



LAE 6339
Methods of Teaching Secondary ELA
90748 001
Fall 2026

Instructor Name

Dr. Michael Sherry

University Course Description

This course provides students an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to plan, audit instruction, instruction, and reflect upon the effectiveness of their teaching in secondary school English/Language Arts classrooms. Course is restricted to majors.

Course Requisites

Prerequisite(s):

Corequisite(s):

Course Format

This course asks you to visit a field placement in a local school, complete individual assignments about artifacts from that field placement, attend a seminar discussion, and implement feedback from your peers and your instructor as you build the major assignments piece by piece.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Select curriculum, design instruction, and justify choices that focus on reading in

the English Language Arts classroom.

1. Use analysis of student artifacts to plan, annotate, and justify your choices for an

instructional sequence (rationale, plans, assessment).

1. Plan, teach, and annotate a reading-focused lesson using program-wide criteria

(RELEVANCE, ALIGNMENT, SCAFFOLDING, DIFFERENCE).

Course Objectives

1. Participate with professionalism as “Guest Teachers” in language arts classrooms:

teach, record, annotate at least one lesson (journal; LIVE video).

1. Write lesson plans that differentiate for ELLs and ESE students at various levels

(Case study, LIVE video).

1. Compose a case-study of a focal student, including artifacts like observations,

interviews, and work samples; use analysis of these artifacts to develop a reading-

focused lesson sequence (Case study).

1. Research effective methods of reading instruction to inform planning and teaching

of reading (Case study).

Required Texts and/or Readings and Course Materials

There are no required texts for this course.

Supplementary (Optional) Texts and Materials

Unless otherwise indicated, all materials in Canvas are required.

How to Succeed in this Course

This course depends on weekly fieldwork, writing, and discussion as you incrementally gather and analyze classroom artifacts (individually and collaboratively) to prepare for a case study and a video-recorded solo lesson. The assignments are not hard if you take them in steps, but they involve choices unlike traditional academic tasks; give yourself time to ask questions and to be creative; and don't fall behind!

Please arrange your schedule now to account for at least four hours per week (2 for seminar, and 2 at a field placement--preferably on the same day as our seminar).

Grading Scale

Assignments not completed will receive an "F" unless you notify me in advance and we agree upon a plan for an "incomplete" or "I" grade. If you would like to discuss your grade on an assignment, please see me during office hours; some assignments can be revised for partial credit. No grade below C- will be accepted toward a degree.

Grading Scale

94 - 100 A

90 - 93 A-

87 - 89 B+

84 - 86 B
80 - 83 B-
77 - 79 C+
74 - 76 C
70 - 73 C-
67 - 69 D+
64 - 66 D
60 - 63 D-
0 - 59 F

Grade Categories and Weights

Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Teaching Journal 5% (x6)	30%
INSIDERS Case Study	35%
LIVE Lesson Video Annotation	35%

Instructor Feedback Policy & Grade Dissemination

Instructor will respond to email communication relevant to the subject matter within 48 hours of the date received. Instructor will provide feedback on assignments within one week of the posted deadline. Assignments will receive responses from me and your peers throughout the semester. As such, your own and others' success depends as much on your participation as on any other element.

Major Topics and Course Schedule

[LAE 6339 Course Schedule \(Subject to Revision\)](#)

USF Core Syllabus Policies

USF has a set of central policies related to student recording class sessions, academic integrity and grievances, student accessibility services, academic disruption, religious observances, academic continuity, food insecurity, pregnancy and related conditions, and sexual harassment that **apply to all courses at USF**. Be sure to review these online:

<https://www.usf.edu/provost/faculty-success/resources-policies-forms/core-syllabus-policy-statements.aspx>

Student Recordings

Florida Statute 1004.097 Free Expression on Campus

Students may, without prior notice, record video or audio of a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled for their own personal, educational use (USF Policy 10-048). A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach enrolled students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to lab sessions, student presentations (whether individually or part of a group), class discussion, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty member is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation and class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the USF Student Conduct Code.

