

EDUC 343 – Literacy Strategies in Secondary Education Practicum
Winter Quarter 2015-2016

1) Course Information

Department and course number: EDUC 343

Credits: 1 undergraduate credit

Day and meeting times for the course: As arranged

Course Location: In local secondary classrooms as arranged

2) Instructor Information

Name: Regina Sievert

E mail address: Regina.Sievert@skc.edu

Office Location: Beaverhead Building, Room 120

Phone numbers: Office phone, 275-4995 Cell phone, 261-7412

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00 am through 12:00 pm and Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Because I also supervise student teaching and other BSSE field experiences, please be advised that my schedule is somewhat unpredictable since I may be in the schools working with students. I recommend that you contact me if you need a firm appointment, either by text, cell phone call or e mail message.

3) Required Materials

- No materials are required for the practicum

4) Course Description

This course provides secondary education students a 10 hour field practicum in secondary classrooms observing and practicing the use of strategies to develop literacy. These experiences will be used to support secondary education students' success in developing their knowledge of and ability to apply pedagogical practices and concepts about teaching and learning that assist middle and high school students in developing literacy.

5) Course Objectives

Through the successful completion of this course, students will

- A. gain familiarity with a wide range of techniques for developing literacy skills in the content disciplines for diverse learners (Cultural Relevance, Critical Thinking) and
- B. by reflecting through journal entries on their experiences in this course, deepen their knowledge regarding effective discipline based teaching that integrates literacy skill development techniques for diverse learners (Critical Thinking, Communication, Cultural Relevance)

6) Course Requirements and Behavioral Expectations

- A. You are studying to become a teacher. Successful teachers must have a high level of self initiative and self responsibility and should be able to work constructively as part of a team. You will find all of these scenarios in this course and you are expected to demonstrate a high level of function in each.
- B. All course assignments, each completed to at least a level of proficiency equivalent to a B, are required in order to pass this course.**
- C. Your full attention is expected during class observations and debriefs. No communication technology should be visible, turned on, or in use during class activities unless they are directly related to a course activity – this includes cell phones, tablets, laptops and so forth.
- D. You are responsible for communicating directly with the college course instructor concerning all aspects of the course including attendance and assignments. Do not expect others to deliver messages to the instructor.
- E. You must use your SKC student e mail account for all communication regarding the course, including communicating with the instructor. You are expected to submit all of your assignments electronically unless otherwise specified.
- F. When you are interacting with the K-12 schools for field experiences, practica, or student teaching, you are representing yourself and SKC. You are expected to behave professionally and respectfully. You must communicate directly with the classroom teacher to request observation times and notify them if you will not attend well in advance of your requested/scheduled observation time. You must dress professionally and arrive on time. You must check in at the school office and wear appropriate visitor attire as required by the school (badge, e.g.). Further details about behavioral expectations and potential consequences for infractions can be found in the SKC Division of Education Student Handbook.

7) Evaluation

Students enrolled in the course will receive a traditional letter grade. Students will be evaluated using listed assignments (see below) and all assignments must be completed to at least a level of proficiency equivalent to a “B” in order to receive a passing grade for the course. All course assignments must be completed and submitted by the deadlines stated in this syllabus and on the Moodle. Late work will docked 25% of the total possible points for that assignment for each day it is late. You are urged to visit with the instructor with any matters regarding your assignments well in advance of their due date. **Completion of fewer than 10 hours of observation and accompanying journal reflections will result in a failing grade in this course.**

Points will be awarded to students as follows:

Ten hours of observations in secondary classrooms	40 points maximum
Ten journal reflections on classroom observations	40 points maximum
Demonstration lesson with teacher evaluation	20 points maximum
Total points possible	100 points maximum

Grades will be awarded based on this scale

90 to 100% = A

80 to 89% = B

70 to 79% = C

60 to 69% = D

Less than 60% = F

8) Attendance

Most of the classroom practicum hours will be done on your own and arranged through your direct communication with local secondary teachers. Some observation hours will also be completed as a class. Regular and frequent participation in all class activities is essential in order for students to have access to a rich and comprehensive learning experience. Regular participation is also required for the successful completion of in class assignments, which contribute to the course grade and therefore the likelihood of passing the course. **Absences will only be excused if the student obtains prior approval from the course instructor. More than two excused absences or any unexcused absences will result in the student failing the course.**

9) Students with Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations are provided for eligible students with identified disabilities. The College complies with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students may contact the college's Disability Officer, Linda Pete, (linda_pete@skc.edu, 406.275.4968) or consult the SKC web page for Students with Disabilities for more information.

