

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913–3649
479–788–7000

Graduate Studies General Syllabus

MELA 6213 Young Adult Multicultural Literature

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisites: Admission to the M.Ed. program.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Graduate Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Instruction in the evaluation and selection of gender-fair and multicultural young adult literature based on biological, sociocultural, psychological, and developmental characteristics.

B. Additional Information – N/A

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Develop a curriculum of English Language Arts subject matter content that specifically includes literature and multimedia texts.
2. Master print text, non-print text, media texts, classic texts, and contemporary texts that represent a range of world literatures, historical traditions, genres, and audiences of different genders, ethnicities, and social classes.
3. Reflect upon how theories and research about social justice, diversity, equity, student identities, and schools as institutions can enhance students' opportunities to learn in English Language Arts.
4. Plan instruction responsive to students' local, national and international histories, individual identities (race, ethnicity, gender, expression, age, appearance, ability, spiritual belief, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and community environment), and languages/dialects as they affect students' opportunities to learn in English Language Arts based on theory and research.

B. Program Learning Outcomes:

The M.Ed. program bases Program Learning Outcomes on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). The NBPTS establishes and upholds rigorous expectations for what expert teachers should know and do. This graduate course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Commitment: Teachers believe that all students can learn and meet high expectations. Teachers are committed to all learners and are passionate about teaching. They develop relationships with students in a variety of educational settings. Teachers create learning experiences that differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all students. They understand their subjects and how to teach those subjects to students.

Responsibility: Teachers facilitate and supervise student learning. Teachers embrace a variety of methods to increase student success. They establish social norms within a variety of dynamic grouping options. They motivate and engage students while assessing student performance.

Systematic Thinking: Teachers critique their practices and learn from experience. Teachers evaluate their practices and expand their learning based on best practices, current research, evolving technologies, and student data.

Leadership: Teachers demonstrate leadership that fosters excellence, effectiveness, and collaboration with colleagues, families, and the community. Teachers approach their work with a team mentality. They collaborate with all stakeholders sharing vital information and planning a course of action that will improve the effectiveness of the school.

III. Major Graduate Course Topics

- A. Definition of young adult literature
- B. Trends and issues in young adult literature
- C. YAL in the 21st century classroom
- D. YAL and Censorship
- E. Adolescent gender, identity and sexuality in YAL
- F. Social justice in YAL
- G. Diversity and equity in YAL
- H. Multicultural aspects in YAL