

**EDCI 4060 Content Area Reading in Secondary Schools  
Spring 2018**

**Instructor:** Jeannette L. Ginther, Ed.D.  
**Class Location:** Online  
**Office:** Matthews Hall 204F  
**Office Hours:** **Tuesday** 11:00am – 2:00pm  
**Wednesday** 9:30am – 12:30pm  
**Also available:** By appointment/phone call  
**Email:** [jeannette.ginther@unt.edu](mailto:jeannette.ginther@unt.edu)

**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. Students will explore and understand existing knowledge and theory regarding literacy in its many forms and apply that information to practical classroom situations.

**Communication:**

The official manner of communication outside of class meetings and office hours will be by email to [jeannette.ginther@unt.edu](mailto:jeannette.ginther@unt.edu) (NOT through Blackboard). *Note: Emails sent during evening/weekend hours may not be addressed until the next business day.*

**Technical Requirements:**

Hardware and software necessary to use Blackboard Learn: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk>  
Browser requirements: <http://kb.blackboard.com/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=84639794>  
Computer and Internet Literacy: [http://clt.odu.edu/oso/index.php?src=pe\\_comp\\_lit](http://clt.odu.edu/oso/index.php?src=pe_comp_lit)  
Necessary plug-ins: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/>  
Internet Access with [compatible web browser](#)  
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

**Required Text:**

Gillis, V.R., Bogs, G.L. & Alvermann, D. (2016). *Content Reading and Literacy: Succeeding in Today's Diverse Classrooms* (8th Ed.) Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Appreciate the value of an informed and reflective mindset about one's instructional decision-making.
2. Describe and express 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. Analyze and assess the match or mismatch between students' readiness to learn and the teacher's instructional goals, and select instructional approaches to yield optimum learning.
6. Incorporate content literacy strategies into instruction with the goal of creating self-regulated, independent learners.
7. Plan instruction which will facilitates and scaffolds students' learning from text.
8. Incorporate content-relevant texts and other resources as teaching/learning tools.
9. Identify professional literature and technology resources 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. Purposefully choose and incorporate selected content literacy and disciplinary literacy strategies into his/her instructional-decision making.

**Course Structure:**

This course consists of seven learning modules. Each module contains the following five elements:

1. MODULE PURPOSE
2. BEFORE READING (PREACTIVE PHASE)
3. READINGS (INTERACTIVE PHASE)
4. AFTER READING ACTIVITY (REFLECTIVE PHASE)
5. CLASSROOM APPLICATION (REFLECTIVE PHASE)

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS	Points
<p><b>BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (10 points each)</b></p> <p>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.</p>	70 pts
<p><b>AFTER READING ACTIVITIES/DISCUSSION BOARD POSTS (15 points each)</b></p> <p>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.</p>	105 pts
<p><b>CLASSROOM APPLICATIONS (25 points each)</b></p> <p>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.</p>	175 pts
<p><b>FINAL EXAM (100 points)</b></p> <p>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.</p>	100 pts
<p><b>TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS</b></p> <p>ALL assignments must be completed to earn an A in this course. Even if your total points exceed 400, if an assignment is missing, you will earn a B.</p>	450 pts

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE: ALL ASSIGNMENTS are subject to changes at ANY time. This course syllabus is intended to be a guide and may be amended as needed. ALL assignments must be submitted into Blackboard on the designated due date. \*\***

**Grading:**

400 – 450 = A  
 350 – 399 = B  
 300 – 349 = C  
 250 – 299 = D  
 0 – 249 = F

**Course Schedule:**

**Changes may occur** as the course progresses and adjustments may need to be made regarding topics, readings, and/or assignment due dates. Check Blackboard for specific assignment due dates/times. Reading assignments will be announced during class and/or on Blackboard. **Upload all assignments as a PDF. Points will be deducted for ALL late work.**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date (by midnight)</b>
<b>Student Information Survey</b>	<b>8/28</b>
Module 1: Before Reading	8/28
Module 1: After Reading/Discussion Board	9/3
Module 1: Classroom Application	9/10
<b>Module 2: Before Reading</b>	<b>9/11</b>
<b>Module 2: After Reading</b>	<b>9/17</b>
<b>Module 2: Classroom Application</b>	<b>9/24</b>
Module 3: Before Reading	9/25
Module 3: After Reading	10/1
Module 3: Classroom Application	10/8
<b>Module 4: Before Reading</b>	<b>10/9</b>
<b>Module 4: After Reading</b>	<b>10/15</b>
<b>Module 4: Classroom Application</b>	<b>10/22</b>
Module 5: Before Reading	10/23
Module 5: After Reading	10/29
Module 5: Classroom Application	11/5
<b>Module 6: Before Reading</b>	<b>11/6</b>
<b>Module 6: After Reading</b>	<b>11/12</b>
<b>Module 6: Classroom Application</b>	<b>11/19</b>
Module 7: Before Reading	11/20
Module 7: After Reading	11/26
Module 7: Classroom Application	12/3
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>TBD</b>

## **College of Education Policies and Procedures that 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 Blackboard Learn are in their personal Blackboard Learn outbox. All assignments which are to be considered for credit must be sent through Bb Learn. 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.

### **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. Please contact Dr. Pamela Esprívalo Harrell for additional information about 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

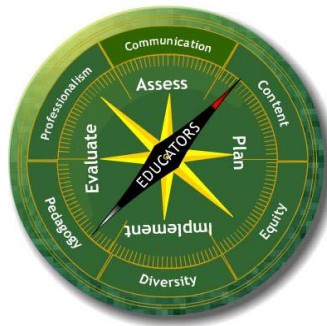
approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course. If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility 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 and Department Policy Statements:**



### ***The Educator as Agent of Engaged Learning:***

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 of 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 Blackboard Learn. 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 Blackboard Learn 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://ltc.unt.edu/labs/unt-writing-lab-home>.

### **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 co-curricular 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." Dr. Barbara Pazey is the compliance officer and contact person for the Department of Teacher Education & Administration.

*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.

*Foliotek e-Portfolio.* Foliotek is a free to you software data management system (MMS) used in the assessment of your knowledge, skills, and dispositions relevant to program standards and objectives. You will be required to use your Foliotek account for the duration of your enrollment in the College of Education in order to upload required applications, course assignments, and other electronic evidence/evaluations as required. This course may require assignment(s) to be uploaded and graded in Foliotek. The college of Education will track your progress in your program through this data to verify that you have successfully met the competencies required in your program of study. All students must register in the program portfolio that aligns with their degree plan. Registration codes and tutorials can be found on this site: <https://www.coe.unt.edu/office-educator-preparation/foliotek>.

*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-tao@unt.edu](mailto:coe-tao@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.