

**EDSE 5004: LITERACY FOR ALL (Content Area Reading)**  
**Summer 2021: June 1 – August 6**

**Instructor:** Janelle Mathis, Professor  
**Class Location:** Online  
**Office:** Matthews Hall 206 P  
**Office Hours:** Virtual, Tuesday 12:00 to 3:00 or by appointment (Zoom or phone)  
**Communication:** Canvas Message or if emergency: Janelle.mathis@unt.edu

**Required Text:**

1. Gillis, V. R., Boggs, G., & Alvermann, D. E. (2017). *Content area reading and literacy: Succeeding in today's diverse classrooms (8<sup>th</sup> Ed.)*. Boston, MA: Pearson.
  - a. Other readings (chapters, journals, websites) will be found in the "Readings" section of each module.
  - b. Children's literature as requested, some online in media format

**Course Description:** This course was designed to help middle and secondary teacher education candidates, as well as practicing teachers in all teaching fields, increase and enhance students' learning. While there is a primary emphasis on learning from printed materials, learning effectively from all forms of text (visual media, audio, and so on) will be included. The course will build understanding of the importance and the process of recognizing and assessing the typically diverse population of classroom learners and using that information to scaffold learning and differentiate instruction. For each course topic, relevant theory and research will be provided, however, practical application of course material to your future or current classroom is emphasized. Areas studied will include literacy (basic, intermediate, and disciplinary), cognition and metacognition, readiness to learn, concept development, teaching within an instructional framework, content literacy, instructional scaffolding, writing as a tool for thinking, classroom assessment, text analysis, academic diversity and use of alternate resources to improve teaching and learning. Of key importance to the latter is adolescent and children's literature that not only teaches about reading but presents many contemporary issues for discussion and student reflection. Students of this course will explore and understand existing knowledge and theory regarding literacy in its many forms and apply that information to practical classroom situations.

Remember, literacy is more than reading print. We use a form of literacy in every class we take, every situation in which we engage daily. The ideas presented here are to support a diversity of forms of literacy – different modalities—within various disciplines. You are the expert in your content area so while literacy strategies are shared here along with some examples, it is up to you to apply these in unique ways to teaching in your area – music, art, history, science, math, health, physical education, English, journalism, etc.—or the areas of the teachers with whom some of you will mentor. I look forward to your creative thinking and to learning more about your various disciplines as well as the experiences you can share with our summer community in EDCI 4060.

**Technical Requirements:** Of course, you will need computer and Internet access as this course **cannot** be carried out on a smart phone. It is assumed that you have technology skills to work in Canvas, especially give that the past 1 ½ year has been Canvas centered. If you need assistance with ANY technical issues, contact the UNT Student Help Desk. Email: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu) Phone: 940-565-2324. Assistance with Canvas is usually quite quick and complete. I have to use their support at times and have been impressed!

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**Course Objectives: Upon completing the course, students will--**

1. Appreciate the value of an informed and reflective mindset about one's instructional decision-making.
2. Recognize and describe the impact of students' cognitive and metacognitive processing on thinking and learning.
3. Explain and apply to instructional decision-making an understanding of how reader, text, and context factors interact to affect the construction of meaning.
4. Delineate the distinctions among Basic literacy, Intermediate Literacy and Disciplinary Literacy.
5. Develop strategies to use to modify instructional approaches based on student abilities, needs, interests, and cultural characteristics (to include language differences), narrowing the gap between students' readiness to learn and the teacher's instructional goals.
6. Purposely incorporate purposefully chosen content area and disciplinary literacy strategies into instruction with the goal of creating self-regulated, independent and engaged learners.
7. Plan instruction which facilitates and scaffolds students' learning from text.
8. Develop an awareness of anti-biased and anti-racist instructional resources and strategies for implementing such as well as personal positionality awareness that impacts decision making.
9. Identify professional literature, technology resources, and literature created to engage young people related to being literate in his/her specific content area.
10. Choose and teach content vocabulary in ways that increase concept development and independent vocabulary learning.
11. Recognize, assess, and support students with exceptionalities in the content classroom.
12. Build an ongoing knowledge base of children's and YA literature that supports learning and discussion around significant relative issues.

**Course Structure:**

This course consists of seven learning modules. The structure for each module has been chosen specifically because it mirrors the structure of the Instructional Framework that good teachers use to plan their instruction. Therefore, each module contains the following five elements:

**1. MODULE PURPOSE**

An overview of the module. Research indicates that teachers and learners who understand and can articulate the purpose for engaging with content are more effective and goal-directed in their teaching/learning process.

