I. TITLE: Middle School Reading

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION: Course provides an overview of research-based literacy practices appropriate for teaching students in the middle grades. Emphasis is placed on teaching strategies designed to enhance comprehension and vocabulary development for students across the curriculum. Field experiences required. Prerequisites: EDU 303, MID 270, Admission to Teacher Education

III. PURPOSE: The purpose of middle school reading is to acquaint students with the role of reading in the middle grades. Emphasis is placed on factors that influence students’ reading and learning from content texts and adolescent literature. Students examine, apply, refine, and reflect upon various strategies designed to enhance literacy at the middle school level.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Class activities will be centered on the acquisition of course objectives listed below. The objectives are understood to be reflective of, but not limited to those behaviors advocated by the Kentucky Education Reform Act and International Reading Association guidelines. Following each objective and enclosed in parentheses are numbers that reference the Kentucky Teacher Standards (KTS) for Preparation and Certification and the International Reading Association guidelines (IRA). Through a variety of performance events, each student will apply her or his knowledge of and competency with the following topics:

A. the relationship of current research and theory in the field of literacy to teaching and learning in the middle grades (KTS #1; IRA #1.1);
B. the reading process as an extension of language and cognitive development (KTS #1; IRA #1.4);
C. the factors related to “readiness to read” at the middle school level and the plans/methods for appropriate reading instruction (KTS #1; IRA #2.1);
D. the types of learning environments that motivates students to read and learn (KTS #1, 3; IRA #2.2, 5.1);
E. text factors such as text structure and readability, which influence students in the middle grades (KTS #1; IRA 2.3);
F. the relation between vocabulary knowledge and reading comprehension, as well as strategies for developing vocabulary (KTS #1; IRA #1.1, 2.1, 2.2);
G. the role of prior knowledge in reading and strategies for building background knowledge (KTS #1; IRA #1.1, 2.1, 2.2);
H. current views related to reading comprehension as well as strategies for enhancing comprehension of text (KTS #1; IRA #1.1, 2.1, 2.2);
I. the teaching of study and learning strategies in the middle grades (KTS #1; IRA #2.2).
J. the development of evaluation methods for encouraging the reading and appreciation of adolescent literature (KTS #1; IRA #4.1, 4.2);
K. the interpretation of results from and evaluation of reading assessments, performance events, and portfolios used in the middle grades (KTS #1, 5; IRA #3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4);
L. the organizational structure and procedures of evaluating middle school reading programs (KTS #1, 7; IRA #5.3);
M. the development of instructional procedures for learners from diverse backgrounds (e.g., multicultural, ESL, disabled, gifted) (KTS #1, 3, 4; IRA #4.3, 4.4);
N. the ability to collaborate with peers and classroom teachers to plan and implement appropriate instruction in a middle school setting (KTS #2, 4, 8; IRA #5.3);
O. the ability to reflect upon one’s instructional behaviors (KTS #7; IRA #5.3);
P. the ability to utilize technology to enhance literacy instruction for middle school students (KTS #6; IRA #2.2, 4.2);
Q. awareness of and participation in professional development opportunities and professional organizations such as the International Reading Association and the National Middle School Association (KTS #9; IRA #5.2, 5.3, 5.4).

The COE Theme of Educator as Reflective Decision-Maker is addressed in this course through various reflective activities (e.g., learning logs, reflection of field experience, and appropriate selection of a professional development activity).

The EPSB Theme of Literacy/Reading is addressed in this course throughout: students are challenged to apply theoretical principles and instructional/assessment strategies in real-world settings. The theme of Diversity is addressed in this course by study of various literacy strategies that will address a wide range of learning needs (e.g., English language learners and struggling readers).

V. CONTENT OUTLINE:
A. Literacy learning for middle grades students.
B. The young adolescent.
C. Literacy learning and the curriculum.
D. Learning environments that motivate students.
E. The demands of text.
F. Vocabulary knowledge.
G. Prior knowledge.
H. Comprehending text.
I. Learning and remembering.
J. Literature across the curriculum.
K. The environment of new assessment.
L. Reading for linguistically and culturally different children.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:
A. Lecture/discussion
B. Demonstrations of teaching strategies
C. Cooperative learning groups
D. Student presentations
E. Student planning, implementation, and reflection of lessons conducted during the field experience

VII. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:
Ten hours of field experience are required for successful completion of REA 407. The field experience will be arranged for students and will occur during the second half of the semester. Students will be expected to prepare, implement, and evaluate reading lessons during the field experience. Collaboration with classroom teachers and peers will be a critical component of the field experience.

