

**Teaching Reading in the Elementary and Middle School
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey – Graduate School of Education
Summer 2014. Course 15:299:516
3 Credits**

Instructor: Susan Dougherty	Email: susan.dougherty@gse.rutgers.edu
Phone Number 908-450-7523 (email is the preferred and most reliable way to reach me)	Office: 205C, Graduate School of Education
Office hours: Virtual (in the eCollege Live Chat Room): By appointment (Send an email to set up a day/time)	Prerequisites or other limitations: Must possess initial teacher certification in order to take the online section of this course.
Mode of Instruction: <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture <input type="checkbox"/> Seminar <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Permission required: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Directions about where to get permission numbers: from the Office of Academic Services in the GSE

Learning Goals:

By the end of this course, each student should be able to:

- Articulate a philosophy of literacy instruction that emphasizes the interactive and integrative nature of language and builds upon these connections when creating learning opportunities.
- Demonstrate knowledge and skills that are needed for creating and implementing a literacy curriculum using small and large group work, collaborative learning, conferencing, and individual work based on professional standards.
- Identify, plan, and design literacy instruction based on students' needs, developmental progress, learning styles and prior knowledge.
- Identify and understand the characteristics, uses, advantages, and limitations of different types of assessments for evaluating how students learn, what they know and are able to do, and what kinds of experiences will support students' growth and development.
- Critically reflect on his/her teaching and learning.
- Identify and use available resources and materials for instructional planning.
- Articulate how educational research can be used as a means for continuous learning and development.

Course catalogue description:

Emphasizes integrated language arts approach to literacy learning in grades three through eight. Connections between reading, writing, and oral language addressed. Reviews strategies to integrate literacy learning with instruction in the content areas.

Office Hours: Online by appointment

Course Website

eCollege site: <https://ecollege.rutgers.edu/index2.jsp>

Required Texts

- Tompkins, G. E. (2009). *Literacy in the middle grades: Teaching reading and writing to fourth through eighth graders* (2nd ed.). Boston: Pearson. (ISBN: 978-0132348492)
- One children's or young adult novel published since approximately 2010
- One professional book from a list provided by the instruction to be used for your professional discussion group (PDG)
- Additional course materials, supplied in the form of pdf files and video available online.

Course Overview

This course serves as an introduction to the teaching of literacy in the upper elementary and middle school. The major focus of the course will be literacy instruction in grades 3 through 8 with some discussion of literacy learning at other levels. We will focus on general classroom instruction, but always with an eye to how to support students who struggle with reading and writing tasks.

Course Goals and Objectives

By the end of this course, each student should be able to:

- Articulate a philosophy of literacy instruction that emphasizes the interactive and integrative nature of language and builds upon these connections when creating learning opportunities.
- Demonstrate knowledge and skills that are needed for creating and implementing a literacy curriculum using small and large group work, collaborative learning, conferencing, and individual work based on professional standards.
- Identify, plan, and design literacy instruction based on students' needs, developmental progress, learning styles and prior knowledge.
- Identify and understand the characteristics, uses, advantages, and limitations of different types of assessments for evaluating how students learn, what they know and are able to do, and what kinds of experiences will support students' growth and development.

- Critically reflect on his/her teaching and learning.
- Identify and use available resources and materials for instructional planning.
- Articulate how educational research can be used as a means for continuous learning and development.

Course Organization

This course is organized into ten sections:

Module 1 is designed to introduce you to the course and to the various technologies that will be used throughout the semester. You will have the opportunity to introduce yourself to your classmates and to begin to make connections with those who have similar interests and goals for the course.

Module 2 “sets the stage” for discussing literacy instruction in grades 4-8. You will learn about research, theory, and educational standards (both state and national) that guide teaching at this level.

Modules 3 – 8 make up the majority of the course. Within this section of the course, you will take a close look at effective instruction in various literacy domains including comprehension, vocabulary, fluency and word study. You will also examine issues related to differentiation and critical literacy.

Module 9 gives special attention to the materials and instructional programs that can be used to teach literacy or require literacy skills (e.g. textbooks). Here you will consider how to best use the materials available to teachers at this level. You will also consider the types of instructional support needed to ensure success in the reading and writing texts required in content area classes (e.g. science class or math class.)

