

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2025**

**HS 1217 (A2/B2): LANGUAGE AND LITERACY - 2 (3-0-0) 30 hours for 8 weeks**

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

**INSTRUCTOR:** MALORIE PETERSEN

**PHONE:** (780) 539-2448

**OFFICE:** H214

**EMAIL:** mpetersen@nwpolytech.ca

**OFFICE HOURS:** *By appointment only*

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** This course explores children's expressive and receptive language development as well as their construction of knowledge about the reading and writing process. Students will examine ways in which preschool environments can support children in their attempts to understand and use the language system of their society. This course provides students with a solid foundation for facilitating preschool children's development in speaking, listening, reading and writing.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** None

**SUGGESTED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

Weitzman, Elaine and Greenberg, Janice. Learning Language and Loving It: A Guide to Promoting Children's Social, Language, and Literacy Development in Early Childhood Settings. 2002. The Hanen Centre. 2nd ed.

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** On campus - Classroom instruction will include a combination of lectures, discussions, small and large group work. Audio-visual materials and other resources will also be used.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand oral language acquisition theories.
- Recognize milestones and stages in language acquisition processes.
- Assess a child's language development.
- Feel capable of supporting and promoting communication strategies that best assist children in developing expressive and receptive language skills.
- Facilitate and promote peer interactions.
- Understand the emergent writing process
- Feel capable of supporting and promoting children's writing development.

## TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page

<http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

**\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

**EVALUATIONS:** Your final grade for this course will be based on:

Assessment	Weighting
Reflection Activities/Quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Time will often be given in class to discuss and work on these. If a student does not finish them in class, they will be responsible for handing them in by the due date given by their instructor.</i></li></ul>	40%
Major Assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>A cumulative demonstration of student learning. Major assignments will require significant, thoughtful effort in order to demonstrate student understanding in lieu of exams.</i></li></ul>	60%

**Hand in assignments via MyClass on the date indicated, by 11:30 pm unless otherwise specified.**

**\*\*Your instructor has set specific deadlines for each of the assignments in this course. Late assignments will be penalized by 3% per day up to a maximum of three days, after which they shall receive a grade of ZERO.**

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Dates	Unit	Assessments
SEPTEMBER	Course Intro & “Language Acquisition”	Sep.23: Unit 1/Unit 2 Reflection DUE (20%)  <i>Major Assignment introduced</i>
	“Promoting and Supporting Language Development”	
OCTOBER	“Learning to Read”	Oct 2: Major Assignment Part A DUE (35%) Oct. 7: Unit 3/Unit 4 Reflection DUE (25%) Oct: 21/23: Major Assignment Part B DUE (20%)
	“Learning to Write”	

**GRADING CRITERIA:** A minimum grade of C- is required to pass this course. Northwestern Polytechnic uses the ALPHA grading system as described in the table below:

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

**All coursework MUST be completed in order to pass this course;** in other words, all learning activities and assignments must be submitted in full by the end date in order to pass this course unless an extension has been agreed upon by the student and instructor PRIOR to the course end date.

**STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:**

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

\*\*Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

## CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

- 1) Regular, punctual attendance. Arriving late is not only rude, it is disruptive to the flow of learning within the classroom. Irregular attendance results in you missing important information and does not set you up for success.
  - 2) Tests and quizzes must be written in-person on the assigned dates. Missing one will result in a grade of zero
  - 3) Minimize cellphone usage and other distractions in class.
  - 4) In order to maintain an environment of optimal learning, please understand that children are not permitted in class. Ensure you have made alternative arrangements for your child(ren) during class time.
  - 5) Grades are not negotiable and will not be changed (with the exception of instructor error, *i.e. adding up totals incorrectly*). The goal is for you to demonstrate your *learning*, not chase a number. Your instructor is available to clarify any misunderstandings you may have about the content to ensure better understanding; however, posted grades will not be altered.
  - 6) Assignments must be properly submitted, on time, in .doc or .pdf format (unless otherwise indicated). Failure to properly upload an assignment could result in a zero if your instructor is unable to access the assignment.
    - Instructors reserve the right to make exceptions to certain rules in extenuating circumstances, on a case-by-case basis.
    - If you are a student that has an official letter of accommodation, ensure you follow the procedures regarding accommodations by making proper arrangements with your instructors *well before* assignment due dates.
  - 7) Students are expected to complete readings and review materials outside of class time and check MyClass and student email regularly.
- *Instructors reserve the right to make exceptions to certain rules in extenuating circumstances, on a case-by-case basis.*
  - *If you are a student that has an official letter of accommodation, ensure you follow the procedures regarding accommodations by making proper arrangements with your instructors well before assignment due dates.*