

**College of Education  
Fall 2007**

**Department:** Language, Literacy, & Special Populations

**Course Number and Title:** Rdg. 275 Literacy as a Foundation for Learning

**Texts:** Ray, Wood, K. (1999) *Wondrous words: Writers and writing in the elementary classroom*. Urbana, IL: National Council of Teachers of English.  
*Write Source 2000*

**Instructor:** Dr. Betty Higgins                      Office Hours: M-F-8:00-9:30  
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TEC 111B    (936) 294-4836

Reading and Thursdays-Writing) with goal setting, vocabulary, mini-lessons, writing, reading, sharing. This class is intended to accomplish two goals: the acquisition of skills to instruct students in writing and to improve the individual writing of each candidate.

<b>Objectives/Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Activities/Performance Assessment</b>	<b>Standards <u>State Standards;</u> <i>IRA Standards</i> <b>NAEYC Standards</b></b>
Demonstrate knowledge of psychological, sociological, and linguistic foundations of reading and writing processes and instruction	Goal Setting for Reading and Writing Tests-midterm and final Reading Journal Writing Journal Process Papers	1.1 <b>Standard 1</b>
Use a wide range of instructional practices, approaches, and methods, including technology-based practices, for learners at differing stages of development and from differing cultural and linguistic backgrounds	Reading-novels and picture books Writing process activities Reading Journal Writing Journal Tests-midterm and final Minilesson presentation	2.2 <b>Standard 4b</b>
Use a wide range of curriculum materials in effective reading instruction for learners at different	Selection of novels Picture book share Minilesson presentation	2.3 <b>Standard 4b</b>

stages of reading and writing development and from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds		
Use students' interest, reading abilities, and backgrounds as foundations for the reading and writing programs.	Novel selection Picture book share Process papers	4.1 <b>4b</b>
Use a large supply of books, technology-based information, and non-print materials representing multiple levels, broad interests, and cultural and linguistic backgrounds	Novel selection Picture book share Poetry share	4.2 <b>4b</b>
Model reading and writing enthusiastically as valued lifelong activities	Picture book share Poetry share Writing Journal Reading Journal	4.3
Display positive dispositions related to reading and the teaching of reading	Minilesson presentations Sharing novel activities Picture book share Poetry share Attend professional development opportunity	5.1

Web Sites for Standards:

State Standards—[www.sbec.state.tx.us](http://www.sbec.state.tx.us)

IRA—[www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org)

[www.NAEYC.org](http://www.NAEYC.org)

### Course Requirements:

**A. Attendance.** Regular and punctual attendance is expected. Attendance demonstrates a level of responsibility and commitment that future employers like to see. Candidates will not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absence when assignments have not been missed. **However, more than three hours of absence will necessitate a drop of one letter grade in the final grade of each hour of absence.** Tardies and early departures are recorded. **Two early departures or tardies are the equivalent of one hour of absence.**

**B. Reading: (300 points)** You will select young adult novels and trade books, picture books and poetry from quality literature to read, respond to, and share and discuss in your literature circle. Candidates will read two full-length books, ten picture books, and five poems over the course of the semester. The professor will introduce possible choices for books, but candidates may select any book that meets the criteria for this portion of the class.

**C. Reading Journal. (100 points)** The candidates will keep a reading journal for the books they read. Through the journal entries, the professor will demonstrate various ways that reading journals can be kept. Candidates' responses should be more than just a summarizing of the book. You are expected to analyze, synthesize, and make connections between and among books and authors. One entry is required per week.

**D. Writing.**

**Journals: (100 points)** Candidates will write 16 journal entries for the course. The professor will supply a prompt each Thursday class period, but students may choose their own topic if they prefer to do so. Candidates will be expected to share their journal writing with their classmates and the professor.

**Process Papers: (200 points)** Candidates will take two papers through the complete writing process. You will turn in the finished paper along with all drafts, revisions, edits, and conference notes. Poetry may be included in a piece but may not stand alone as the finished product. Class time will be provided for some of the writing. Conferences with peers and the professor will occur during class time.

**Poetry: (75 points)** Candidates will write three poems during the semester. Candidates will choose the topics for all the poems; the professor will direct students through the style of poetry writing.

**E. Writing Notebook (50 points)** Candidates will maintain a separate three ring binder for a writing notebook that contains the following sections: Reading Journal, My Ideas for Writing, Works in Progress, Finished Pieces, and List of Pieces I Have Written. Please bring divider pages for each section. Candidates must have their writing notebooks in class each class period.

**F. Mini-Lessons: (50 points)** Candidates will work in small groups to present a mini-lesson to the class. The topics for the mini-lessons will be provided by the professor. Candidates will randomly draw for the topics. A lesson plan will be prepared for the mini-lesson.

**G. Goal Setting for Reading and Writing (10 points)** Candidates will participate in a goal setting activity during the first few days of class. Candidates will set at least two goals in reading and two in writing that they wish to accomplish during this course. Periodic review of the goals will be conducted, and candidates will respond in writing as to the progress they are making toward their goals.

**F. Tests: (200 points)** Two tests, a midterm and a final, will be given.

**G. Professionalism (25 points)** You are currently in a professional course of study which prepares you to be a responsible adult accountable to and for our priceless children, their parents, your colleagues, and administrators. This is not a responsibility that can be taken lightly. Your joyful and enthusiastic participation as well as a responsible attitude will be extremely important. The structure of this course necessitates that each learner take responsibility for his/her own learning. This will be evidenced by being in class,

participating, and staying on-task while in class. The professor will monitor participation and award 15 points for such professional behavior. The remaining 10 points can be earned by attending five hours of professional development.

Candidates will be asked to bring items for prompts as the professor directs. Some possible examples of items follow: a picture, a stuffed toy, an article of clothing, your favorite food.

**Evaluation:**

**Reading = 300**

**Reading Journal = 100**

**Writing Journal= 100**

**Process Papers = 200**

**Poetry = 75**

**Writing Notebook = 50**

**Mini-lesson = 50**

**Goal Setting = 10**

**Tests = 200**

**Professionalism = 25**

**Total Points = 1110**

**A = 92%-100% = 1021-1110**

**B = 85%-91% = 944-1020**

**C = 75%-84% = 833-943**

**D = 70%-74% = 777-832**

**Expectations:** A tentative calendar will be provided.

Late work: No late work may be submitted without prior approval of the professor. Five points will be deducted for each day passed the due date.

Cell phones: Please leave all cell phones off during class sessions. If a student is in an emergency situation and needs to have the phone on, please inform the instructor before class begins.

***STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY***

*Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.*

*University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.*

***DISABLED STUDENT POLICY***

*It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination*

*under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.*

IDEAS—The IDEAS objectives which will be stressed in this course are the following:  
Learning to apply course material to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions; Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course; and Gaining factual knowledge, terminology, classifications, methods, trends.