

## ELA-912 – Developing Adolescent Readers and Writers

### Independent Study Online Course Syllabus

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### Course Description

In any classroom, reading and writing can become wonderful tools for young people to use as they grow in their understanding of themselves and the world. Some classrooms may be facing substance abuse, relationship conflicts, teenage mothers and fathers, depression, or other issues that make learning difficult. Other classrooms may be full of energetic, enthusiastic learners who seem to produce beyond the teacher's expectations.

This course is designed to give teachers of grades 5 - 12 practical techniques to help young people become willing and effective readers and writers. Teachers will learn creative ways of making literature come alive for students so that they recognize the value of reading and writing. Course requirements include reading the course text, completing a series of reading and writing activities with students, and reading and responding to an adolescent novel.

This course is designed to meet the objectives identified in the Common Core State Standards in Language Arts as well as the five core propositions of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Students will be asked to make connections between their work and these standards or the standards of their own states.

**Note:** Required textbook must be acquired separately.

### Required Texts and Course Materials

**Textbook:** *Seeking Diversity: Language Arts with Adolescents*, by Linda Rief. Heineman, Portsmouth, NH, 1992. ISBN-13: 978-0435085988  
<https://www.amazon.com/Seeking-Diversity-Adolescents-Perspectives-Computing/dp/0435085980>

**Canvas:** This course will be delivered totally online. Canvas is a web-based learning management system (LMS) that provides students access to online resources, documents, videos, assignments, quizzes, forums, etc. Canvas is easy to learn and has a user-friendly interface.

**Online Resources:** Relevant online resources that support the course content and encourage further investigation will be available throughout the course assignments. Active hyperlinks are utilized throughout the course and will link to the appropriate information when clicked. These include videos, podcasts, worksheets, online activities, journal articles and other resources.

## Course Dates

Self-paced; students may enroll at any time and take up to one year, from the date of registration, to complete assignments. Students may complete assignments in no less than three weeks for a 3-unit course (one week per unit).

## National Standards Addressed in This Course

### National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)

(<http://www.nbpts.org/standards-five-core-propositions/>)

First published in 1989 and updated in 2016, [\*What Teachers Should Know and Be Able to Do\*](#) articulates the National Board's Five Core Propositions for teaching. The Five Core Propositions - comparable to medicine's Hippocratic Oath — set forth the profession's vision for accomplished teaching. Together, the propositions form the basis of all National Board Standards and the foundation for National Board Certification. Course assignments have been designed so students can demonstrate excellence against these professional teaching standards whenever possible.

- Proposition 1: Teachers are committed to students and their learning
- Proposition 2: Teachers know the subject they teach and how to teach those subjects to students
- Proposition 3: Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning
- Proposition 4: Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience
- Proposition 5: Teachers are members of learning communities

### Common Core State Standards (CCSS) ([www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org))

This course is designed to reinforce and support the English Language Arts Standards of the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSS). The Anchor Standards for Reading (Grades 6-12) are listed here:

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
- Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

## Continuing Education Program Student Learning Outcomes

CE 1	Demonstrate proficient written communication by articulating a clear focus, synthesizing arguments, and utilizing standard formats in order to inform and persuade others, and present information applicable to targeted use.
CE 2	Demonstrate comprehension of content-specific knowledge and the ability to apply it in theoretical, personal, professional, or societal contexts.
CE 3	Reflect on their personal and professional growth and provide evidence of how such reflection is utilized to manage personal and professional improvement.

CE 4	Apply critical thinking competencies by generating probing questions, recognizing underlying assumptions, interpreting and evaluating relevant information, and applying their understandings to the professional setting.
CE 5	Reflect on values that inspire high standards of professional and ethical behavior as they pursue excellence in applying new learning to their chosen field.
CE 6	Identify information needed in order to fully understand a topic or task, organize that information, identify the best sources of information for a given enquiry, locate and critically evaluate sources, and accurately and effectively share that information.

## Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for This Course

<b>Student Learning Outcomes for This Course</b> By the end of this course student will be able to:	<b>National Standards Addressed in This Course*</b>	<b>Continuing Education Program Student Learning Outcomes Addressed**</b>
1. define and build a literary context in the classroom.	CCSS 2, 3, 7, & 9; NBPTS Props 1, 2, 3, & 4	CE 3
2. nurture the creativity and “voices” of their students.	CCSS 3, 7, & 9; NBPTS Props 1, 2, 3, & 4	CE 4, CE 5
3. utilize a variety of literary forms in lesson planning.	CCSS 5-10; NBPTS Props 1 & 2	CE 2, CE 4, CE 6
4. gain skills in evaluating and assessing the work of students.	NBPTS Props 2, 3, & 4	CE 2, CE 4
5. integrate many subjects into the language arts classroom.	NBPTS Props 1-4	CE 2, CE 4
6. gain confidence and skill in the teaching of writing and reading	NBPTS Props 1-5	CE 3
7. connect lessons to state or national standards.	NBPTS Prop 5	CE 6

\* Please refer to the section on **National Standards Addressed in This Course**

\*\* Please refer to the section on **Continuing Education Program Student Learning Outcomes**

## Topics, Assignments, and Activities

**Note:** Upon registration, students will receive more specific instructions concerning the assignments. Please consult the Moodle course page before beginning the coursework.

