

CATALOG YEAR _2010 -2011_____(Please use separate form for each add/change)

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Approvals: Chair Department Curriculum (Chair Department	Committee	Signa	ture Coronalo L. Breen		Date 8/11/10 8/11/10
Chair College Curriculum Com	mittee				8/11/10
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EDRD 6303

Current Trends and Issues in Literacy and Biliteracy Fall 2010

Hybrid Format: Online and Saturdays

August 28, Sept. 25, Oct. 23, & Nov. 20 (9:00 – 11:30 a.m.)

A Significant Amount of Online Work Will Be Required

Instructor: Dr. Cathy Guerra

Office: KL 416B

Office Phone: 326-2438
Email: cgsakta@tamiu.edu

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. or by appointment

Course Description

Recent research and development in theories and practices in the field of literacy and biliteracy will be explored and analyzed, as well as critical issues, including current policy and best instructional practice, using findings from psycholinguistic, sociolinguistic and multicultural research on the influence of social, cultural, political, and psycholinguistic factors that affect the development of literacy and biliteracy. Prerequisite: Doctoral standing.

Required Textbooks

Handbook of Research on Literacy and Diversity, Edited by Lesley Mandel Morrow, Robert Rueda, and Diane Lapp, 2009, Guilford Press.

Choice Words: How our Language Affects Children's Learning, Edition 1, by Peter H.Johnston, 2004, Stenhouse Publishers.

Course Objectives

Students will:

- Analyze recent trends in literacy curriculum and instruction in the U.S. and in different countries to identify and describe common factors and their influence on development of literacy of young L1 and L2 children.
- Describe and analyze social, political, and cultural issues related to the literacy education of young L1 and L2 children.
- Describe and analyze the difference between bilingualism and biliteracy.
- Create a model for literacy/biliteracy instruction based on current trends and issues in literacy education, theories and models of reading instruction, and best practices based on research.

Instructional Activities

 Students will write a professional position paper in which they discuss and elaborate on the "Rights of All Students to Quality Literacy Education," based on their analysis of literacy instruction in the U.S. and other countries and various social, political, and cultural issues relation to the literacy education of young L1 and L2 children.

- Create an education framework for literacy/biliteracy education based on current research in literacy
 education, and social, political, and cultural factors that impact the literacy development of young L1 and
 L2 children.
- Readings. Students will complete assigned readings and write an in-depth analysis based on the concepts discussed in class.
- Short Paper (3-5 pages). Students will write a paper in which they analyze, synthesize, or build on the course materials. The paper will include the following:

For one country, which has a majority and minority language. If the country you choose has more than one minority language, choose one minority language to focus on in your paper. For that country describe:

- The majority and minority language situation
- A brief history of the contact between the majority and minority language groups.
- A brief overview of the educational system, including the language(s) of instruction.
- Language policies toward the minority language group.
- Educational options for the language minority children.

Based on your analysis of your findings, what do you predict will happen to the language minority group, in terms of literacy in the majority and minority languages of the country? What recommendations do you have for improving the outlook for the minority language group?