

Course: EDUC 370/570 - Writing and Reading Together: Creating Literate Communities - **INTERNET**

Section: 79

Credits: 3

Description: What do you get when you add writing + reading + context? Answer: A literate community!
Who should take this class?
All teachers who understand that language is central to teaching and learning. Certainly language arts and reading teachers are welcome in this course. And we do encourage all K-12 teachers-both pre- and in-service to enroll. In addition, our former students have told us-and we agree-that this course works particularly well when it also includes teachers from various levels or from across the spectrum of subjects outside reading and language arts. From the convergence of disparate views and wide-ranging experience, we all gain something especially worthwhile! So we encourage those of you who are not teaching reading and writing to join: This class is for you, too.
Why reading and writing together?
Writing teachers who include reading in their curriculum know that such reading improves their students' writing. Reading increases language fluency, provides useful writing models, enlarges a students' worldview, enriches the imagination, and inspires the learning spirit!
Reading teachers who include writing in their curriculum understand how writing develops reading, and how reading develops writing. Each literacy process feeds the other. In addition to understanding the theory of reading and writing together, these teachers also have a sophisticated understanding of the practical ways in which writing can be used in the service of more effective reading.
Subject-area or content teachers who assign readings and then teach their students to use writing in order to learn that material are doing their students a great service. Students in these classrooms use writing as a vehicle for connecting with the course material, determining what they do and don't know about it, and discovering the range of possible responses from their classmates.

What will I learn that will help me fashion a truly literate community in my own school or classroom?

- Developing a fuller understanding of what literacy is (accounting for its manifold usefulnesses as well as its complexity in our lives)
- Exploring the two main modes of learning-reading and writing
- Realizing that reading and writing are greater together than separate
- Understanding the role of disciplines or subjects in reading and writing
- Finding ways to bring both reading and writing together in your curriculum
- Escaping obstacles and limitations to changing your teaching plans and practices in your school environment

What topics will be covered in this class?

- A brief history of reading/writing instruction
- Connecting skills with meaning (phonics, phonemic awareness, balanced instruction)
- Common myths of reading and writing instruction and practice

- Synergy of reading and writing together
- Building your classroom literacy community
- Reading and writing in the disciplines and professions

What about the computer requirements? What about my computer skills?

Our former online students tell us that if you have the proper equipment and Internet provider, then participating in class and completing your assignments is not a struggle. We've had many first-time online students.

Recommended Hardware

PC: Windows 95/NT4.0 or newer, Pentium 133Mhz Processor or faster.

*32 megabytes of system RAM

*Sound card and speakers

*Super VGA, 256-color

*56k bps modem

Macintosh: Power PC-based Macintosh computer running at 100 MHz or higher

*System 8.0 operating system or later

*24 megabytes of RAM with virtual memory turned on

*30 megabytes of available hard drive space

*Macintosh-compatible color monitor set to Thousands of Colors mode

*56K bps modem

NOTE: You must also have a RELIABLE Internet Service Provider - The internet is the ONLY way to access the course site, do the coursework, and communicate with the instructors.

When does the class meet? Do I have to be at a particular place at a particular time?

The beauty of this course is that it is asynchronous and completely online; that is, you may go online and complete your readings and assignments when it is convenient for you to do so any time during the week, so long as you meet the deadlines for the various elements of the class. We are mindful that you are all busy people. We do caution you, however, not to get so far ahead in the class as to lose the benefits of participating as a full member in this community.

What is my role as a member of this online course?

As a member of this class, you will be joining a semester-long learning community. A community in which you will be responding to one another's ideas and assignments electronically throughout the weeks of the class.

Instructor: Bobbie Stokes, PhD and Alice Randlett, PhD

Location: INTERNET**

Dates and Times: Starts: Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Ends: Friday, December 17, 2004

Limit: 20

Estimated Tuition: 3 credits - WI Undergraduate \$576.33

3 credits - WI Graduate \$950.34

Tuition reflects off-campus rate plus \$60 INTERNET fee.