Module 10 will be your creation. It is here that you will share with your classmates what you have learned about a particular aspect of literacy instruction. You will work with a group of classmates to create a “webinar” based on a common focal text that you have selected.

Course Policies

Technology Policy

In order to make the most of your online learning experience, there are several technical requirements you will need to fulfill. Refer to the guidelines at the following website to help ensure your online success: <https://ecollege.rutgers.edu/technicalreq.jsp>.

Throughout the semester, you will be using various online programs and tools. Many of these are Web 2.0 tools that are found on free, public websites. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the appropriate technology capabilities to successfully complete assignments and activities.

Rutgers University does provide technology assistance for programs like eCollege, and I am also available to assist you whenever I can.

Murphy's Law states, "Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong." Computers crash. Internet access can be limited during a thunderstorm. All of these issues cannot prevent you from submitting assignments on time. My advice to you is:

- Aim to complete all assignments one day early. This way you have one more day to get to the library or a friend's house if the worst happens. You'll also have time to contact me and notify me of any problem. I will always respond to you within 24 hours, however, if you only have 2 hours to submit the assignment there is no guarantee I will get your message in time.
- Be sure your computer is in good working order. If it has any problems or issues you want to make sure those are ironed out BEFORE the course begins.
- Be sure to arrange access to a 2nd computer. This could be your own; this could be the computer lab or a friend's home computer. Technical glitches are not excuses for late work.
- Test the websites you are assigned to use as soon as you receive the assignment. Our e-College course website may work at your place of business; however, you may find that later in the course a social networking site is filtered (not accessible from your place of business). Some sites don't work on older computers while others don't work on newer computers. Videos may not play. Security settings may need to be checked. It only takes a moment to click around and try this out.
- Keep usernames and passwords in a safe place. Since we'll be accessing various sites, you'll have several different places where you'll need login credentials. Keep these in a safe place so that they cannot be lost or stolen.
- Create back-ups. You should always have two copies of your work. Copying your file to a USB drive and deleting the original is not a back-up. The USB drive can fail too. You should save your work in several places, keeping all files until the course is complete. It may not be going too far to say that important work should be stored online as well as locally. I always recommend saving often as you work, too. I find it helpful to save different versions of the assignment, so that if the version I am working on at the moment "crashes," I can return to an earlier version and not have to start all over with a blank page. While unlikely, lost data can really set you back in this course.
- Double-check work. Make sure assignments are uploaded and posts are submitted.

- Get phone numbers. Some of our work will be in groups and group work may require chat sessions or other synchronous meetings. If you encounter a technical problem, you'll want to be able to have phone numbers for a back-up means to connect.

Netiquette

Please remember that communicating online should not be any different from when you communicate in a face-to-face class. Although some of your writing assignments do allow for less “academic” and more informal conversations, please refrain from using Internet slang, abbreviations, and acronyms. We cannot assume that everybody understands them. All communications should be courteous and professional. There are a number of online resources that highlight good netiquette. Please become familiar with them. I'm sure that they will also be helpful with your own students. You might want to start with the 10 Best Rules of Netiquette and The Core Rules of Netiquette. (Links available on our eCollege site).

Grading Policy & Turning in Assignments

Assignments are due as indicated on the course schedule. The syllabus, course schedule, and due dates can be found on our class eCollege website. You are responsible for knowing what the due dates are. Unless arrangements are made in advance of the due date, late assignments will not be accepted. Please note that you will be responsible for any weekly information that is posted on eCollege. I will do my best to post any updates and notices by 11 pm each Wednesday evening. If I need to communicate any urgent information and/or class changes to you, I will also follow these postings with an email.

Some of your assignments require you to post information onto our class eCollege site or our class Thinkfinity group. I will be regularly visiting these sites, so please make sure all comments and responses are posted by their due dates. Major assignments are to be submitted to the dropbox on the eCollege site by their due date. If there is a problem with the eColleges site or the dropbox, you should submit your assignment to the following email address:
susan.dougherty@gse.rutgers.edu.

Participation Policy

Your active participation in this course is vital to the course and to your learning. Your colleagues and I depend on you to share your load of reading for meaning, participating in online discussions, giving feedback to your peers, sharing how you connect readings to classroom experiences, and so on. You are expected to participate in a variety of ways throughout the semester, and your various assignments and projects will incorporate participation as part of their grade. In summary, however, you will be expected to do the following:

All modules will be posted several days before you will be expected to begin working on them. Log into our eCollege site at least three times a week to keep updated on assignments, group activities, peer discussions, etc.

