



School of Education
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

LANGUAGE & LITERACY PROGRAM

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



EDRL 671: LANGUAGE, READING, AND CULTURE

This course examines the relationships between theory and practice as it relates to language and literacy development. An emphasis on community resources, as well as a focus on the role of bilingualism, multiculturalism, and multimodal forms of literacies will be foregrounded. Pedagogical implications related to culturally relevant, responsive, and sustaining practices will be examined. This course will also provide an introduction to ethnographic models for research, and qualitative methods for collecting data. Emphasis will be placed on teachers'/students' developing the skills and dispositions to become researchers of culture, language, and literacy in their own communities.

EDRL 674: FOUNDATIONAL THEORIES OF LANGUAGE AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

Explores the historical and theoretical lenses that have informed perspectives on literacy and bi/multiliteracy learning and practices. Content includes foundational theories of reading and language development (first and subsequent languages), how they emerged in relation to one another throughout history, and research on language, cognition and language systems, as they relate to literacy development. The course will emphasize connections between theory and practice, and how theoretical stances inform how we design learning experiences and contexts.

EDRL 675: LANGUAGE AND LITERACY METHODS

Examines how children learn language and become literate in their first and subsequent languages. Focuses on the development and assessment of reading, writing, listening and speaking skills for all students, including English language learners. Explores implications of culturally sustaining pedagogy on academic literacy practices.

EDRL 679: LANGUAGE AND READING IN THE CONTENT AREAS

Focuses on the development of knowledge of academic language and reading in the disciplines for K-12 teachers. The course will emphasize the interrelated processes of writing, reading, listening, and speaking and will examine the ways in which educators can build routines to support social climate, students' identity development, extensive use of cognitive strategies, and culturally sustaining approaches to knowledge building across the disciplines.

EDRL 680: INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

This course focuses on effective methods of supporting K-12 students' growth in reading, writing, and discussion. The focus will be on developing effective practices for a broad range of students, including English learners and those with specific needs. Topics include: motivation, reading comprehension, word identification, vocabulary development, reading process and writing process. The Alaska Content Standards in English Language Arts and the assessment of reading and writing skills and student proficiencies are central to this course.



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