<b>Module</b>	<b>Module Assignments and Activities</b>	<b>Points Possible for Each Assignment</b>
<b>Welcome Module</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Course Syllabus</li> <li>Policies and Procedures Information</li> </ul>	
<b>Module 1 – Class Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce yourself in the forum</li> </ul>	
<b>Module 2 – Text Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read <i>Seeking Diversity: Language Arts with Adolescents</i> by Linda Rief. Watch and listen to the</li> </ul>	

Module	Module Assignments and Activities	Points Possible for Each Assignment
	Rief resources provided online. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to course forum.</li> </ul>	PASS
<b>Module 3 – Classroom Context</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflect on the literary context of your classroom (prompts online).</li> </ul>	15
<b>Module 4 – Positive-Negative Graphs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and assess an activity that uses positive-negative graphs.</li> </ul>	15
<b>Module 5 – Unit Lesson Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a unit that uses several literary genres (200 minutes of class time). Evaluate the success of the unit; respond to the assessment questions provided.</li> </ul>	40
<b>Module 6 – Writing Log</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choose one of the novels from Rief's "Best-liked Books" list (256) or choose a novel that is popular among your students that you have never read. As you read the book, complete and submit four log entries following the assignment's guidelines.</li> <li>Contribute to course forum.</li> </ul>	15 PASS
<b>Module 7 – Visible Literacy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read and think about the questions on pages 270-271 in the Reading-Writing Survey, Appendix I. In one to two pages, respond to the prompts provided.</li> <li>Contribute to the course forum</li> </ul>	15 PASS
<b>Module 8 – Alternative Assignment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read and respond to Appendix A in the text (prompts provided online). This assignment is designed for teachers who are unable to teach and assess their unit plan (Module 5).</li> </ul>	PASS
<b>Module 9 – Course Wrap-up and Grading</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Course wrap-up</li> <li>Grade Request / Transcript Request</li> </ul>	N/A
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>		<b>100 pts</b>

## Grading Policies, Rubrics, and Requirements for Assignments

### Grading Policies

- Assignments will be graded per criteria presented in the course rubrics.
- A = 90-100% and B = 80-89%, (anything below 80% will not receive credit.)
- The discernment between an A or a B letter grade is at the discretion of the instructor based on the quality of work submitted (see course rubrics).
- Coursework falling below a B grade will be returned with further instructions.
- All assignments must be completed to receive a grade and are expected to reflect the quality that teacher-training institutions require of professional educators. If completed assignments do not meet this standard, students will be notified with further instructions from the instructor.

### Grading Rubrics

Grade	Percentage	Description	Rubric
A	90-100%	Excellent	Meets all course / assignment requirements with significant evidence of subject mastery and

			demonstration of excellent graduate level professional development scholarship.
B	80-89%	Very Good	Adequately meets criteria for all course/assignment requirements - demonstrates subject competency with very good graduate level professional development scholarship.
NC	Below 80%	Unacceptable	Does not meet the minimum criteria for all course/assignment requirements and demonstrated little, if any, evidence of acceptable graduate level professional development scholarship.

### Writing Requirements

- **Superior:** Writing is clear, succinct, and reflects graduate level expectations. Clearly addresses all parts of the writing task. Maintains a consistent point of view and organizational structure. Includes relevant facts, details, and explanations.
- **Standard:** Writing is acceptable with very few mistakes in grammar and spelling. Addresses most parts of the writing task. Maintains a mostly consistent point of view and organizational structure. Includes mostly relevant facts, details, and explanations.
- **Sub-standard:** Writing contains noticeable mistakes in grammar and spelling. Does not address all parts of the writing task. Lacks a consistent point of view and organizational structure. May include marginally relevant facts, details, and explanations.

### Lesson Plan Requirements

- **Superior:** Instructional goals and objectives clearly stated. Instructional strategies appropriate for learning outcome(s). Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is clearly delineated and authentic. All materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson clearly listed.
- **Standard:** Instructional goals and objectives are stated but are not easy to understand. Some instructional strategies are appropriate for learning outcome(s). Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is present. Most materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson are listed.
- **Sub-standard:** Instructional goals and objectives are not stated. Learners cannot tell what is expected of them. Instructional strategies are missing or strategies used are inappropriate. Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is missing. Materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson are missing.

### Instructor/Student Contact Information

Throughout the course participants will be communicating with the instructor and their classmates on a regular basis using asynchronous discussion forums. Students are provided with instructor contact information in the event they want to make email or phone contact. In addition, students are encouraged to email or phone the instructor at any time. Students will also receive feedback on the required assignments as they are submitted.