10) Academic Integrity

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by Salish Kootenai College. Violations of the college's policies (including plagiarism or other forms for cheating) may result in the student failing the course.

11) Credit Hours

Following the SKC Credit Hour policy, to meet the identified student learning outcomes of this 1 credit course delivered over a 10 week term, each student will spend approximately

- an average of 2 hours per week in onsite work in the local secondary schools and
- an average of 3 hours per week on work outside class hours completing course related work.

12) PEPP Standards Addressed

EDUC 343 addresses several of the Montana Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards, These standards are listed below.

10.58.501 TEACHING STANDARDS

(1) All programs require that successful candidates:

(a) demonstrate understanding of how learners grow and develop, recognizing that patterns of learning and development vary individually within and across the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, behavioral health continuum, and physical areas, and individualize developmentally appropriate and challenging learning experiences for learners of all cognitive abilities;

(d) demonstrate understanding of the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) the candidate teaches and create individualized learning experiences that make the discipline accessible and meaningful for learners to assure mastery of the content, and include the instruction of reading and writing literacy into all program areas;

(e) demonstrate understanding of how to connect concepts and use differing perspectives to engage learners in critical thinking, creativity, and collaborative problem solving related to authentic local and global issues;

(l) demonstrate understanding of and ability to integrate history, cultural heritage, and contemporary status of American Indians and tribes in Montana.

13) Classroom Experiences and Reflections

- This course requires students to conduct a minimum of 10 hours of classroom practicum in secondary classrooms. Your experiences should include observation, assistance and practice teaching of activities that are developing literacy skills in secondary students. **When you contact teachers to request observation opportunities, be sure to include in your request that you need to experience literacy activities in action.** This can include oral, reading, writing, note taking, graphical representation, test taking skills, and digital literacy activities. You must have the teachers you work with sign your hours log. The hours log can be found on the course Moodle in the folder called "Syllabi and Course Forms".
- **You must have a current approved background check on file in the SKC Division of Education office before visiting secondary schools.**
- **Students are required to submit written reflections on each of their observations, for a minimum of ten reflections. This is a 300 level course, so the expectations for the reflections are high.** Each reflection should be substantive, and should consist of a minimum of one single spaced page of 12 point font with 1 inch margins. Reflections should discuss topics such as the efficacy of the literacy activity observed, provide specific examples of how the strategy did or did not support learning in the specific discipline, discuss details of the interactions between students and teachers and how that affected learning, discuss potential assessments and follow up activities, suggest ways that the strategy could be improved, etc.
- The practicum is an opportunity to gain proficiency in actively teaching. **I highly recommend that you arrange to spend at least five of your practicum hours in the classroom of a teacher of your choice in order to build a relationship with them and to gain greater access to their classroom and their students.** You should be doing more than just observing the classroom; you should be assisting the teacher and interacting with students when appropriate and allowable. **You are required to teach at least one lesson**

during EDUC 343, which the classroom teacher will evaluate. This is part of the course grade. The evaluation form that the classroom teacher should use can be found on the course Moodle in the folder called "Syllabi and Course Forms".

14) Course Outline

Date	Assignments Due
Week 1	
Week 2	First two classroom observations and reflections due Friday, January 15 th - #1 & #2
Week 3	
Week 4	Second set of classroom observations and reflections due Friday, January 29 th - #3 & #4
Week 5	
Week 6	Third set of classroom observations and reflections due Friday, February 12 th - #5 & #6
Week 7	
Week 8	Fourth set of classroom observations and reflections due Friday, February 26 th - #7 & #8
Week 9	
Week 10	Fifth set of classroom observations and reflections due Friday, March 11 th - #9 & #10