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ENT 495.01: Integrating the Language Arts

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ENT 495 INTEGRATING THE LANGUAGE ARTS

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Course Purpose

This course is designed to help beginning and experienced teachers design lessons that integrate all the language arts--speaking, listening, reading, writing, viewing and visually representing. Teachers will learn strategies for engaging students as language learners and as critical, creative thinkers. Teachers will also learn how to design performance assessments that embody the curriculum standards and reflect best classroom practices.

Using best classroom practices and recent research from professional associations, such as NCTE, IRA, and ASCD, teachers learn to design and implement language curriculum in grades 5-12. The course provides teachers with experiences in cooperative learning groups, role playing, media, technology, readers' theater, creative drama, and other speaking/listening/viewing methods.

Course Objectives

To provide beginning teachers with the knowledge and experience with curriculum design and language development in the following:

- print and nonprint media and technology
- processes by which individuals acquire and develop language
- instructional resources to help students learn
- ways to design curriculum for students of different ages, abilities, and language backgrounds.

To provide beginning teachers with opportunities to practice and develop the following abilities:

- to organize students in cooperative learning groups for a variety of purposes in the classroom
- to guide students in whole class and small group discussions
- to help students use language in various registers--informal to formal
- to help students distinguish between effective and ineffective discourse
- to help students identify and weigh facts, implications, inferences, and judgments in spoken, written, and visual texts.

To develop in beginning teachers the following attitudes:

- a belief that students learn language and increase their power to use language by continuous use
- a willingness to help students as they develop control of language in a wide variety of situations
- to believe that all students are worthy of a teacher's attention and assistance
- a commitment to continued professional growth.

Course Topics

- lesson plans
- curriculum development
- cooperative learning
- creative drama
- language issues
- visual and media literacy
- standards, assessment and evaluation
- professional associations

Requirements and Assignments

1. Regular class attendance. Excessive absences are considered in the final grade.
2. Completion of daily assignments.
3. Participation in workshops, demonstrations, group work, presentations, and course evaluation.
4. Completion of major assignments:
 - designing and presenting a lesson on oral language (speaking & listening)
 - developing and presenting a language unit
 - designing and presenting a media literacy and literature lesson
5. Course evaluation

Course Texts

Required, choice, and optional texts will be presented on the first day of class.