“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”
- William Butler Yeats

“I would like to advance an hypothesis that dialogue is the major means of developing thought and language.”
- James Moffett, Teaching the Universe of Discourse (1968), p. 73.

**Essential Questions**

1. What is English? What are the English language arts?
2. What are the most effective methods for teaching and learning the English language arts?
3. How do the instructional decisions we make impact the adolescents we teach?

**Objectives**

1. To develop teaching approaches and teacher behaviors for the language arts which promote student engagement and achievement.
2. To expand the personal philosophy of education to include a rationale for secondary English/language arts teaching and learning.
3. To place contemporary English education research theory into practice through classroom observation, peer teaching, secondary classroom teaching, and ongoing reflective thought.
4. To teach and learn in an environment where knowing is negotiated, distributed, situated, constructed, developmental, and affective.

**Required Texts**


**Suggested Resources**

Allen, Janet. *Words, Words, Words: Teaching Vocabulary in Grades 4-12.* York, ME: Stenhouse,
1999.


**Key Web Links**

Academy of American Poets  

Annenberg Media Teacher Resources  

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)  

CompPile: Inventory of Publications in Post-Secondary Composition  
[http://comppile.tamucc.edu/index.php](http://comppile.tamucc.edu/index.php)

International Reading Association  

Middle Web Curriculum Strategies & Links  

Moravian College Reeves Library Web Sites for Education  
[http://home.moravian.edu/public/reeves/books/web/edu.htm](http://home.moravian.edu/public/reeves/books/web/edu.htm)

Modern Language Association  
[http://www.mla.org/](http://www.mla.org/)
Assignments and Grading
Assignments are due as indicated below. Please note that unless a mutually agreeable revised due date is negotiated with the instructor, any late assignment will lose five percentage points for each calendar day it is late, and any assignment not submitted within two weeks of the due date will receive a “0.” It is within the instructor’s purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for a course. Day students who wish to disclose a disability and request accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for this course first MUST meet with either Mr. Joseph Kempfer in the Office of Learning Services or Dr. Ronald Kline in the Counseling Center. Comenius Center students who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Dean of the Comenius Center as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

1. Dialogic Discourse Diary 20%
   • E-mail one entry prior to each class session.
   • Connect prompt to readings and pre-student teaching field placement.

2. Young Adult Literature Author Book Talk 10%
   • Sign up to make a book talk presentation from 9/8 to 10/20.

3. Professional Journal Article Précis & Discussion 10%
   • Sign up to present a professional journal article from 9/8 to 10/20.

4. Integrated Language Arts Unit Plan 20%
   • Draft due for peer editing on 10/20.
   • Final Draft due on 10/27.

5. Unit Plan Reflective Critique 20%
   • Due 12/1.

6. Final Exam: Philosophy of English Education Paper 20%
   • E-mailed by 12/15.

Attendance
Due to the nature and structure of the seminar, attendance at each meeting is crucial. If you must miss a session, please call the instructor to explain. When an absence is unavoidable, a written response to the assigned readings must be submitted on or before the next regularly scheduled session. A missing or incomplete written
response to readings following an absence will reduce the final grade by five percentage points. More than two class absences or a pattern of late arrivals to class may, at the discretion of the instructor, result in a failing grade for the seminar. See Education Department Field Experience Handbook for field experience attendance guidelines.

**Academic Honesty**

You are encouraged, and in some instances, required to use conventional and on-line secondary source materials, but all work that you submit must be your own. Be certain to cite the sources that you used, and take care to avoid plagiarism, which the Moravian College Student Handbook defines as “the use, deliberate or not, of any outside source without proper acknowledgement” (52). Consult Writers Inc., The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, and the student handbook for more information on this topic. Note that academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment and notification of the Academic Dean, in accordance with Moravian College policy.

**Course Schedule**

Please note that while every effort will be made to follow the schedule indicated below, the syllabus is subject to change as the instructor deems necessary to help students meet the objectives of the course.

**August 25:**

**Creating a Community of Language Arts Teachers and Learners**

**In-Class:** Overview of Seminar and Pre-Student Teaching Field Experience

Anticipation Guide

National Endowment for the Arts Reading at Risk Report June 2004

American Association of University Women Report May 2008


NCTE Membership

Overview of Seminar Assignments

**August 27th 6:30 p.m. in Prosser Auditorium: Mandatory Pre-Student Teacher Meeting with Mrs. Modjadidi**

**September 1:**

**NO CLASS: LABOR DAY**

**September 8:**

**Mentoring Confident Readers and Writers**

**Due:**


Fisher, Rothenberg & Frey, Chapter 1: “The English Language Learner: ‘My Life’s Path Is a Circle’”


YA Literature Selection for presentation on assigned date

Dialogic Discourse Diary Entry #1: As a secondary English language arts teacher, how might you go about building confidence in even your most reluctant readers and writers? What specific suggestions do this week’s readings provide?

