubrics, and Requirements for Assignments

Grading Policies

- Assignments will be graded per criteria presented in the course rubrics.
- A = 90-100% and B = 80-89%, (anything below 80% will not receive credit.)
- The discernment between an A or a B letter grade is at the discretion of the instructor based on the quality of work submitted (see course rubrics).
- Coursework falling below a B grade will be returned with further instructions.

- All assignments must be completed to receive a grade and are expected to reflect the quality that teacher-training institutions require of professional educators. If completed assignments do not meet this standard, students will be notified with further instructions from the instructor.

Grading Rubrics

Grade	Percentage	Description	Rubric
A	90-100%	Excellent	Meets all course / assignment requirements with significant evidence of subject mastery and demonstration of excellent graduate level professional development scholarship.
B	80-89%	Very Good	Adequately meets criteria for all course/assignment requirements - demonstrates subject competency with very good graduate level professional development scholarship.
NC	Below 80%	Unacceptable	Does not meet the minimum criteria for all course/assignment requirements and demonstrated little, if any, evidence of acceptable graduate level professional development scholarship.

Writing Requirements

- **Superior:** Writing is clear, succinct, and reflects graduate level expectations. Clearly addresses all parts of the writing task. Maintains a consistent point of view and organizational structure. Include relevant facts, details, and explanations.
- **Standard:** Writing is acceptable with very few mistakes in grammar and spelling. Addresses most parts of the writing task. Maintains a mostly consistent point of view and organizational structure. Include mostly relevant facts, details, and explanations.
- **Sub-standard:** Writing contains noticeable mistakes in grammar and spelling. Does not address all parts of the writing task. Lacks a consistent point of view and organization structure. May include marginally relevant facts, details, and explanations.

Lesson Plan Requirements

- **Superior:** Instructional goals and objectives clearly stated. Instructional strategies appropriate for learning outcome(s). Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is clearly delineated and authentic. All materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson clearly listed.
- **Standard:** Instructional goals and objectives are stated but are not easy to understand. Some instructional strategies are appropriate for learning outcome(s). Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is present. Most materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson are listed.
- **Sub-standard:** Instructional goals and objectives are not stated. Learners cannot tell what is expected of them. Instructional strategies are missing or strategies used are inappropriate. Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is missing. Materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson are missing.

Discussion Forum Requirements

- **Superior:** Response was at least 1 page (3 fully developed paragraphs) in length. Thoroughly answered all the posed questions, followed all the assignment directions, proper grammar and no spelling errors. Language is clear, concise, and easy to understand. Uses terminology appropriately and is logically organized.

- **Standard:** Response was ½ to 1 page in length (2-3 fully developed paragraphs). Answered all the questions but did not provide an in-depth analysis, followed most of the assignment directions, proper grammar and no spelling errors. Language is comprehensible, but there a few passages that are difficult to understand. The organization is generally good.
- **Sub-standard:** Response was less than ½ page in length (1 paragraph). Did not answer all the required questions and/or statements or responses were superficial, vague, or unclear, did not follow the assignment directions, many grammar and spelling errors. Is adequately written, but may use some terms incorrectly; may need to be read two or more times to be understood.

Instructor/Student Contact Information

Throughout the course participants will be communicating with the instructor and their classmates on a regular basis using asynchronous discussion forums. A virtual office is utilized for class questions and students are provided with instructor contact information in the event they want to make email or phone contact. In addition, students are encouraged to email or phone the instructor at any time. Students will also receive feedback on the required assignments as they are submitted.

Discussion Forums

Participation is an important expectation of this course and all online courses. Online discussions promote reflection and analysis while allowing students to appreciate and evaluate positions that others express. While students may not be engaging with the same students throughout this course they will be expected to offer comments, questions, and replies to the discussion question whenever possible. The faculty role in the discussion forum is that of an observer and facilitator.

