English Seminar for Teacher Trainees 2018–2019

Course Number: 130.1.0038-1

Dr. Hannah Komy
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Office hours: Tuesdays, 12:00–14:00 by appointment

Course Description and Goals:

The aims of the course are as follows: to provide you with an opportunity to use English in situations you will likely encounter in your teaching practice; to work with English texts that you may teach in order to foster a professional awareness of and sensitivity to the English language and its nuances; to read texts in a critical manner and learn to teach your pupils to do the same; to write about these texts; to cultivate a love of the English language and learn to convey it to your pupils; to participate comfortably in discussions of texts and issues that arise from them; and to explore effectual ways to teach these texts in a high school setting.

We will use much of our classroom time to discuss ideas related to your reading. This discussion, which will take place in English, is important on both personal and intellectual levels. It provides an opportunity for us to get to know each other and to learn about our different ways of thinking, reading, writing, and learning. It also gives you experience that I hope will increase your fluency and confidence in expressing yourself in English.

As you read, write, and talk about the texts, please pay attention to the forms and meanings of new words, to precise definitions, to the degree of formality of the language, to the connotations of words, and to the way the meaning of a word is tied to the context in which it occurs.

Requirements:

1. Attendance is mandatory. If you are absent for a legitimate reason, you are required to provide documentation in accordance with University regulations.

2. Keeping a reading journal. You will have short reading assignments. You are required to do the reading before class, to make notes on the text (annotate it), and to write a brief summary of what you have read. In addition, you will write your impressions of the text. These may include interesting phrases or passages, thought-provoking ideas, contradictions, questions, or anything else that you found to be worth noting, including approaches you might use to teach this text in a high school classroom. Each of these journal entries will be no longer than one typed, double-spaced page long in 12-point font. You will submit these to me before the lesson on the text in question (the day of the class, but before the lesson begins). Make two copies of these: one for you to use in class and one for me.
3. You will keep a **written list of new terms, vocabulary words, and expressions** (from your reading, from the class, and from any other context in your life) and their definitions. These lists will be submitted to me weekly, with your reading journal entries. Make two copies of these: one for you to use in class and one for me.

4. Get to know the *Oxford English Dictionary*, which is available online at the Aranne Library. You will find it to be a very useful tool for finding word origins and definitions.

5. Each of you will make 4 frontal presentations and/or present and run a class activity twice in each semester.

6. Note: all written work must be submitted in hard copy, 12 point font, double spaced.

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**Course Grade:**

The course grade will be based entirely on your assignments, including reading journals, vocabulary lists, presentations, and planned classroom activities. There will be **no exam**. A minimum grade of 70 is required to pass this course.

- reading journal: 25%
- vocabulary list: 25%
- presentations/planned classroom activities: 25%
- class participation: 25%

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**Classroom Rules:**

These rules are intended to ensure that this class runs smoothly and in a way that makes it possible to learn and enjoy what you are learning. Following them will allow us all to enjoy a fruitful learning experience together.

1. **Lateness is not acceptable.** This is a small class, and each one of you is a very important part of it. Missing part of the class is not an option.

2. When you enter the classroom, please **silence your cell phone** and **put it away**.

3. Please **shut down your laptop** during this class unless I ask you to leave it open for a specific reason. We want to communicate with one another, and a laptop puts a barrier between us.

4. **Use the bathroom before** class, not during it, if at all possible, to avoid disrupting the lesson.

5. **Fill your water bottles before class**, not during class.
6. **Late assignments will NOT be accepted** under any circumstances.

7. **Absence from more than three classes** in a semester will result in you failing the course. This is a university rule.

8. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated** in any form. Any plagiarized work will automatically receive a grade of 0.

9. **Active participation** in this class will raise your grade in this course. Lack of participation will lower it.

10. You are responsible for **bringing hard copies of the texts** we use in class. They will be posted on the course site on Moodle. Please make sure to print them out or photocopy them from a friend BEFORE class.