

ENGLISH 486
CAPSTONE IN INTEGRATED LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM
SYLLABUS AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS
DR. NANCY MACK

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:

The purpose of this course is to bring together your previous studies here at Wright State into one capstone course with the focus on integrating all of the language arts as specified by the National Council of Teachers of English: reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and visually representing. We will focus on the development of classroom curriculum and lessons that exemplify best practices through thematic planning. In addition, you will also gain experience micro teaching one lesson to your peers.

The structure of this course will model the classroom practices that we will study through an integrated language arts unit about the themes of friendship, peer pressure, freedom, and responsibility. This unit will feature the pairing of a classic work of literature with a young adult novel. You will develop an integrated language arts unit similar to the one experienced in class. In addition, you will learn to both write and teach a literary analysis, incorporating quoted passages and critical analysis.

Another major project this term will be the beginning of a Professional Teaching Portfolio that you will continue to modify during your fifth year of the licensure program. You will be required to include revised papers and projects that you wrote in your other ILA courses along with several new items created this term.

THIS IS A WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE: a piece of writing will be due every class meeting. You will need to arrange your life accordingly in order to keep up with this demanding pace. Prepare family and friends for your new schedule.

2. TEXTS:

Opening Texts: Using Writing to Teach Literature by Kathleen Dudden Andrasick
Standards in Practice, Grades 9-12 by Peter Smagorinsky
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
Parallel Journeys by Eleanor Ayer with Helen Waterford and Alfons Heck

A selected young adult novel:

Ironman by Chris Crutcher.
Monster by Walter Dean Myers.
Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson
The Wave by Todd Strasser

3. MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Reading Journals, Quote Collection, Reflective Papers, Novel Activities, Media Critique, and Other Daily Assignments During the term you will complete numerous written assignments related to the YAL and classic novels. Other assignments will involve listening, speaking, viewing, and visually representing.

B. Literary Analysis Essay You will complete a formal literary analysis of one aspect of the classic novel that you will read for this course. This paper will be based on your reading journals and quote collection. Completing prewriting assignments, drafts, and revisions of this essay are required.

C. ILA Micro Teaching Lesson You will write a lesson plan and teach an activity to the class from you integrated language arts unit based upon your selected novel.

D. Professional Teaching Portfolio Your portfolio will contain an ILA essay; revised work from all other ILA classes; and your integrated language arts lessons, micro-teaching reflections and revisions. You will also turn in you work on a computer disk.

E. Turning in Your Work An assignment will be considered late if it is not handed into me at the beginning of the class period. I do not accept E-mailed assignments. Putting assignments in my mailbox or under my office door involves the risk that they may become lost. You should make a copy of any paper that is not handed into the instructor during class time in case there is a problem. Papers are to be turned in on time. Your grade will be significantly lowered if your paper is turned in late.

F. Changes in Assignments Although your schedule lists the optimal assignments and due dates, remember that I may make changes in what we will do that will be announced in class.

4. GRADES:

A. Grade Percentages

Professional Teaching Portfolio with ILA Unit	45%
Reading Journals, Reflective Papers, and Other Daily Assignments	20%
ILA Micro Teaching Lesson	15%
Critical Literary Analysis Essay	20%

B. Writing Problems You can receive help at the Writing Center. If you have not visited the Writing Center at Wright State University, you owe yourself a trip to the basement of the library because our writing center is one of the best ones in the nation. The **Writing Center** can give you free tutoring on any paper that you need to write while you are here at WSU. You can make an appointment, call the Writer's Hotline (775-2158), or E-mail the web site.

C. Evaluation For daily assignments, you will receive **points** that will become 25% of your grade. For major written assignments, you will receive a grade sheet listing the primary traits that you will be expected to demonstrate in your work. I will evaluate each skill and give you a page of written comments with a **letter grade**.

D. Incompletes Incompletes are rarely given for this class. If you feel that there are compelling circumstances to warrant an incomplete, contact the instructor before the end of the quarter to make arrangements.

E. Plagiarism Wright State has a clear plagiarism policy on the university web site that you should read. As a future teacher, you should realize that you should never, ever plagiarize, no matter how stressed you are. Ask for an extension before you put your whole career at risk. Copying anything from the internet is plagiarism.

5. BASIC POLICIES:

A. **Attendance** **Regular attendance is expected. Poor attendance will lower your final grade.** This is not a correspondence course. Participating in discussion groups is essential to your grade. Just doing the assignments and coming to class now and then is not enough. Missing one class will be equal to missing half a week's worth of work. If you have more than two absences, you should drop the class because you are at risk for failing the course. I refuse to judge one excuse as more valid than another. If you need to leave class early or if you need to come to class late frequently, you should drop the class and take it another quarter.

If you have to be absent, you should contact another student on the phone list before the next class period so that you can find out what you have missed. This way you can come to class with the work that was assigned while you were absent.

B. **Class Cancellation** Since Wright State rarely closes, we need a system for deciding when the weather is too bad for you to come to class. Rather than trying to call each one of you, I will follow the closing announcement for Sinclair University. So if the weather is bad, watch TV channels 2, 22, or 7 or listen to the radio for an announcement. I may be absent due to presentations at state and national conventions.

C. **Future Use of Your Work** I like to use real student papers as good examples in class. I also use student writing in workshops, conference presentations, and academic articles about teaching. I will make an effort to contact you if I publish your writing in a book or on the web. If you do not want your writing published or shared in a future class, please notify me in writing on your cover sheet. You will not be paid for your writing, but such a publication could be listed on your resume`. In addition, the work that you do this quarter will be utilized for your teacher portfolio that will be created in the ILA Capstone course. These materials will be important for job interviewing, Praxis III, and national licensure purposes.