### Discussion Forums

Participation is an important expectation of this course and all online courses. Online discussions promote reflection and analysis while allowing students to appreciate and evaluate positions that others express. While students may not be engaging with the same students throughout this course

they will be expected to offer comments, questions, and replies to the discussion question whenever possible. The faculty role in the discussion forum is that of an observer and facilitator.

## **Coursework Hours**

Based on the Carnegie Unit standard, a unit of graduate credit measures academic credit based on the number of hours the student is engaged in learning. This includes all time spent on the course: reading the textbook, watching videos, listening to audio lessons, researching topics, writing papers, creating projects, developing lesson plans, posting to discussion boards, etc. Coursework offered for FPU Continuing Education graduate credit adheres to 45 hours per semester unit for the 900-level courses. Therefore, a student will spend approximately 135 hours on a typical 3-unit course.

## **Services for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities are eligible for reasonable accommodations in their academic work in all classes. In order to receive assistance, the student with a disability must provide the Academic Support Center with documentation, which describes the specific disability. The documentation must be from a qualified professional in the area of the disability (i.e. psychologist, physician or educational diagnostician). Once documentation is on file, arrangements for reasonable accommodations can be made. For more information and for downloadable forms, please go to <https://www.fresno.edu/departments/disability-access-education>.

## **Plagiarism and Academic Honesty**

All people participating in the educational process at Fresno Pacific University are expected to pursue honesty and integrity in all aspects of their academic work. Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will be handled per the procedures set forth in the Fresno Pacific University Catalogue - <https://www.fresno.edu/students/registrars-office/academic-catalogs>

## **Technology Requirements**

To successfully complete the course requirements, course participants will need Internet access, can send and receive email, know how to manage simple files in a word processing program, and have a basic understanding of the Internet. Please remember that the instructor is not able to offer technical support. If you need technical support, please contact your Internet Service Provider.

**Getting Help with Canvas:** If you need help with Canvas, please contact the FPU Help Desk by phone: (559) 453-3410 or email: [helpdesk@fresno.edu](mailto:helpdesk@fresno.edu). Help is available Mon-Fri 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

## **Final Course Grade and Transcripts**

When all work for the course has been completed, students will need to logon to the Continuing Education website (<https://ce.fresno.edu/my-account>) and "Request Final Grade". Once the instructor receives the requests and submits the grade online, students may log back in to view their Final Grade Report or order transcripts online. Please allow at least two weeks for the final grade to be posted. For more information, see the Continuing Education Policies and Procedures at <https://ce.fresno.edu/ce-policies-and-procedures>.



## University Policies and Procedures

Students are responsible for becoming familiar with the information presented in the Academic Catalog and for knowing and observing all policies and procedures related to their participation in the university community. A summary of university policies may be found on the university website at <https://www.fresno.edu/departments/registrars-office/academic-catalogs>.

## Fresno Pacific University Student Learning Outcomes

<b>Student Learning Outcomes Oral Communication:</b> Students will <i>exhibit</i> clear, engaging, and confident oral communication – in both individual and group settings – and will critically <i>evaluate</i> content and delivery components.
<b>Written Communication:</b> Students will <i>demonstrate</i> proficient written communication by <i>articulating</i> a clear focus, <i>synthesizing</i> arguments, and utilizing standard formats in order to <i>inform</i> and <i>persuade</i> others.
<b>Content Knowledge:</b> Students will <i>demonstrate</i> comprehension of content-specific knowledge and the ability to apply it in theoretical, personal, professional, or societal contexts.
<b>Reflection:</b> Students will <i>reflect</i> on their personal and professional growth and <i>provide evidence</i> of how such reflection is utilized to manage personal and vocational improvement.
<b>Critical Thinking:</b> Students will <i>apply</i> critical thinking competencies by <i>generating</i> probing questions, <i>recognizing</i> underlying assumptions, <i>interpreting</i> and <i>evaluating</i> relevant information, and <i>applying</i> their understandings to new situations.
<b>Moral Reasoning:</b> Students will <i>identify</i> and <i>apply</i> moral reasoning and ethical decision-making skills, and <i>articulate</i> the norms and principles underlying a Christian world-view.
<b>Service:</b> Students will <i>demonstrate</i> service and reconciliation as a way of leadership.
<b>Cultural and Global Perspective:</b> Students will <i>identify</i> personal, cultural, and global perspectives and will employ these perspectives to <i>evaluate</i> complex systems.
<b>Quantitative Reasoning:</b> Students will accurately <i>compute</i> calculations and symbolic operations and <i>explain</i> their use in a field of study.
<b>Information Literacy:</b> Students will <i>identify</i> information needed in order to fully understand a topic or task, <i>explain</i> how that information is organized, <i>identify</i> the best sources of information for a given enquiry, <i>locate</i> and critically <i>evaluate</i> sources, and accurately and effectively <i>share</i> that information.