

ELA-907: Finding the Balance in Early Literacy

Independent Study Online Course Syllabus

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

Course Description

Finding the Balance in Early Literacy is a methods course designed to provide teachers of Preschool and Kindergarten with research-based theory connected to classroom application activities that will help provide success for their students in early literacy. Innovative teaching strategies and tools are provided that ensure a child-centered approach to early literacy. Activities are designed to provide direct connections to the Common Core State Standards in Language Arts and Preschool Learning Foundations. Activities address various learning styles and levels of understanding of young learners. A practice unit of study in the area of early literacy applies many of the teaching strategies described in the articles, guiding documents and literature into classroom activities. Built into the course requirements, are contacts between the course instructor and the student via phone or email. Accommodations have been made within course assignments for teachers to complete coursework with or without a classroom of students. Activities are presented for young learners to experience individually, in small learning groups, or with the whole class.

Note: Required book must be acquired separately.

Required Texts and Course Materials

Book: Classrooms That Work, They Can All Read & Write by Pat Cunningham and Richard L. Allington 5th edition, (2010) ISBN-13: 978-0137048373 is the course textbook which contains suggested classroom activities and techniques for classroom application.
<https://www.amazon.com/Classrooms-that-Work-They-Write/dp/0137048378>

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.

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.

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) in Language Arts

Kindergarten/First grade - Assignments contained in this course are closely aligned to the Common Core State Standards in Language Arts. Go to: <http://www.corestandards.org/in-the-states> to see if your state has adopted the Common Core State Standards. If your state has not adopted these standards, use the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) found at: <http://www.ncte.org/standards> Kindergarten and First Grade teachers/students will make connections to activities included in this course to the following standards.

Continuing Education Student Learning Outcomes (CE-SLO)

CE-SLO 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-SLO 2	Demonstrate comprehension of content-specific knowledge and the ability to apply it in theoretical, personal, professional, or societal contexts.
CE-SLO 3	Reflect on their personal and professional growth and provide evidence of how such reflection is utilized to manage personal and professional improvement.
CE-SLO 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-SLO 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-SLO 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.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (C-SLO)

Student Learning Outcomes for This Course By the end of this course student will be able to:		National Standards Addressed*	CE-SLO Addressed**
C-SLO 1	identify, reflect on, and apply Preschool Standards, or Common Core State Standards in the areas of Early Literacy, Reading, and Writing for the grade level they are teaching		CE 4, 6
C-SLO 2	apply Best Practices and National Professional Teaching standards, through developmentally appropriate teaching strategies in their classroom.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	CE 4, 6
C-SLO 3	will apply critical thinking skills and create opportunities for their classroom students to apply critical thinking skills.		CE 1, 2, 3
C-SLO 4	will share knowledge gained in this course to other professionals in the field	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	CE 3, 5,
C-SLO 5	will reflect on their teaching	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	CE 5

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

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

Topics, Assignments, and Activities

Module Title	Module Assignments and Activities	Points Possible
Home Page	- Welcome Video - Course Syllabus - Policies and Procedures - Introduce Yourself Forum	
Module 1: Getting to Know the Standards	- Required Reading & Media-Module 1 1.1 Introduce Yourself Forum 1.2 Looking At Your Current Reading/Language Arts Program 1.3 How are the Reading Standards Designed to be Used? 1.4 Read Three Articles 1.5 Meet Some Experts 1.6 Discussing Your Learning 1.7 Instructor Contact #1	10 pts 20 pts 25 pts 30 pts 50 pts 25 pts 25 pts

Module Title	Module Assignments and Activities	Points Possible
Module 2: The Pedagogy of Teaching Reading	- Required Reading & Media-Module 2 2.1 Pedagogy of Teaching Reading 2.2 Reflecting On Your Learning #1	50 pts 25 pts
Module 3: Classrooms That Work, They Can All Read and Write	- Required Reading & Media-Module 3 3.1 Are We Speaking the Same Language 3.2 Chapter 1-Creating Classrooms That Work 3.3 Chapter 2-Creating Enthusiastic, Independent Readers 3.4 Chapter 3-Building the Literacy Foundation 3.5 Chapter 4&5-Fostering Fluency & Teaching Phonics and Spelling Patterns 3.6 Chapter 6-Building Vivid, Vital, and Valuable Vocabularies 3.7 Developing Thoughtful Comprehenders 3.8 Developing Ready, Willing, and Able Writers 3.9 Developing Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum 3.10 Assessment 3.11 Reflecting on Your Learning #2	25 pts 25 pts 25 pts 25 pts 25 pts 25 pts 25 pts 25 pts 50 pts 25 pts 100 pts
Module 4: The Gingerbread Man	- Required Reading & Media-Module 4 4.1 Inside Classrooms that Work 4.2 Making Connections to the Gingerbread Man Unit 4.3 Sharing Your Experiences	25 pts 100 pts 50 pts
Module 5: Applying Your Learning	- Required Reading & Media-Module 5 5.1 PowerPoint Presentation-Reading Program 5.2 Instructor Contact #2	100 pts 25 pts
Module 6: Looking At Early Literacy Programs	- Required Reading & Media-Module 6 6.1 Professional Learning and Development 6.2 Early Literacy Programs 6.3 Final Reflection Forum	50 pts 25 pts 20 pts
Course Wrap-up – Grading and Evaluation	- Final Reflection Forum - Course Evaluation - Course Completion Checklist - Grade Request / Transcript Request	
	TOTAL POINTS	1030 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	Percent	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. Includes 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. Includes 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 organizational 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.

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. 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.

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 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 and Handbook - <https://handbook.fresno.edu/graduate/academic-policies>

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 (FPU-SLO)

FPU-SLO 1	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.
FPU-SLO 2	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.
FPU-SLO 3	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.
FPU-SLO 4	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.
FPU-SLO 5	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.
FPU-SLO 6	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 worldview.
FPU-SLO 7	Service: Students will <i>demonstrate</i> service and reconciliation as a way of leadership.
FPU-SLO 8	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.
FPU-SLO 9	Quantitative Reasoning: Students will accurately <i>compute</i> calculations and symbolic operations and <i>explain</i> their use in a field of study.
FPU-SLO 10	Information Literacy: Students will <i>identify</i> information needed in order to fully understand a topic or task, <i>explain</i> how that information is organized, <i>identify</i> the best sources of information for a given enquiry, <i>locate</i> and critically <i>evaluate</i> sources, and accurately and effectively <i>share</i> that information.