

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2026

HS1217(A2): Language and Literacy – 2 (3.75-0-0) 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: Kirsten Clark

PHONE: 780-539-2041

OFFICE: H212/off campus

E-MAIL: kiclark@nwpolytech.ca

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

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

REQUIRED 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): In-person on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30-10:20 a.m. in Room H225 from September 2-October 22, 2026

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

1. Understand oral language acquisition theories.
2. Recognize milestones and stages in language acquisition processes.

3. Assess a child's language development.
4. Feel capable of supporting and promoting communication strategies that best assist children in developing expressive and receptive language skills.
5. Facilitate and promote peer interactions.
6. Understand the emergent writing process
7. 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>.

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a 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:

Assignments: 40%	● Assignment 1 (15%) ● Assignment 2 (25%)
Tests: 40%	● Test 1 (20%) ● Test 2 (20%)
Attendance/Participation 10%	*Attendance/Participation is assessed throughout the semester with the use of entrance and exit slips and other assigned tasks at the instructor's discretion
Open-Book Learning Checks 10 %	● Learning Check 1 (5%) ● Learning Check 2 (5%)

Assignment details and specific instructions will be discussed in class and provided on MyClass. Assignments must be submitted in the dropbox on MyClass by 11:59 p.m. on the due date.

Unless arrangements have been made with the instructor prior to the due date, late assignments will be docked 2% per day. If the assignment is not received within 10 days of the due date, a grade of 0 will be given.

****Please note that all of the above must be completed without the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence tools.**

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**. You must receive a final mark of a C- or above to pass this course.

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

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

	Date	Unit and Topic	Assessments of Learning
1	September 3	Course Intro.	
2	September 8	Unit 1: Language Acquisition Theories of Oral Language Development	
3	September 10	Unit 1: Language Acquisition - Brain Research and Language Development - Expressive and Receptive Language - Phonology and Morphemes	
4	September 15	Unit 1: Language Acquisition Language Development Stages and Milestones	
5	September 17	Unit 2: Promoting and Supporting Language Development Strategies: Expressive and Receptive Skills	Learning Check 1 (in-class and open-book)
6	September 22	Unit 2: Promoting and Supporting Language Development - Strategies: Expressive and Receptive Skills - Presentation from librarian Jacob Fehr	Assignment 1 Due
7	September 24	Unit 2: Promoting and Supporting Language Development - Facilitating peer interactions - Informal assessments - Supporting children with language delays	
8	September 29	Part 1: Test 1 Part 2: “First Words” from Babies Viewing and Study	Test 1

9	October 1	Unit 3: Learning to Read • Importance of Literacy • Reading and the Brain • Emergent Literacy	
10	October 6	Unit 3: Learning to Read • Theories: Clay's Early Processing Theory, Simple View of Reading (SVR), Scarborough's Reading Rope, SVR Expansions, Others	
11	October 8	Unit 3: Learning to Read • Strategies and Support	Learning Check 2 (in-class and open-book)
12	October 13	Part 1: Book Basket Presentations Part 2: Silent Book Club	Assignment 2 Due
13	October 15	Unit 4: Learning to Write • Becoming a proficient writer • Stages of writing	
14	October 20	Unit 4: Learning to Write • Strategies to support and promote developing writers	
15	October 22	Test 2	Test 2

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Northwestern Polytechnic expects students' conduct to be in accordance with basic rights and responsibilities. Please refer to the NWP calendar regarding rights and responsibilities.

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 <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

It is the right of the student and of the instructor to a favorable learning/teaching environment. It is the responsibility of the student and the instructor to engage in appropriate adult behaviors that



positively support learning. This includes treating others with dignity and respect and following the expectations outlined below.

Student Attendance and Participation

- You are expected to comment, respond to questions, interact with classmates, and otherwise contribute to the class dialogue. Questions are welcomed and encouraged. If you're wondering about something, most likely several classmates are as well, only they're afraid to speak up, so ask! To participate effectively, you should have the day's reading completed before class begins. This will allow you to comment, answer questions, and ask questions of your own. **Class begins promptly on time, and it is expected that students arrive on time for class and leave only when class is finished.**
- To receive full marks for participation and attendance students are expected to:
 - Be on time for class start and stay until the end.
 - Turn off/put away technology not being used for instruction, that could be a distraction (phones, other computers, tablets). Studies indicate that cell phones not only interfere with your learning, but also the students around you.
- ❖ Students should choose courses with class times that work with their employment and personal commitments, and arrange medical/dental appointments, job interviews, full or part-time employment, child care and any other personal commitments around their course schedule, as students will not generally be excused from class for such activities.
- ❖ If you are unable to make class, communication is key. If your absence is for a legitimate reason (illness, family crisis), please let me know as soon as possible via email. Please send a new e-mail for each class missed for a legitimate reason, or clearly state which days will be missed. E-mailed notices of absence do not automatically "roll over" for future missed dates.
- ❖ Students are responsible for all missed material, including material missed due to legitimate/excused absences. Slideshows are posted to MyClass, and further information can be obtained from classmates. If, after you have reviewed the class materials, you have questions, please contact me and I'll be pleased to assist you.

Statement on the Use of AI in this Course

- ❖ Completing learning activities, assignments, and other course components is a critical part of learning and essential to the development of your practice as an educator. Therefore, in this course, all learners will pledge to use AI tools in ethical and appropriate ways.

For example, it *would not be* ethical or appropriate to use Generative Artificial Intelligence applications such as ChatGPT to write a draft of a learning activity or assignment and submit it as your own work. The use of Generative Artificial Applications such as ChatGPT without proper citation will be considered plagiarism and treated as such using Northwestern Polytechnic's Academic Misconduct Procedures.

In comparison, it *would be* ethical and appropriate for you to use AI tools such as Spell Check or Grammarly to identify spelling and grammar errors in your own work so you can correct them before submission.

If you require additional clarity on the use of AI in this course, please reach out to your instructor.

- ❖ Students may be required to submit their course work to Turnitin, a third-party service provider engaged by NWP.. Turnitin identifies plagiarism by checking databases of electronic books and articles, archived webpages, and previously submitted student papers. Students acknowledge that any course work or essays submitted to Turnitin will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where it will be used solely to detect plagiarism. The terms that apply to a student's use of Turnitin are described on Turnitin.com.

Names and Pronouns

- ❖ At the start of the course, my list of students' names is based on the register. If you would prefer to be called something else, please let me know, and I will adjust my list accordingly, and use your preferred name from that point on. You should feel free to use your preferred given name on all essays and submitted assignments. (If your preferred surname varies from the name under which you are registered, I may need occasional reminders.) If you want to tell me your pronouns, you should feel free to do so. I will respect your pronouns. All students are expected to respect their classmates' preferred names and pronouns.