**In-Class:**

YA Literature Book Talk #1


Writing from a Mentor Text: ‘The Saga of Ms. Blunderteach’

Minilesson: Bakhtin’s Internally Persuasive vs. Authoritative Discourse

Professional Journal Article Précis & Discussion Sign Up

Discussion of Readings, Discourse Diary, and Field Experience Preparation

**September 15:**

**Beginning the Pre-Student Teaching Field Experience**

**Due:**


Putz, Chapter 2: “Ready. Steady… Introducing the Project to Your Classes”

Fisher, Rothenberg & Frey, Chapter 5: “Focus on Fluency: More Than the Need for Speed”

Dialogic Discourse Diary #2: Comment upon your own strengths and weaknesses as you
prepare to enter the pre-student teaching experience. How do you plan to capitalize upon your strengths and address those areas where you don’t feel as well prepared? What new insights into the teaching of English did you gain from this week’s readings?

In-Class:
- YA Literature Book Talk #2 [Cisneros and “Eleven”]
- Mini lesson: NCTE/IRE and Pennsylvania Literacy Standards
- Professional Journal Article Précis & Discussion #1
- Discussion of Readings and Discourse Diary

Field:
- Observe, review requirements with cooperating teacher, set November unit topic

September 22: Facilitating Student Inquiry and Building Comprehension

Due:
- Beers, Chapter 4: “Explicit Instruction in Comprehension”
- Putz, Chapter 3: “Exploring, Recording, Imagining: The Research Process”
- Dialogic Discourse Diary #3: As you begin to think about teaching literature in your field experience placement, what support might students need to make meaning of challenging texts? What advice do this week’s authors provide to foster student engagement and achievement?

In-Class:
- YA Literature Book Talk #3
- Mini lesson: Probable Passage Prediction & Shared Reading
- Mini lesson: Lesson/Unit Planning Workshop
- Professional Journal Article Précis & Discussion #2
- Discussion of Readings and Discourse Diary

Field:
- One-on-One Tutoring, Small Group Instruction, Planning of November Unit

September 29: Planning Instruction for Student Engagement and Achievement

Due:
- Beers, Chapter 6: “Frontloading Meaning”
- Shosh, Joseph M. “Empowering Students to Lead Their Own Literacy Learning” English Journal Manuscript
- Dialogic Discourse Diary #4: How does this week’s reading inform the creation of your unit plan? What will you be teaching? What resources will be available to you? How will you integrate the teaching of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking to foster student engagement and student achievement?

In-Class:
- YA Literature Book Talk #4
- Lesson Planning Workshop
- Professional Journal Article Précis & Discussion #3
- Discussion of Readings and Discourse Diary

Field:
- Individual lessons or parts of lessons as suggested by cooperating teacher

October 6: NO CLASS: FALL BREAK

Field:
- Make sure that cooperating teacher is not expecting you on 10/8 & 10/9.
- Continue individual lessons or parts of lessons as suggested by cooperating teacher.
- Begin drafting November Unit Plan with consultation of cooperating teacher.

October 13: Developing Writers

Due:
- Beers, Chapter 7: “Constructing Meaning”
- Romano: “Teaching Writing from the Inside”
- Reif: “Writing: Commonsense Matters”
- Dialogic Discourse Diary #5: How does what you have read about the teaching of writing impact your emerging philosophy of English education? What are the implications for the unit you are planning?

In-Class:
- YA Literature Book Talk #5
- Professional Journal Article Précis & Discussion #4
- Discussion of Readings and Discourse Diary
- Unit Plan Drafting Workshop

Field:
- Continue individual lessons or parts of lessons as suggested by cooperating teacher
Review working draft of November Unit Plan with cooperating teacher

**October 20: Building Vocabulary**
Due: Beers, Chapter 5: “Learning to Make an Inference” and Chapter 9: “Vocabulary: Out What Words Mean”
Fisher, Rothenberg & Frey, Chapter 3: “Focus on Vocabulary: Getting the Word Just Right”
Dialogic Discourse Diary #6: How do students learn new vocabulary in your pre-student teaching classroom? What do you perceive as the strengths and weaknesses of this approach? How might this week’s reading impact the vocabulary instruction in your unit?
Unit Plan Draft
In-Class: Mini-lesson: Word Study
Unit Plan Revising & Editing
Professional Journal Article Précis & Discussion #5
Discussion of Readings and Discourse Diary
Field: Continue individual lessons or parts of lessons as suggested by cooperating teacher
Review final draft of November Unit Plan with cooperating teacher

