I. TITLE: Language Arts: Current Issues and Research

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of the current issues and practices of language arts in the elementary school. Writing is emphasized.

III. PURPOSE: To enable students to explore current issues and research in the language arts.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Class activities will be centered on the attainment of the course objectives listed below. These objectives are understood to be reflective of, but not limited to those behaviors advocated by the Kentucky Education Reform Act guidelines. Curriculum connections will be made with the KERA Initiatives: Kentucky Learner Goals and Academic Expectations, Program of Studies, and Core Content. Following each objective, and enclosed in parentheses, are numbers which reference the Kentucky Teacher Standards (KTS) and the International Reading Association Standards for Reading Professionals (IRA) addressed by that objective. Upon successful completion of this class, students will be able to:

A. Describe major theories of first and second language acquisition and reflect on their application in the language arts classroom (IRA 1.1, 1.3; KTS 1).
B. Apply knowledge of linguistics, including first and second language acquisition, phonology, morphology, and orthography, to the teaching of language arts (IRA 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, KTS 1, 2).
C. Describe and apply research, theory and practice in the teaching of English language learners in the regular classroom (IRA 4.2, KTS 1, 2).
D. Describe and apply research, theory and practice in the teaching of writing (IRA 1.1, 1.3, 2.3; KTS 1, 2).
E. Share their work through the writing of a professional article (IRA 5.3; KTS 10).

The COE Conceptual Framework and the Theme of Educator as Reflective Decision-Maker are addressed in this course by requiring teachers to reflect upon their course readings in a reflection journal and by requiring teachers to apply course readings in their own classrooms.

The Theme of Diversity is explored in the course through the examination of the instructional needs of English language learners. The Theme of Literacy/Reading is stressed throughout the course.

V. CONTENT OUTLINE:
A. Theories of first language acquisition
B. Theories of written and second language acquisition
C. Cambourne’s Conditions of Language Learning
D. English Phonology and its application in the teaching of language arts
E. English Orthography and its application to the teaching of language arts.
F. English Morphology and its application to the teaching of language arts.
G. Language Diversity and the Teaching of Grammar
H. Teaching English language learners.
I. Teaching Writing.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES: Readings, quizzes, reflection and application.

VII. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES: None

VIII. RESOURCES:
A. Materials posted on the course Blackboard page.
B. Waterfield Library at Murray State University
C. Professional Journals: Language Arts, Primary Voices, Voices from the Middle, The Reading Teacher, Research in the Teaching of English, English Journal
D. Curriculum Materials Center AL 341
E. The National Council of Teachers of English website: www.ncte.org

IX. GRADING PROCEDURE:
A. Course Assignments

Reflection Journal
  Unit 1 (8 @ 3 pts.) 24
  Unit 2 25
  Unit 3 25
Final Paper 25 pts.

B. Grading Scale

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79 %</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-69 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>0-59 %</td>
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A grade of I (incomplete) will not be given except under the following circumstances as described in the graduate bulletin: A grade of I (incomplete) means that some relatively small part of the semester’s work remains undone because of sickness or other reason satisfactory to the instructor. This work must be completed during the next semester or summer session in which the student enrolls in the graduate program if credit for the course is to be gained.

X. ATTENDANCE POLICY: This is an online course. Students are expected to work steadily throughout the semester, to turn in work on time and to stay current with their work. Students are responsible for checking the Blackboard page frequently for messages and reminders, and for maintaining a current e-mail address in the system. Students who do not make steady progress in the class may be reported to the retention office and/or the scholarship office. This course adheres to the policy stated in the current MSU Graduate Bulletin.

XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person’s material as one’s own), or doing work for another person which will receive
academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were the student’s own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place. This course adheres to the policy stated in the current MSU Graduate Bulletin.

XII. **REQUIRED TEXTS:**


Students choose **ONE** of the following texts on writing:


XIII. **PREREQUISITES:** None.

XVI. **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT:**

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact Director of Equal Opportunity, 103 Wells Hall. 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).