**2. BEFORE READING (PREACTIVE PHASE): 9 points**

This activity which will focus your attention, activate your existing knowledge on the Module topic, and provide a comprehension purpose for reading and learning.

3. READINGS (INTERACTIVE PHASE)

The Readings Section will indicate which page numbers in which textbook you will read and study for each module. Certain modules will have online readings available to you in PDF form, or as a link to an external website. When you read, READ CLOSELY! What does this mean? It means you must read with a purpose in mind and you must read with an active stance-be engaged with the text. What can you USE in your future classroom? What do you agree or disagree with? What can you modify for your instructional purposes?

4. AFTER READING ACTIVITY or Discussion (REFLECTIVE PHASE): 14 points

After you complete the reading, you will have a brief assignment and/or a Discussion Board posting that will help you summarize and reflect on what you have learned. As a teacher, you will find it useful to build a network of peers with whom you can discuss and critique your practice. The Discussion Board is designed for you to start that process now.

5. CLASSROOM APPLICATION (REFLECTIVE PHASE): 25 points

This assignment will help you apply what you learned in the module to your future classroom. This is where students typically differentiate themselves as “A”, “B”, “C”, “D” or “F” students. These assignments require you to take what you have learned from the Module and put it to work for you as a teacher candidate. Effort and intelligent instructional decision-making are critical here if you want to do well in this course.

**Course Schedule  
June 1-August 6**

<b>REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS</b> <b>*Subject to change if in best interest of students</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (9 points each, 14.45% of Total)</b> In this section of each module there is a different Content Literacy Strategy designed to connect you to the topic in some way. These are the types of activities you should use with your own students to scaffold their understanding of material in your own classroom. Completing them will give you a chance to see what the strengths and weaknesses of the activities are and consider modifications to make each work more effectively in your discipline.	63

<b>DISCUSSION BOARD/AFTER READING ACTIVITIES (14 points each module, 22.48% of Total)</b> Sharing thoughts and ideas with other teachers is essential to your continued growth as an educator and is invaluable to your learning experience. Each module will provide specific instructions for these activities. *Modules 1, 5, and 7 have BOTH after reading activities and discussion board posts.	98
<b>CLASSROOM APPLICATION (25 points each, 40.14% of Total)</b> Each module will provide an opportunity for you to apply what you have learned to a hypothetical (or actual, if you are currently teaching) classroom setting which should simulate your desired future teaching context as closely as possible.	175
<b>FINAL EXAM (22.93% of Total)</b> To ensure your understanding of the material in this course and to prepare you to be successful on your TExES Exam, there will be a final exam which will test your knowledge and understanding of key concepts and objectives.	72
<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS</b> <b>ALL</b> assignments must be completed to earn an A in this course.	408

**PLEASE NOTE:** ALL assignments MUST be completed to earn an A in the course. Even if your points total to a percentage within the "A" range and an assignment is missing, you will earn a grade of "B."

**Changes may occur** as the course progresses and adjustments may need to be made regarding topics, readings, and/or assignment due dates. Rely on Canvas for specific assignment due dates/times. Reading assignments are on Canvas.

**Points will be deducted for all late work.** Do not wait until the last minute to post since technical errors are always possible but still result in late work. Personal issues will be handled on an individual case basis when I am contacted as I realize emergency issues can happen.

