Course Description
This course explores the psychology of language as well as the social semiotics of language learning. Theories of cognition and sociolinguistics will be examined as they relate to literacy development in regular and specialized learning contexts.

Rationale
This course is required for state certification as reading specialist. It serves as one of the courses needed to help graduate students develop a broader understanding of the role of linguistics and grammar in the study and teaching reading.

State Adopted Proficiencies
The following state adopted proficiencies are covered in this course:
A. The teacher possesses and draws on a rich knowledge base of content, pedagogy, and technology to provide relevant and meaningful learning experiences for all students.
B. The teacher creates a learner-centered community, the teacher collaboratively identifies needs; and plans, implements, and assesses instruction using technology and other resources.
C. The teacher responds appropriately to diverse groups of learners.
D. While acting as an advocate for all students and the school, the teacher demonstrates effective professional and interpersonal communication skills.
E. Learner-Center Professional Development. The teacher, as a reflective practitioner dedicated to all students' success demonstrates a commitment to learn, to improve the profession, and to maintain professional ethics and personal integrity.

State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) Standards
TEXES
Domain IV-Professional Knowledge and Leadership
Competency 013 (Theoretical Foundations and Research-Based Curriculum)
Standard I. Components of Reading: 1.19k, 1.37s, 2.18k, 4.2k, 4.3k, 4.1s

The beginning Reading Specialist knows and understands
1.19k
a variety of comprehension theories/models (e.g., transactional, interactive, metacognitive, socio-psycho linguistic, constructivist) and their impact on instructional strategies
2.18k
the strengths and limitations of current educational theories that underlie instructional practices and programs
4.2k
the impact of physical, perceptual, emotional, social, cultural, environmental, and intellectual factors on learning, language development, and reading acquisition
4.3k
the importance of the interactions among the reader, the text, and the context of the reading situation
The beginning reading specialist is able to
1.37s
promote effective use of written English conventions by helping students recognize the similarities and differences between language (e.g., syntax and vocabulary used in spoken and written English)
4.1s
communicate the theoretical rationale for instructional decisions and practices

Course Objectives and Outcomes
This course is designed to enable students to:
1. Develop an understanding of the relationship between language and literacy through a critique of theory and research.
2. Explore the influence of cultural and social boundaries on language and literacy development.
3. Explore methods and develop literary/learning strategies consistent with a psychosociolinguistic interpretive framework.

Course Topics
The major topics to be considered are:
- Psycholinguistics, Language Explorations, and the Psychology of Reading
- Sociolinguistics and the Study of Language and Reading
- Language Development
- Literacy and Language Learning in Multicultural and Specialized Contexts

Instructional Methods and Activities
Methods and activities for instruction include:
- Lecture
- Group discussion
- Student led discussion
- Video
- Quizzes
**Evaluation and Grade Assignment (See class schedule for due dates)**

The following course requirements will be explained in detail during class meetings. Also note that this course will be managed via Blackboard.

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<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td><strong>Language exploration.</strong> Write a personal exploration of several language elements (minimum: 250 words). This activity is designed to encourage you to explore the origins of elements of the English language.</td>
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|        | • Research the language/location of your surname and the surname of one other family member. If you are a married woman, you might use your married name and maiden name. If your name has not changed because of marriage, you might use your last name and the last name of a parent or grandparent.  
  ○ To help you get started, there are two websites listed in the Helpful Links section in Bb. |
|        | • Research the sources of the names of the months of the year. |
|        | • Research the sources of the names of the days of the week. |
|        | • Research the name of two geographic locations. |
| 50     | **Exploring language in the world: Field research.** Write a 1,000-word (minimum) mini-research paper analyzing language usage in the field. For this assignment, you will record/transcribe a language situation and then analyze the language of the participants. |
|        | • Select an informal social situation where 2-4 people are interacting -- discussion at a breakfast/dinner table, coffee with friends, party/picnic with friends, etc. |
|        | • Ask participants if you can record the situation -- no interviews -- you just want to capture a real-life language situation. |
|        | • Record the language of participants for 10-15 minutes. |
|        | • Listen to the language. |
|        | • Transcribe words and phrases that illustrate economy, expressiveness, dialect, and social interactions. |
|        | • Gather your data on the Language Analysis Chart that is attached to the assignment in Bb. |
|        | • Write about your findings by analyzing and discussing the language in three areas: phonetic, semantic, and social. |
| 75     | **Analyzing different views.** Write an analysis (3 pages) of the viewpoints of different linguists. In this paper, you will research a known linguist, psycholinguist, or other writer focusing on language. Your analysis will include the following information: |
|        | • A brief bio of the individual (1 page) |
|        | • A discussion of the individual’s theory or analysis of language (1 page) |

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- A reflection of your own thoughts about the individual (1 page)
- You must have a minimum of 2 resources about the individual.
- Your paper must follow APA guidelines and be double-spaced.
- A list of individuals from which to choose will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

