

Syllabus for Hot Topics Course

Course Title: “Best Practices in Elementary Literacy Instruction”

Course Description: Ever wonder how to balance all of the demands of teaching elementary reading? How can I reach the individual needs of the highest readers, as well as the strugglers? Implement key components daily. Explore how to write and implement mini-lesson, make and use anchor charts, supported independent reading, the fine art of conferring, and workshop strategies.

Credits: 1

Faculty/Instructor: Crystal Morse, M.Ed

Instructional Method: Constructivist

Informal needs assessment to be conducted at the start of class. Lecture bursts will be combined with active participation experiences to apply theoretical information to real life situations and classroom settings.

Required Text/References (if any):

Many resources will be available for participants to browse and look over. A resources list will be provided to participants as part of the course packet and notes.

Course Objectives:

Participants will be able to identify and implement research based strategies, best practices in balanced literacy instruction.

Participants will utilize formal and informal assessments to determine student needs and design lessons based on formative assessment.

Participants will design and “make it – take it” for activities in areas such as anchor charts, conferring, mini-lessons, interventions, shared reading, and interactive read aloud.

Participants will utilize action plans to transfer their summer experience for planning in the fall.

Course Content/Topics/Outline:

Needs assessment – I don’t know what I don’t know

What is balance literacy?

 Ideas

 Components – let’s break it down

Mini-lessons

Anchor Charts

Formative Assessments

Supported Independent Reading

Conferring

Shared Reading

Interactive Read Aloud

Non-fiction / Integration

Classroom libraries

Evaluation Methods:

The participants will be developing action plans based on the needs of their building and students. Active participation and engagement in discussion and activities will determine participant success.