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date (11:59 pm)</b>	<b>Text Readings (Note there are numerous linked required readings/articles within Canvas throughout each Module. Some but not all are noted below.)</b>
Student Introduction	Tues: 6/1	
Response to Power Point on diversity, critical literacy, and literature as part of introduction	Wed/Thurs: 6/2,3	I will reference chapter 12 with certain pages assigned later in course.
Module 1— <i>Critical Issue in Adolescent Content Literacy: Before Reading</i>	Fri: 6/4	Chapter 1, pp. 1-21 “Adolescent Literacy” document
Module 1: Discussion Board	Mon: 6/7	
Module 1: Classroom Application	Thurs: 6/10	
Module 2— <i>Reading, Thinking, and Constructing Meaning: Before Reading</i>	Fri: 6/11	Chapter 1, pp. 22-33; Chapter 3, in particular pp. 75-78; Nine Essential Thinking Processes; 2 articles on disciplinary literacy
Module 2: Discussion Board	Mon: 6/14	
Module 2: Classroom Application	Thurs: 6/17	
Module 3— <i>Preparing Students to Read and Learn: Before Reading</i>	Fri: 6/18	Chapter 5; Article on individual content areas
Module 3: Discussion Board	Mon: 6/21	
Module 3: Classroom Application	Fri: 6/25	
Module 4— <i>Reading to Learn/Supporting Students’ Thinking Processes During Learning: Before Reading</i>	Mon: 6/28	Chapter 6; Article on Disciplinary Literacy/research
Module 4: Discussion Board	Thurs: 7/1	
Module 4: Classroom Application	Tues: 7/6	
Module 5— <i>Reflecting on Meaning/Making Learning Meaningful: Before Reading</i>	Fri: 7/9	Chapters 8 & 9
Module 5: Discussion Board	Mon: 7/12	
Module 5: Classroom Application	Thurs: 7/15	
Module 6— <i>Increasing Vocabulary and Conceptual Growth: Before Reading</i>	Fri: 7/16	Chapter 7
Module 6: Discussion Board	Mon: 7/19	
Module 6: Classroom Application	Thurs: 7/22	
Module 7— <i>Linguistic Diversity: Before Reading</i>	Fri: 7/23	Chapter Bloom’s Taxonomy and article on content area instruction and Els
Module 7: Discussion Board	Mon: 7/26	
Module 7: Classroom Application	Thurs: 7/29	
SPOT Evaluation	TBD	
Final Exam	Fri: 8/6	

## **Teacher Education & Administration Departmental Policy Statements:**

*UNT Career Connect:* All undergraduate students are expected to participate in "UNT Career Connect." Each student needs to set up a UNT e-portfolio for this purpose. As a UNT student engages in real-life, career-related experiences in curricular and/or cocurricular settings, s/he should upload documentation of these experiences into his/her UNT e-portfolio. Course instructors will help students identify appropriate experiences and accompanying documentation/artifacts for inclusion in the e-portfolio. Through their respective e-portfolios, students are able to make connections across their student experiences and reflect upon their learning and skills in order to prepare them with marketable skills for careers and graduate degrees. The e-portfolio also serves as a useful device for future job interviews. Career Connect places emphasis on important job skills such as communication, teamwork, and critical thinking. For students seeking teacher certification, these on-the-job skills will be evaluated during student teaching using the North Texas Appraisal of Classroom Teaching (NTACT) or its successor instrument. Follow this link to learn more and to set up your personal e-portfolio:  
<http://careerconnect.unt.edu/default>.

*Disabilities Accommodation.* "The University of North Texas complies with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The University of North Texas provides academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities, as defined under the law. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please see the instructor and/or contact the Office of Disability Accommodation at 940-565-4323 during the first week of class."

*Observation of Religious Holidays.* If you plan to observe a religious holy day that coincides with a class day, please notify your instructor as soon as possible.

*Academic Integrity.* Students are encouraged to become familiar with UNT's policy on Student Standards of Academic Integrity:  
[http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student\\_Affairs-Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf). Academic dishonesty, in the form of plagiarism, cheating, or fabrication, will not be tolerated in this class. Any act of academic dishonesty will be reported, and a penalty determined, which may be probation, suspension, or expulsion from the university.

*Acceptable Student Behavior.* Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of

Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>.

*Attendance.* See the instructor's attendance policy.

*Eagle Connect.* All official correspondence between UNT and students is conducted via Eagle Connect and it is the student's responsibility to read their Eagle Connect Email regularly.

*Cell Phones and Laptops.* Students should turn off cell phones when they are in class unless the phones are being used for learning activities associated with the course. Similarly, laptops should be turned off, unless they are being used to take class notes and/or participate in class activities.

*SPOT.* The Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is expected for all organized classes at UNT. This brief online survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class.

*Collection of Student Work.* In order to monitor students' achievement, improve instructional programs, and publish research findings, the Department of Teacher Education and Administration collects anonymous student work samples, student demographic information, test scores, and GPAs to be analyzed by internal and external reviewers.

*Comprehensive Arts Program Policy.* The Elementary Education program area supports a comprehensive arts program to assist preservice and inservice teachers to design and implement curricular and instructional activities which infuse all areas of the arts (visual, music, theater, and movement) throughout the elementary and middle school curriculum.

*Technology Integration Policy.* The Elementary, Secondary, and Curriculum & Instruction program areas support technology integration to assist preservice and inservice teachers to design and implement curricular and instruction activities which infuse technology throughout the K-12 curriculum.

