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ENG 3604-001: Special Topics in Literature and Language

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**Special Topics in Literature and Language: Second Language
Acquisition and Teaching English as a Second Language
English 3604E (3 credit hours)
Section 001/Fall 2022/10:00 – 10:50am, CH 3170**

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Caldwell

Email: mcaldwell@eiu.edu

Office: CH 3050

Office Hours: MWF 11:00am -1200pm, W 9:00am - 10:00am, and by appointment

Required Textbooks

Freeman, Freeman, and Soto, *Between Worlds: Second Language Acquisition in Changing Times*
Freeman and Freeman, *Essential Linguistics*

Course Description

In this linguistics-focused class, we will study theories of second language acquisition and strategies for working with English Language Learners, both in classrooms in the U.S. and abroad. We will learn about the principles and dynamics of second language acquisition and literacy with an emphasis on developing teaching and tutoring strategies that you can use in multilingual classrooms and in individual tutoring. In addition to simply learning the material, this class will give you an opportunity to put that knowledge into practice as it will include a service-learning component wherein you will get some experience working as an ESL tutor. Tutoring sites will be made available on campus (no transportation required). There are no prerequisites for this class, though you may find ENG 2901 helpful background. You do not need to be fluent in another language to take this course.

Learning Objectives

In this course, you will learn:

- Foundational theories of second language acquisition (SLA);
- The value of bilingualism and its relationship to cultural pluralism;
- Strategies for working with Emergent Bilinguals (EBs) also known as English Language Learners (ELLs) in a tutoring and/or classroom setting;
- How to develop a tutoring plan for your learner;
- Strategies for effectively communicating with Emergent bilinguals.

Course Requirements and Grade Distribution and Scale

1. Attendance Policy and Class Participation (10%)

- **Attendance Policy:** Attendance is required for the course, and you should plan to attend every class meeting unless you are significantly ill and/or contagious and/or some other emergency comes up. Make-up privileges will be granted only for excused absences as defined by the University. Please read carefully the relevant passage from the Undergraduate Catalog: "Instructors will grant make-up privileges (when make-up is

possible) to students for properly verified absences due to illness, emergency, or participation in an official University activity; and such absences will not militate against students in classes in which attendance is used directly in determining final grades. It is the student's responsibility to initiate plans for make-up work and to complete it promptly." If you have a planned unexcused absence (like those for weddings, out-of-town doctor appointments, court dates, etc.) on the date of a test, please contact me in order to take the test in advance.

- **You are allowed a total of 3 unexcused absences before your grade will be affected.** After your third unexcused absence, your participation grade will go down by 1 point per each additional absence. I also reserve the right to withhold extra credit opportunities from students who have over 4 absences.
- Your **participation grade** will be based not just on class attendance. To receive credit for participating, you have to participate in the course. This means taking part in the daily activities and discussions of the course, asking questions when you have them, putting away all electronics and other distractions during class, and otherwise being actively present in the classroom during class time. Please come to our virtual meetings without distractions and use the same etiquette you would practice in a face-to-face setting.

2. Tutoring and Tutoring Reflections (45%)

- During week 5 through week 13 (9 weeks total), you will conduct **at least one tutoring session per week**. You can do more, if you like, but you cannot do three sessions for three weeks and get credit for all nine sessions—you must tutor for nine weeks.
- This session replaces 1 hour of class time for those weeks and it is required. You should treat this as an assignment and understand that it is a non-negotiable part of the course. You will be working with real people in the Charleston community (or other, if you identify an alternative tutoring site and get approval from me in advance). As such, you are responsible for showing up to your tutoring site as scheduled.
- You should be prepared for your tutoring session and have goals in mind for your learner/s. In addition to tutoring, I will give you **a reflection activity to complete each week**, which will give you an opportunity to reflect on your own development as a tutor.

3. Homework (10%)

There will be short homework assignments (e.g., occasional reading reflections, drafts of tutoring plans, etc.)

4. Strategy Journal and Presentation (35%)

Based on your tutoring work, you will develop a strategy journal over the course of the semester. The purpose of this journal is for you to collect strategies that work for you so that you can use them in your work with English language learners—now and in the future. You will prepare an introduction to your journal that incorporates an overview and some research that relates to the strategies you have chosen. Based on your research and your experiences as a tutor this semester, you will present your findings to the class. More information on this project will become available later in the semester.

Grading Scale

A	90-100
B	80-89.9

C	70-79.9
D	60-69.9
F	Below 60

Important Semester Dates

- Aug. 26: Last day to add a class
- Sept. 2: Last day to drop a course with no grade
- Sept. 2: Last day to withdraw from all classes with full tuition and fees refund
- Sept. 19: Last day to withdraw from all classes with 50% tuition and fees refund
- Nov. 4: Last day to withdraw from a class

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Plagiarism unequivocally will not be tolerated in this course. Plagiarism is defined as "The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language). The English Department's policy on plagiarism states that any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Office of Student Standards. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources.

Student Resources

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by McAfee Gym, Room 1210, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

The Student Success Center and The Writing Center

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations: call 217-581-6696, or go to McAfee Gym, Room 1301.

The Writing Center

This fall, the Writing Center will be offering **face-to-face consulting sessions on weekdays and online sessions evenings and Sundays**. Students will be able to book either a face-to-face or online appointment through the Writing Center website (www.eiu.edu/writing).

English Teacher Education Majors

Students seeking Teacher Certification in English Language Arts should request each of their English Department professors to complete the "Application for English Department Approval to Student Teach" before the end of the semester. These forms are available in a rack outside the office of Dr. Melissa Ames (CH 3821) and online: <https://www.eiu.edu/english/machform/view.php?id=19831>.

Mental Health

Being a college student can be stressful at times. My door is always open for you to have conversations with me about your concerns, academic and otherwise. Additionally, I highly encourage you to contact the EIU Counselling Center as soon as possible if you need their help. They offer individual and group services to help students manage stress, anxiety, depression, and other mental health concerns. You can find more information at <https://www.eiu.edu/counsctr/appointments.php>.

A note about restrooms: The closest all-gender restroom to our class is on the 2nd floor of Coleman Hall, directly under the main English Dept. office. This restroom is newly designated as gender inclusive and has a lockable door and two stalls. Gendered restrooms are located on every floor in Coleman Hall. There is a map of gender-inclusive restrooms at EIU at <https://www.eiu.edu/igbtqa/all-gender-restrooms.php>; please note that this map is not up-to-date, and the Coleman Hall restroom is not listed. It is, nonetheless, clearly labeled gender inclusive.