Participate in online discussions on our eCollege website and/or our Thinkfinity group to illustrate your understanding of weekly readings and how they connect to your own lives. Meet deadlines for assignments so that you can keep on track, make steady progress throughout the course, and provide feedback to your peers in a timely manner.

Academic Integrity Policy

You can find the Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students at the following site: <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>. You are responsible for understanding and adhering to the policy. Please pay particular attention to the information provided on Cheating, Fabrication, and Plagiarism. Also, please become familiar with copyright laws and the Internet.

Confidentiality: When discussing classroom situations during course sessions, do so carefully. Mask the name of a student on any written or visual work shared in class or used in an assignment. When discussing teaching practices you have observed in the field, be mindful of maintaining a tone of professional courtesy. Under no circumstances (whether in class or in casual conversation with friends) should you relate stories from classrooms or schools that may be embarrassing to teachers or students or that include sensitive information about a child or family.

Assignments & Grading

Online Discussions/Chats (30%)

Multimedia Book Talk (20%)

Lesson Plan (20%)

Professional Development Group Presentation (30%)

Grading Scale

A = 90% and above

B+ = 87 – 89.9%

B = 80 – 86.9%

C+ = 77 – 79.9%

C = 70 – 76.9%

D = 60 – 69.9%

F = below 60%

Grading Summary

A = Outstanding work

B = Good work

C = Satisfactory work

D = Poor work

F = Failing work

Assignment Details (Additional information will be available as the assignment due date approaches)	
<p>Online Discussions</p> <p>Your participation and collaboration are necessary in the effectiveness of this course. In order to fully develop your understanding of the ideas and concepts reviewed in the modules, you will be participating in online discussions with the members in your small group on a regular basis (typically one discussion per module). In these discussions, you will construct responses to given topics and reply to the posts of the members in your group. These discussion topics will require you to not only demonstrate your understanding of the required readings, but to take that information and reflect on how it relates to your personal experiences with education, as well as the society around you. Although requirements for online discussions may differ per module, the following are the general criteria I will be looking for in your responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your initial discussion posts should be approximately 250-500 words; responses to the members in your small group should be approximately 100 words. • Discussion posts should be supported by your readings and properly cited using APA format. • All posts and responses to posts should be completed by the due dates that appear below in this syllabus. • All responses should clearly and adequately answer the entire discussion prompt. • It is not advisable to use postings such as “I agree,” “I don’t know either,” “ditto,” etc. These types of responses take up space and do not add anything substantial to the conversation. It is important to know that such responses will not be counted for assignment credit. • Respect each other’s ideas, feelings and experience when posting responses. • Remember to avoid Internet slang and overly informal language (see course policies). 	30%
<p>Multi-Media Book Talk</p> <p>You will read a text appropriate for use in grades 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 and create a multi-media book talk based on the text. The book should be new to you and published within the past 5 years (unless special arrangements have been made). You will then create a multi-media book talk (using MovieMaker, PowerPoint, iMovie, etc) of approx 5 – 10 minutes in length that could be used to encourage students in grades 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 to read the book themselves. You will post your multimedia book talk for your classmates to review. You will view the book talks of your classmates and will post feedback for at least three of them.</p>	20%

<p>Lesson Plan The Lesson Plan assignment requires you to develop a lesson that teaches some aspect of fluency, vocabulary, or comprehension. Be sure to cite course readings to provide a rationale for the target of instruction and the method that you will use. A lesson plan format will be provided along with further instructions. You will review the lessons of at least three of your classmates and offer feedback.</p>	20%
<p>Professional Development Group presentation This assignment will require each of you to select a professional text to study (from a list of titles supplied by your instructor). Groups will be formed based on interest and you will have the opportunity to engage in dialogue with classmates who are reading different texts that address the same aspect of literacy instruction. Towards the end of the semester, you will collaborate with these classmates to create a multi-media webinar to share what you have learned with others. You will view/participate in webinars created by classmates and will provide critiques of the instruction.</p>	30%