**October 27: Teaching Language Mini-lessons**
Due: Beers, Chapter 10: “Fluency and Automaticity”
Putz, Chapter 5: “If It Ain’t Broke: Writing in Traditional Genres”
Fisher, Rothenberg & Frey, Chapter 4: “Focus on Grammar: ‘Is it Blue?’”
Dialogic Discourse Diary #7: How does teaching grammar contextually differ from traditional grammar instruction? What role might grammar and usage mini-lessons play in helping students revise writing?
Unit Plan
In-Class: YA Literature Book Talk #7
Mini-lesson: Image Grammar
Professional Journal Article Précis & Discussion #6
Discussion of Readings and Discourse Diary
Field: Implement Unit Plan under direction of cooperating teacher

**November 3: Helping All Learners Make Meaning**
Due: Tatum: “Building the Textual Lineages of African American Male Adolescents”
Smith and Wilhelm, Chapter 1 from Going with the flow: How to engage boys (and girls) in their literacy learning.
Putz, Chapter 6: “ Rx for Writing: Revision”
Dialogic Discourse Diary #8: As you begin to implement your unit plan, which students seem most engaged? Why? Which students seem reluctant to participate? Which students challenge you most? How?
In-Class: YA Literature Book Talk #8
Mini-lesson: Sentence Combining
Professional Journal Article Précis & Discussion #7
Discussion of Readings and Discourse Diary
Field: Implement Unit Plan under direction of cooperating teacher

**November 10: Dramatizing to Learn**
Due: Pirie, Bruce. “The Unfolding Drama” from Reshaping High School English
Dialogic Discourse Diary #9: How and why do Pirie and Shosh suggest using drama in secondary school classrooms?
In-Class: Drama in Education Strategies
NCTE Convention Final Preparations
Discussion of Readings and Discourse Diary
Field: Implement Unit Plan under direction of cooperating teacher
November 17: Critiquing the 2008 NCTE San Antonio Convention “Because Shift Happens: Teaching in the Twenty-First Century”
Due: Self-Assigned Conference Sessions and/or English Journal Reading
Dialogic Discourse Diary #10: What were the highlights of the 2008 NCTE convention?
How will what you learned impact your future teaching? If you were unable to attend the NYC convention, what did you learn from your reading in November’s English Journal? How will what you read impact your future career?
In-Class: Discussion of Readings and Discourse Diary
Sharing of Resources from NCTE Convention
Field: Implement Unit Plan under direction of cooperating teacher

November 24: Helping Students Become Media Literate and Tech Savvy
Due: Kajder, Sara “Unleashing Potential with Emerging Technologies”
Putz, Chapter 7: “A Team Effort: Creating Unity and Cohesion in the Multigenre Project”
In-Class: Media Literacy Workshop
Discussion of Readings
Field: Unit Plan completion & return of student work

December 1: Evaluating Learning in the ELA Classroom
Putz, Chapter 9: “Celebrating Student Voices: The Thematic Readers’ Theatre”
Brenner, Pearson, and Reif: “Thinking Through Assessment”
Unit Plan Reflective Critique
In-Class: Classroom Assessment & Evaluation Workshop
Discussion of Readings

December 8: Becoming a Teacher of the English Language Arts
Due: Putz, Chapter 10: “Research and Standards: Rationale for Adopting the Multigenre Project”
Putz, Chapter 11: “Odds and Ends: A Multigenre Junk Drawer”
In-Class: Anticipation Guide Re-Examination
Philosophy of English Education Brainstorming & Discussion of Readings
Assignment: Answer each prompt as assigned on the syllabus in a word processed and e-mailed response of approximately 500 words. Think about how the reading you are assigned relates to the question posed. Where appropriate, use specific examples from both the reading and your personal experience (especially in your field experience placement) to respond to the prompt. Bring a copy of your response to class on the day the assignment is due. In most instances, the dialogic discourse diary is intended to help you think about topics that will be discussed in class. In some cases, you will actually be composing text that you may wish to copy, paste, and/or revise as you utilize a process approach to writing to compose the major papers required in the course. Note that late entries will not be accepted. Entries are due as follows:

• #1: September 8
• #2: September 15
• #3: September 22
• #4: September 29

• #5: October 13
• #6: October 20
• #7: October 27
• #8: November 3

• #9: November 10
• #10: November 17

Suggested Response Format: Because you may want to incorporate portions of some of your responses into drafts of formal papers as the course progresses, it is required that you compose your dialogic discourse diary entries in a word processor and save them for future access. The default font is Times or Times New Roman, 12 point. Entries should be composed in Microsoft Word format and titled LASTNAMEDDD#.doc. Each entry should be e-mailed to jshosh@moravian.edu prior to the class in which it will be discussed. If you do not have access to Microsoft Word, you may embed the text in the body of an e-mail. While every attempt should be made to respond with attention to fluency, clarity, and correctness, the dialogic discourse diary should be a venue in which you may play with ideas and think deeply about how you might apply research-based strategies to your teaching.

Criteria for Evaluation: Please note that this assignment is worth 20% of the final course grade. This assignment will be evaluated according to the criteria below:

1. Entry responds thoroughly and thoughtfully to the assigned prompt.
2. Entry makes specific and appropriate reference to assigned readings.
3. Entry makes specific and appropriate reference to personal experience, especially in the field experience placement.
4. Entry is fluent, clear, and attempts to follow the conventions of so-called standard written English.
5. Entry supports the development of a clear and thoughtful philosophy of English education.
Assignment: Based upon your review of multiple YA authors and titles during our Book Pass on Monday, August 25th, sign up to read and research the literary works of one of the authors listed below and to present an author Book Talk with two colleagues on the assigned date.

1. Laurie Halse Anderson
2. Avi
3. Sandra Cisneros
4. Robert Cormier
5. Russell Freedman
6. Walter Dean Myers
7. Gary Paulsen
8. Richard Peck
9. Rodman Philbrick
10. Gary Soto
11. Jerry Spinelli
12. Jacqueline Woodson

Create a lesson plan for your Book Talk, which includes strong objectives, appropriate PA literacy standards, meaningful learning activities (including higher-order questions), and effective formative assessment. Then prepare an author fact sheet that includes an annotated bibliography of the author’s key works and links to any salient web sites. Make enough copies of your fact sheet to share with our seminar colleagues when you lead us in a thirty-minute review of your author’s literary accomplishments and inspire us to read the author for ourselves and to recommend him or her to our students.

Suggested Response Format: The author fact sheet must provide salient bibliographic information in APA or MLA format, clear and concise annotations, and key links to salient web sites. The oral presentation should inspire classmates to want to read and share your author with young adults. Consider how you might utilize some of the reading strategies that Beers suggests to engage us as lifelong readers of YA literature. Remember to synthesize your secondary source material and appropriately document any direct quotations.

Criteria for Evaluation: Please note that this assignment is worth 10% of the final course grade. This assignment will be evaluated according to the criteria below:

1. Lesson plan includes strong objectives, appropriate PA literacy standards, meaningful learning activities (including higher-order questions), and effective formative assessment.
2. Fact sheet provides bibliographic information for author’s key works in APA or MLA format.
3. Fact sheet includes original annotations of key literary works and links to salient web sites.
4. Book talk incorporates research-based literacy strategies within the confines of the thirty-minute presentation format.
5. Book talk succeeds in inspiring future English teachers to read and recommend the key works of your YA author.
Assignment: Sign up to research one of the topics below by finding a related article in English Journal, Voices from the Middle, Language Arts, Research in the Teaching of English or another salient professional journal:

1. Adolescent Literacy
2. Reading Comprehension
3. Student Motivation
4. Vocabulary
5. Grammar & Usage
6. Guided Reading
7. Revising/Editing
8. Teaching Literature
9. Professional Development

Prepare a précis (concise summary or abstract) along with key bibliographic information. Make enough copies of your précis to share with our seminar colleagues when you lead us in a thirty-minute conversation on your assigned topic. Prepare a concise lesson plan that you will use to lead the discussion. Be sure to include objectives, PA literacy standards, learning activities (including planned discussion questions), and methods for formative assessment. Submit a copy of the original article along with your précis and lesson plan.

Suggested Response Format: The written précis must provide the key bibliographic information in APA or MLA format and provide a summary of approximately one double-spaced typewritten page. The oral presentation should engage classmates in a meaningful discussion of the topic, relate the topic to the assigned readings, and help us to make specific connections between our teaching and the article.

Criteria for Evaluation: Please note that this assignment is worth 10% of the final course grade. This assignment will be evaluated according to the criteria below:

1. Précis provides a concise and accurate summary of a professional journal article directly related to the assigned topic.