VIII. RESOURCES:
Numerous current instructional materials are available in rooms 313 and 341 of Alexander Hall. These will be used for demonstrations and may be used by students during the field experience. The Curriculum Library in the Waterfield Library also contains materials for use by students.

IX. GRADEING PROCEDURES:
A. Course Requirements
1. Completion of required readings of the class texts, at least four novels appropriate for adolescent readers, and other materials supplied by the instructor as well as full participation in class discussions and group activities.
2. Successful performance on two tests comprised of both essay and objective questions.
3. Preparation and presentation of two “booktalks” dealing with two of the adolescent novels mentioned in item #1 above. A printed copy of each booktalk should be submitted to the instructor on the due date (IRA #4.1, 4.2).
4. Preparation of a reader response literature task. This task will involve the selection of three fiction or nonfiction books appropriate for adolescent readers and related to the student’s academic specialization. Novels used for the booktalks (#3 above) may be used for this assignment as well. Students will prepare and submit a five-page paper. More information regarding this assignment is forthcoming (KTS #7, 8; IRA #2.1, 2.2, 4.1, 4.2).
5. Preparation for and full participation in literature circles with the book, Out of the Dust, serving as the catalyst for discussion (IRA #4.1, 4.2).
6. Succinct, informative oral presentation and written summary related to one of five topics: text demands and evaluation, vocabulary development, developing prior knowledge, comprehending text, or learning and remembering. Students may choose to review a journal article, demonstrate a teaching strategy not found in the class text, or present materials related to one of the above topics. Presentations will be evaluated using the following basic criteria: creativity, involvement of group members, topic selection, and addition of new knowledge for group members (IRA #1.1, 1.4, 5.2).
7. Effective planning, implementation, and reflection of instruction during the field-based experience as evidenced by submission of lesson plans, reflections, and instructor observation. Students are encouraged to utilize technology as a resource for the content component of the field experience. They should not,
however, use lesson plans that are available on the Internet (KTS #1, 2, 3, 4, 7; IRA #2.1, 2.2, 5.3).

8. Development of a performance-based assessment task with scoring rubric. Detailed information will be provided (KTS #1, 5; IRA #3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4).

9. Submission of three learning logs. Learning logs are written reflections concerning class discussions or readings. They should be submitted to the instructor electronically three times during the semester. Grades will be lowered if all learning logs are submitted at the end of the semester (KTS #7; IRA #5.3).

10. Completion of one professional development activity. The instructor will supply examples of appropriate activities (KTS #9; IRA #5.2, 5.3, 5.4).

B. Evaluation

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<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tests (2 @ 50 points each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Booktalks (2 @ 15 points each)</td>
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<td>Oral/written journal presentation</td>
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<td>Literature Circles preparation notes</td>
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<td>Field experience documentation</td>
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<td>Reader response literature task</td>
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<td>Performance-based assessment task</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning logs (submit three electronically)</td>
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<td>Professional development activity</td>
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TOTAL........... 300

Grading Scale:  A = 270-300 points; B = 240-269 points; C = 210-239 points; D = 180-209 points; E = < 180 points

X. ATTENDANCE POLICY:
This course adheres to the attendance policy published in the current MSU Undergraduate Bulletin.

Consistent and regular attendance is required. More than four absences may result in a lower grade. Completion of all field experience hours is mandatory and any missed hours must be made up prior to the end of the semester. Persistent tardiness is not acceptable. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the instructor is aware of your presence if you are late for class.

XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:
This course adheres to the academic honesty policy published in the current MSU Undergraduate Bulletin.

XII. TEXT AND REFERENCES:
Required text:

Hess, K. Out of the Dust.

XIII. **PREREQUISITES:**
EDU 303, MID 270, Admission to Teacher Education

XIV. **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 other 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, Murray State University, 103 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071-3318. Telephone: 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).

XV. **FLAG SYSTEM/CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT:**
Student progress throughout the program is continuously assessed. Appropriate professional characteristics and dispositions, in addition to academic achievement, are assessed. Positive and negative flags are submitted by faculty to Teacher Education Services and then presented to admission committees. Negative flags are carefully reviewed to make a determination as to whether a student should be denied admission OR if a professional development plan will be designed for the student’s progress towards program completion. **Negative flags may be grounds for denial of admission to Teacher Education and/or student teaching, or reversal of admitted status.**