*TEXES Test Preparation.* To meet state requirements for providing 6 hours of test preparation for teacher certification candidates, the UNT TEXES Advising Office (TAO) administers the College of Education TEXES

Practice Exams. Students who want to take a practice exam should contact the TAO (Matthews Hall 103). Students may take up to two exams per session that relate to their teaching track/field at UNT. Students should also plan accordingly, as they are required to stay for the entire testing period. Current students must meet the following criteria in order to sit for the TExES practice exams: Students must (1) be admitted to Teacher Education, (2) have a certification plan on file with the COE Student Advising Office, and (3) be enrolled in coursework for the current semester. For TExES practice exam information and registration, go to: <http://www.coe.unt.edu/texas-advising-office/texas-exams>. If you need special testing accommodations, please contact the TAO at 940-369-8601 or e-mail the TAO at [coe-cao@unt.edu](mailto:coe-cao@unt.edu). The TAO website is [www.coe.unt.edu/texas](http://www.coe.unt.edu/texas). Additional test preparation materials (i.e. Study Guides for the TExES) are available at [www.texas.ets.org](http://www.texas.ets.org).

*"Ready to Test" Criteria for Teacher Certification Candidates.* Teacher certification candidates should take the TExES exams relating to their respective certification tracks/teaching fields during their early-field-experience semester (i.e. the long semester or summer session immediately prior to student teaching).

*Six Student Success Messages.* The Department of Teacher Education & Administration supports the six student success messages on how to succeed at UNT: (1) Show up; (2) Find support; (3) Get advised; (4) Be prepared; (5) Get involved; and (6) Stay focused. Students are encouraged to access the following website: <https://success.unt.edu>. The site contains multiple student resource links and short videos with student messages.

## **College of Education Policies and Procedures which Govern this Course**

### **Student Responsibilities for Distributed Learning Courses**

1. Be able to work independently on course objectives, given the format for interaction with faculty and students will be nontraditional.
2. Access course web page or initiate contact with instructor prior to 3rd class day.
3. Verify appropriate hardware and software as described in the course description.
4. Provide instruction with access to a working email account (Eagle mail, WebCT or private provider).
5. Contact instructor or instructor assistant within two days if any problems develop in accessing the course.



6. Adhere to communication parameters of course (i.e., email, discussion, chat). It is best if you check in daily to see if there are any announcements or important information given.
7. Complete WebCT tutorial prior to taking the first WebCT course.
8. Comply with appropriate electronic etiquette and abbreviations.
9. Acquire all necessary software and books.
10. Complete all course requirements by posted deadlines.
- \*\*\*11. Students should maintain electronic copies in chronological order of ALL discussion board responses, lesson plans, and other assignments listed on the Course Due Date list on the home page of this course. It is the responsibility of the student to verify that all messages AND attachments sent within Canvas are in their personal Canvas outbox. All assignments which are to be considered for credit must be sent through Canvas. Assignments sent through sources outside of WebCT WILL NOT be considered for credit. Assignments posted less than one week AFTER the due date listed on the WebCT calendar are eligible for one-half of the assignment points indicated in the "Assessment/Points/Grading Scale" section of this syllabus.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

The University of North Texas does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's disability and complies with Section 504 and Public Law 101-336 (Americans with Disabilities Act) in its admissions, accessibility, treatment and employment of individuals in its programs and activities. A copy of the College of Education ADA Compliance Document is available in the Dean's Office, Matthews Hall 214. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

### **Collection of Student Work**

In order to monitor student achievement, improve instructional programs, and publish research findings, the Department of Teacher Education and Administration collects anonymous student work samples, student demographic information, test scores, and GPAs to be analyzed by internal and external reviewers.

### **Technology Integration**

The Curriculum and Instruction program supports technology integration to assist preservice and inservice teachers to design and implement curricular and instruction activities that infuse technology throughout the K-12 curriculum.

### **Master's Program**

Student's seeking admission to the Secondary Post Baccalaureate Master's Program must secure acceptance into that program. Acceptance criteria for this program DIFFER from that of the Certification only Program. A total of 36 hours of prescribed coursework and acceptable Graduate Record Exam scores (GRE) are examples of additional requirements for admission the Secondary Post Baccalaureate Master's Program.