Anticipated Schedule for the Semester

Week	Topic & Guiding Questions	Readings	Due
Week 1 A	MODULE 1: Introduction	<p>Tompkins – Chapter 1</p> <p>Steinkuehler, C. (2010). Video games and digital literacies. <i>Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy</i>, 54(1), 61-63.</p> <p>Rowell, J., & Kendrick, M. Boys’ hidden literacies: The critical need for the visual. <i>Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy</i>, 56(7), 587-599.</p> <p>Curwood, J. S., Magnifico, A. M., & Lammers, J. C. (2013). Writing in the wild: Writers’ motivation in fan-based affinity spaces. <i>Journal of Adult and Adolescent Literacy</i>, 56(8), 677-685.</p>	<p>Introduce yourself on eCollege & respond to at least three other classmates’ introductions</p> <p>Discussion Forum Post: Respond to the Steinkuehler article AND the Rowell & Kendrick or Curwood articles & read and respond to the ongoing discussion.</p> <p>Select text for Multimedia Book Talk assignment</p>

			<p>(and get approval) and a professional development text (sign up on the Google doc)</p> <p>Create a Thinkfinity account and profile</p>
<p>Week 1 B</p>	<p>MODULE 2: Readers and Writers in Grades 4-8</p> <p>Literacy development: Expectations for readers and writers in grades 4-8.</p> <p>What does it mean to be literate?</p>	<p>Tompkins – Chapter 2</p> <p>Thinkfinity Tour http://thinkfinity.org/ (Click on “Take a Tour”)</p> <p>Group Member #1 article summary Alvermann, D.E. (2005). Literacy on the edge: How close are we to closing the literacy achievement gap? <i>Voices from the Middle</i>, 13, 8-14.</p> <p>Group Member #2 article summary Faggella-Luby, M.N., Ware, S.M., & Capozzoli, A. (2009). Adolescent literacy—Reviewing adolescent literacy reports: Key components and critical questions. <i>Journal of Literacy Research</i>, 41, 453-475.</p>	<p>Discussion Forum Post (Tompkins Chapter 2) & read and respond to the ongoing discussion</p> <p>Group Members 1 & 2 post a summary of assigned article in Thinkfinity</p> <p>All group members read & respond to summaries by July 1st</p>

<p>Week 2 A</p>	<p>Struggling Readers in grades 3 and beyond</p> <p>Assessment & Evaluation of Upper Elementary & Middle School students</p>	<p>Tompkins – Chapter 3</p> <p>Group Member #3 article summary</p> <p>Blair, T., Rupley, W., & Nichols, W.D. (2007). The effective teacher of reading: Considering the “what” and “how” of instruction. <i>Reading Teacher</i>, 60, 432-438.</p>	<p>Discussion Forum Post (Tompkins Chapter 5)</p> <p>Group Member #3 post a summary of assigned article in Thinkfinity</p> <p>All group members read & respond to Member #3’s summary</p>
<p>Week 2 B</p>	<p>MODULE 3: Instruction in grades 4-8</p> <p>Fluency</p>	<p>Tompkins Ch. 6</p> <p>Group Member # 4 article summary</p> <p>Ash, G., Kuhn, M., & Walpole, S. (2009). Analyzing "inconsistencies" in practice: Teachers' continued use of round robin reading. <i>Reading & Writing Quarterly</i>, 25, 87-103.</p> <p>Group Member # 1 article summary</p> <p>Ivey, G., & Baker, M. I. (2004). Phonics instruction for older students? Just say no. <i>Educational Leadership</i>, 61(6), 35-39.</p>	<p>Discussion Forum Post (Tompkins Chapter 6) & read and respond to the ongoing discussion</p> <p>Group Member # 4 and Group Member #1 post summary of assigned article in Thinkfinity</p> <p>All group members read & respond to summaries</p>