100  **Research/Reflection/Application paper.** Write a 5-page research paper on a topic related to course study.
- Select a topic we have explored in this class -- or a related topic you would like to investigate further.
- Include these elements:
  - An introduction -- why the topic is important (1 page)
  - A literature review reflecting the views and research of others related to your topic (2 pages)
  - A personal reflection -- Write a personal reflection of your professional journey through the topics in the course. Included in your reflection will be a discussion of how your new knowledge will impact your practices in the classroom. Also include how your thinking has changed during the course. Identify ways your teaching could be impacted by your new thinking. (2 pages)

30  **Quizzes.** There will be 2 online quizzes based on assigned reading and presentations/discussions. 15 points each.

30  Post to 3 Discussion Forums and interact with your small group in each thread.

15  **Course Scavenger Hunt.** Get to know your syllabus, Blackboard course site, and instructor!

30  **Observation/Practicum Hours (required by ALL students).** You will complete a minimum of 15 internship hours. Half can be observations that you do as a teacher and the other half need to be your teaching that is observed by a reading specialist or administrator. You are required to document observation hours using the two self-report documents in Blackboard. Prep time for lessons counts toward hours. Also, you can use the language exploration in the field” assignment to count toward these hours (3 hours max). Other suggested activities:
1) Observe and coach undergraduate students in Mr. Hill’s READ 3351 – Diagnosis and Correction of Reading Problems course (meets on Tuesdays, 3:00-5:30pm at West Oso Elementary School); 2) observe a peer teacher teach a lesson related to any topic in this course and debrief the lesson; 3) teach a lesson related to any topic in this course; 4) conduct a professional development session related to any topic in this course to your peers.

---  **Extra Credit.** 5 points for each SRC (Student Reading Council) meeting attended. If you are not local, you may WebEx in for credit (please contact me to do so). Dates TBA.

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Total points

Assignments are scored based on completion of assigned task, accuracy, content, grammar, and spelling mistakes. Grades are contingent upon the completion and quality of assigned work and are based on the subjective evaluation by the professor.

Letter grades will be determined by the following scale:

A=92-100%
B=83-91%
C=74-82%
D= 66-74%

Class participation:
Due to the nature of this course, active student participation is essential to overall successful class performance. As it is an online course, you are expected to be self-disciplined and keep up with the assignments. Please contact me and your peers for assistance.

Required Textbooks:

Various readings as assigned by professor – available in Blackboard (Bb)

Recommended or Supplemental Reading:


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## Course Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic and “in-class readings”</th>
<th>Reading(s)</th>
<th>Assignment(s)</th>
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| Week of August 27| • Course introduction  
• Syllabus  
• Themes and Principles of Linguistics                                                             | *See PowerPoint for all reading assignments  
*Readings are conducted as you make your way through this asynchronous class session.  
*This class session PowerPoint will take time to complete due to the readings and activities. You will need a few long stretches of time – if you want to really learn the material, you will not be able to just breeze through each session. | Post a PowerPoint introduction of yourself in the “Introductions” Discussion Forum by August 28  
Online Scavenger Hunt due by end of day August 29  
Language Exploration assignment (Turn in as an assignment in Bb and post to Discussion Forum 1) due by end of day August 31 |
| Week of September 4 | • English Phonology  
See above                                                                                                                                          | Discussion Forum 1 Activity due by end of day September 8                                                                 |
| Week of September 10 | • English Orthography  
• Discourse Comprehension and Memory                                                                                                                  | Quiz 1 (take any time on September 15 between 8:00am and 11:59pm)                                                          |
| Week of September 17 | • English Morphology  
See above                                                                                                                                          | Exploring Language in the World assignment (Turn in as an assignment in Bb and post to Discussion Forum 2) due by end of day September 21 |
| Week of September 24 | • English syntax  
• Sentence Comprehension and Memory                                                                                                                  | Analyzing Different Views assignment (Turn in as an assignment in Bb and post to Discussion Forum 3) due by end of day September 28 |
| Week of October 1    | • Early Language Acquisition  
• Second Language Acquisition                                                            | Quiz 2 (take any time on October 6 between 8:00am and 11:59pm)                                                           |
| Week of October 8     | • Putting it all together  
See above                                                                                                                                          | Research/Reflection/Application paper (Turn in as an assignment) due by end of day October 12  
Observation/Practicum Hour Logs due by end of day October 13                                                                 |
Late work
Full credit will not be given for late assignments.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

Classroom/Professional behavior
Professional decorum is expected. Attendance will be recorded for this class. Points will be deducted for class absences. Notification of an absence does not constitute a class waiver.

Grade Appeals
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Disabilities Accommodations
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. 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 an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Driftwood 101.

Veterans
If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Statement of Academic Continuity
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.