Coursework Hours

Based on the Carnegie Unit standard, a unit of graduate credit measures academic credit based on the number of hours the student is engaged in learning. This includes all time spent on the course: reading the textbook, watching videos, listening to audio lessons, researching topics, writing papers, creating projects, developing lesson plans, posting to discussion boards, etc. Coursework offered for FPU Continuing Education graduate credit adheres to 45 hours per semester unit for the 900-level courses. Therefore, a student will spend approximately 90 hours on a typical 2-unit course or 135 hours on a typical 3-unit course.

Services for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are eligible for reasonable accommodations in their academic work in all classes. In order to receive assistance, the student with a disability must provide the Academic Support Center with documentation, which describes the specific disability. The documentation must be from a qualified professional in the area of the disability (i.e. psychologist, physician or educational diagnostician). Once documentation is on file, arrangements for reasonable accommodations can be made. For more information and for downloadable forms, please go to <https://www.fresno.edu/departments/disability-access-education>.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

All people participating in the educational process at Fresno Pacific University are expected to pursue honesty and integrity in all aspects of their academic work. Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will be handled per the procedures set forth in the Fresno Pacific University Catalogue - <https://www.fresno.edu/students/registrars-office/academic-catalogs>

Technology Requirements

To successfully complete the course requirements, course participants will need Internet access, can send and receive email, know how to manage simple files in a word processing program, and have a basic understanding of the Internet. Please remember that the instructor is not able to offer technical support. If you need technical support, please contact your Internet Service Provider.

Getting Help with Canvas: If you need help with Canvas, please contact the FPU Help Desk by phone: (559) 453-3410 or email: helpdesk@fresno.edu. Help is available Mon-Fri 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Final Course Grade and Transcripts

When all work for the course has been completed, students will need to request their final grade by accessing the form at ce.fresno.edu/grade-request. Once the instructor receives the request and posts their final grade, students will receive an email communication from the University. Please allow at least two weeks for the final grade to be posted before you order your transcripts online.

University Policies and Procedures

Students are responsible for becoming familiar with the information presented in the Academic Catalog and for knowing and observing all policies and procedures related to their participation in the university community. A summary of university policies may be found on the university website at <https://www.fresno.edu/departments/registrars-office/academic-catalogs>.

Fresno Pacific University Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes Oral Communication: Students will <i>exhibit</i> clear, engaging, and confident oral communication – in both individual and group settings – and will critically <i>evaluate</i> content and delivery components.
Written Communication: Students will <i>demonstrate</i> proficient written communication by <i>articulating</i> a clear focus, <i>synthesizing</i> arguments, and utilizing standard formats in order to <i>inform</i> and <i>persuade</i> others.
Content Knowledge: Students will <i>demonstrate</i> comprehension of content-specific knowledge and the ability to apply it in theoretical, personal, professional, or societal contexts.
Reflection: Students will <i>reflect</i> on their personal and professional growth and <i>provide evidence</i> of how such reflection is utilized to manage personal and vocational improvement.
Critical Thinking: Students will <i>apply</i> critical thinking competencies by <i>generating</i> probing questions, <i>recognizing</i> underlying assumptions, <i>interpreting</i> and <i>evaluating</i> relevant information, and <i>applying</i> their understandings to new situations.
Moral Reasoning: Students will <i>identify</i> and <i>apply</i> moral reasoning and ethical decision-making skills, and <i>articulate</i> the norms and principles underlying a Christian world-view.
Service: Students will <i>demonstrate</i> service and reconciliation as a way of leadership.
Cultural and Global Perspective: Students will <i>identify</i> personal, cultural, and global perspectives and will employ these perspectives to <i>evaluate</i> complex systems.
Quantitative Reasoning: Students will accurately <i>compute</i> calculations and symbolic operations and <i>explain</i> their use in a field of study.
Information Literacy: Students will <i>identify</i> information needed in order to fully understand a

topic or task, *explain* how that information is organized, *identify* the best sources of information for a given enquiry, *locate* and critically *evaluate* sources, and accurately and effectively *share* that information.