2. Précis and bibliographic entry follow the conventions of the language of wider communication, or so-called standard written English.

3. Lesson plan includes strong objectives, appropriate PA literacy standards, meaningful learning activities (including higher-order questions), and effective formative assessment.

4. Presenter engages colleagues in meaningful discussion at high levels of Bloom’s cognitive taxonomy within the confines of thirty-minute presentation format.

5. Presenter clearly and thoroughly relates professional journal article to assigned readings on the topic.
Assignment: The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires evidence that each certification candidate “demonstrates thorough knowledge of content and pedagogical skills in planning and preparation [and]... makes plans and sets goals based on the content to be taught/learned, knowledge of assigned students, and the instructional context.” As a key component of your pre-student teaching experience, you must develop one complete unit plan to document both your daily and long-range planning. Note that your unit plan must be comprised of a minimum of ten individual lesson plans and demonstrate both your content mastery and pedagogical content knowledge. Lesson objectives must be aligned to Pennsylvania standards and actively engage students in a wide array of meaningful activities at appropriate levels of Bloom’s cognitive taxonomy. Teacher questions must be designed to engender student engagement and student achievement. Each lesson plan must follow the Moravian College secondary lesson plan format, including objectives, PA standards, learning activities, methods for assessment, and accommodations to meet the needs of diverse learners.

Suggested Response Format: Three-ring binder or CD, organized as follows:
- Page 1: Title, Essential Question, & Table of Contents
- Page 2: Unit Objectives and Rationale
- Pages 3-4: Long-Range Planning Calendar
- Pages 5-14+: Individual Lesson Plans (minimum 10 daily lessons)
- Summative Assessment Device
- Handouts (Graphic Organizers, Assignment Sheets, Anticipation Guides)

Criteria for Evaluation: The pre-student teaching unit plan is worth 20% of the final seminar grade and will be evaluated according to the criteria listed below:
1. Content is thoroughly and accurately presented in the unit plan;
2. Objectives are clear, concise, observable, and in alignment with PA literacy standards;
3. Individual lesson objectives engage students at appropriate and varied levels of Bloom’s cognitive taxonomy;
4. A variety of meaningful activities is designed to engage students throughout unit;
5. Teacher questions are clearly designed to engender student engagement and student achievement;
6. Time in individual lessons is used wisely to help students meet both lesson-level objectives and Pennsylvania literacy standards;
7. Reading strategies are taught directly, and multiple reading opportunities are integrated throughout the unit;
8. Writing strategies are taught directly, and multiple writing opportunities are integrated throughout the unit;
9. Language study is explicit, and multiple opportunities to explore language choices are integrated throughout the unit;
10. The plan provides multiple opportunities for the formative assessment of student learning and provides for a fair and thorough summative evaluation of student learning.

Due: Draft for Self & Peer Revising/Editing – October 20, 2008
Final Draft – October 27, 2008
Assignment: In a well-organized essay of approximately five double-spaced typed pages, share your philosophy of English education as you would present it to a hiring principal as part of your reflective teaching portfolio. Your statement must be supported by research-based instructional practices on (but not limited to) the following PA standards:

- 1.1 Learning to Read Independently
- 1.2 Reading Critically in All Content Areas
- 1.3 Reading, Analyzing, and Interpreting Literature
- 1.4 Types of Writing
- 1.5 Quality of Writing
- 1.6 Speaking and Listening
- 1.7 Characteristics and Function of the English Language
- 1.8 Research

Cite appropriate secondary source material as needed to situate your own beliefs within the larger field of research on English teaching and learning. It may be helpful to frame the essay in terms of how you help diverse learners demonstrate engagement and achievement in the English language arts.

Suggested Response Format: Approximately five double-spaced typed pages in 10 to 12 point Times or Times New Roman font

Criteria for Evaluation: The philosophy of English education statement will be worth 20% of the final course grade and will be evaluated according to the criteria listed below:

1. Essay clearly and thoroughly explains candidate’s plans to engender student engagement in the English language arts classroom.

2. Essay clearly and thoroughly explains candidate’s plans to engender student achievement in the English language arts classroom.

3. Essay adopts an effective organizational structure, with an attention-getting lead, well-organized body paragraphs, and strong conclusion.

4. Essay examines specific research-based practices and cites these practices appropriately.

5. Essay is fluent, clear, and follows the conventions of so-called standard written English.

Due: Emailed to ishosh@moravian.edu no later than 7 p.m. on Monday, December 15.