<p>Week 3 A</p>	<p>MODULE 4: Instruction in grades 4-8</p> <p>Vocabulary</p>	<p>Tompkins Ch. 5</p> <p>Group Member # 2 Blachowicz, C. L. Z., Fisher, P. J. L., & Ogle, D. (2006). Vocabulary: Questions from the classroom. <i>Reading Research Quarterly</i>, 41(4), 524-539.</p>	<p>Discussion Forum Post (Tompkins Chapter 5) by July 9th & read and respond to the ongoing discussion</p> <p>Group Member #2 post summary of assigned article</p> <p>All group members read & respond to summaries</p>
<p>Week 3 B</p> <p>July 11th – July 15th</p>	<p>MODULE 5: Instruction in grades 4-8</p> <p>Comprehension</p>	<p>Tompkins Ch. 7 & Ch. 8</p> <p>Group Member #3 Pardo, L. S. (2004). What every teacher needs to know about comprehension. <i>Reading Teacher</i>, 58(3), 272-280.</p>	<p>Discussion Forum Post (Tompkins Chapter 7 & Ch 8) & read and respond to the ongoing discussion</p> <p>Group Member #3 post summary of assigned article</p> <p>All group members read & respond to summary</p> <p>Multimedia Book Talk due</p>

<p>Week 4 A</p>	<p>MODULE 6: Instruction in grades 4-8</p> <p>Writing</p>	<p>Tompkins Ch. 9</p> <p>(optional reading) Dean, M. (2009). Who killed A. N. Palmer? An examination of the decline of penmanship in America during the latter half of the 20th century. <i>Concord Review</i>, 18(4), 183-199.</p> <p>Group Member #4 Handsfield, L. J., Dean, T. R., & Cielocha, K. M. (2009). Becoming critical consumers and producers of text: Teaching literacy with web 1.0 and web 2.0. <i>Reading Teacher</i>, 63(1), 40-50.</p>	<p>Discussion Forum Post (Tompkins Chapter 9) by July 16th & read and respond to the ongoing discussion</p> <p>Group Member #4 post summary of assigned article</p> <p>All group members read & respond to the summary</p>
<p>Week 4 B</p>	<p>MODULE 7: Instruction in grades 4-8</p> <p>Differentiation</p>	<p>Tompkins Ch. 4</p> <p>Group Member #1 Dennis, D.V. (2009/2010). "I'm not stupid": How assessment drives (in)appropriate reading instruction. <i>Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy</i>, 53, 283-290.</p> <p>Group Member #2 Moon, T. R. (2005). The role of assessment in differentiation. <i>Theory into Practice</i>, 44(3), 226-233.</p>	<p>Discussion Forum Post (Tompkins Chapter 4) by July 19th & read and respond to the ongoing discussion by July 22nd</p> <p>Group Member #1 and #2 post summary of assigned article</p> <p>All group members read & respond to summaries</p> <p>Lesson Plan Due</p>

<p>Week 5 A</p>	<p>MODULE 8: Instruction in grades 4-8</p> <p>Critical Literacy/New Literacies</p>	<p>All students read: McLaughlin, M., & DeVoogd, G. (2004). Critical literacy as comprehension: Expanding reader response. <i>Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy</i>, 48(1), 52-62.</p> <p>Group Member #3 Barone, D., & Wright, T. (2008). Literacy instruction with digital and media technologies. <i>Reading Teacher</i>, 62, 292-302.</p>	<p>Discussion Forum Post (Tompkins Chapter 10) by July 23rd & read and respond to the ongoing discussion</p> <p>Group Member #3 post summary of assigned article</p> <p>All group members read & respond to summaries</p>
<p>Week 5 B</p>	<p>MODULE 9: Materials & Instructional Programs</p> <p>Trade books</p>	<p>Tompkins Ch. 10</p> <p>Group Member #4 Saul, E.W., & Dieckman, D. (2005). Choosing and using information trade books. <i>Reading Research Quarterly</i>, 40(4), 502-513.</p>	<p>Discussion Forum Post (Tompkins Chapter 10) by July 26th & read and respond to the ongoing discussion</p> <p>Group Member #4 post summary of assigned article</p> <p>All group members read & respond to summaries</p>
<p>Week 6 A</p>	<p>Text books</p>	<p>Tompkins Ch. 11</p>	<p>Discussion Forum Post (Tompkins Chapter 11) & read and respond to the ongoing discussion</p>
<p>Week 6 B</p>	<p>Literacy in the Content Areas</p>	<p>Tompkins Ch 12</p>	<p>Discussion Forum Post (Tompkins Chapter 12) & read and respond to the ongoing discussion</p> <p>Professional</p>

			Development Webinars Due
	MODULE 5: Extending Your Learning Webinar presentations		Participate in assigned webinars