### Important Notice for F -1 Students

To read INS regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to this website

<http://www.immigration.gov/graphics/services/visas.htm> and select the link to "8 CFR 214.2(f)" in the table next to "F-1." Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G) A Final Rule with clarifications on the restriction can be found in a pdf file located at

<http://www.immigration.gov/graphics/lawsregs/fr121102.pdf>

Within this document, refer to Section IX on page 9 with the subject header "Online and Distance Education Courses."

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course. If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Advising Office. The UNT International Advising Office has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Advising Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email [international@unt.edu](mailto:international@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

### University Policy Statements



Improving the quality of education in Texas schools and elsewhere is the goal of programs for the education of educators at the University of North Texas. To achieve this goal, programs leading to teacher certification and advanced programs for educators at the University of North Texas 1) emphasize content, curricular, and pedagogical knowledge acquired through research and informed practice of the academic disciplines, 2) incorporate the Texas Teacher Proficiencies for learner centered education, 3) feature collaboration across the university and with schools and other agencies in the design and delivery of programs, and 4) respond to the rapid demographic, social, and technological change in the United States and the world.

**The educator as agent of engaged learning** summarizes the conceptual framework for UNT's basic and advanced programs. This phrase reflects the directed action that arises from simultaneous commitment to academic knowledge bases and to learner centered practice. "Engaged learning" signifies the deep interaction with worthwhile and appropriate content that occurs for each student in the classrooms of caring and competent educators. "Engaged learning" features the on-going interchange between teacher and student about knowledge and between school and community about what is worth knowing. This conceptual framework recognizes the relationship between UNT and the larger community in promoting the commitment of a diverse citizenry to life-long learning. In our work of developing educators as agents of engaged learning, we value the contributions of professional development schools and other partners and seek collaborations which advance active, meaningful, and continuous learning.

Seeing the engaged learner at the heart of a community that includes educators in various roles, we have chosen to describe each program of educator preparation at UNT with reference to the following key concepts, which are briefly defined below.

1. **Content and curricular knowledge** refer to the grounding of the educator in content knowledge and knowledge construction and in making meaningful to learners the content to the PreK-16 curriculum.
2. **Knowledge of teaching and assessment** refers to the ability of the educator to plan, implement, and assess instruction in ways that consistently engage learners or, in advanced programs, to provide leadership for development of programs that promote engagement of learners.
3. **Promotion of equity for all learners** refers to the skills and attitudes that enable the educator to advocate for all students within the framework of the school program.
4. **Encouragement of diversity** refers to the ability of the educator to appreciate and affirm formally and informally the various cultural heritages, unique endowments, learning styles, interests, and needs of learners.
5. **Professional communication** refers to effective interpersonal and professional oral and written communication that includes appropriate applications of information technology.

6. **Engaged professional learning** refers to the educator's commitment to ethical practice and to continued learning and professional development.

Through the experiences required in each UNT program of study, we expect that basic and advanced students will acquire the knowledge, skills, and dispositions appropriate to the educational role for which they are preparing or in which they are developing expertise.

A broad community stands behind and accepts responsibility for every engaged learner. UNT supports the work of PreK-16 communities through basic and advanced programs for professional educators and by promoting public understanding of issues in education.

*Ethical Behavior and Code of Ethics.* The Teacher Education & Administration Department expects that its students will abide by the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators (Chapter 247 of the Texas Administrative Code [www.sbec.state.tx.us](http://www.sbec.state.tx.us)) and as outlined in Domain IV: Fulfilling Professional Roles and Responsibilities of the Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES); and as also addressed in codes of ethics adopted by professionals in the education field such as the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

*Submitting Work.* All assignments will be submitted via Canvas. Assignments posted after the deadline will be considered late and points will be deducted from the final grade.

*Grading and Grade Reporting:* Grading rubrics for all assignments can be found on the course Canvas website with the assignment. Students are encouraged to review the grading rubrics to guide them in successfully completing all assignments.

*Writing Policy.* Teachers are judged on the accuracy of everything they write, whether it is a letter to parents or an email to a principal or a worksheet for students. Your written products – including, but not limited to, papers, lesson plans, and emails – should include appropriate and accurate spelling, grammar, punctuation, syntax, format, and English usage. You should expect that all assignments will be evaluated on these writing skills, in addition to any other expectations of a particular assignment. The UNT Writing Lab (Sage Hall 152) offers one-on-one consultation to assist students with their writing assignments. To use this resource, call (940) 565-2563 or visit <https://lrc.unt.edu/labs/unt-writing-lab-home>.