Course Policies: Grades

First Day Attendance Policy:

Students who don't complete the first day activity run the risk of being dropped from the course.

Late Work Policy:

Assignments not completed by the due date will receive an "F" unless you notify me in advance. Twice in a semester, a student may elect to take an extension of up to 1 week for an assignment, if the student follows this procedure:

Contact the instructor via email in advance of the due date of the assignment to for an extension. Include in the email the name of assignment and the date you will turn it in. You must submit the assignment within 1 week of its original due date. This guideline is to make sure an extension does not cause you to fall behind with subsequent work in the course. The assignment will be graded according to the assignment rubric.

No grade below C- will be accepted toward an undergraduate degree.

Writing Commentary Policy:

Commentary on projects will be delivered in written format, at the end of the work. However, upon request, an alternate delivery method can be used. If desired, instructor comments will be made verbally and delivered to the student as an mp3 through Canvas. Those requesting mp3 feedback must ask when the work is turned in.

Grades of "Incomplete"

An Incomplete grade ("I") is exceptional and granted at the instructor's discretion only when students are unable to complete course requirements due to illness or other circumstances beyond their control. The course instructor and student must complete and sign the "I" Grade Contract Form that describes the work to be completed, the date it is due, and the grade the student would earn factoring in a zero for all incomplete assignments. The due date can be negotiated and extended by student/instructor as long as it does not exceed two semesters for undergraduate courses and one semester for graduate courses from the original date grades were due for that course. An "I" grade not cleared within the two semesters for undergraduate courses and one semester for graduate courses (including summer semester) will revert to the grade noted on the contract.

Campus Free Expression

It is fundamental to the University of South Florida's mission to support an environment where divergent ideas, theories, and philosophies can be openly exchanged and critically evaluated. Consistent with these principles, this course may involve discussion of ideas that you find uncomfortable, disagreeable, or even offensive.

In the instructional setting, ideas are intended to be presented in an objective manner and not as an endorsement of what you should personally believe. "Objective" means that the idea(s) presented can be tested by critical peer review and rigorous debate, and that the idea(s) is supported by credible research.

In this course you may be asked to engage with complex ideas and to demonstrate an understanding of the ideas. Understanding and engaging with an idea does not require

you to believe it or to agree with it.

Course Policies: Technology and Media

This course is offered via USF's learning management system (LMS), Canvas. If you need help learning how to perform various tasks related to this course or other courses being offered in Canvas, please consult the [Canvas Student Guides](#). You may also contact USF's IT department at (813) 974-1222 or help@usf.edu.

If you have technical difficulties in Canvas, you can find access to the Canvas guides and video resources in the “Canvas Help” page on the homepage of your Canvas course. You can also contact the help desk by calling 813-974-1222 in Tampa or emailing help@usf.edu.

[IT website for the Tampa campus.](#)

[IT website for the St. Pete campus.](#)

[IT website for the Sarasota-Manatee campus.](#)

Use of the internet for other activities, recreational or academic, during classtime is discouraged and may result in a lowering of your grade. Unless your instructor indicates otherwise, please remember to turn off cell phones and other electronic devices that might make it harder for you or your classmates to be “present” during class; failure to do this may result in a lowering of your grade.

Course Policies: Student Expectations

Health and Wellness

Your health is a priority at the University of South Florida. We encourage members of our community to look out for each other and to reach out for help if someone is in need. If you or someone you know is in distress, please make a referral at www.usf.edu/sos so that the Student Outreach & Support can contact and provide helpful resources to the student in distress. A 24-hour licensed mental healthcare professional, offered through the counseling center, is available by phone at 813-974-2831, option 3. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, please dial 9-1-1.

Title IX Policy

USF is committed to fostering a safe and respectful learning environment, free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment, in accordance with Title IX and USF Policy 0-004. If a student shares an experience of sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, or relationship violence with a USF employee (including faculty), that employee will notify the Title IX Office. This allows the Title IX Office to send the student an email with information about support resources and options—if it is safe to do so. Students are not required to respond to this email. The Title IX Office is a private resource. Information is shared only on a need-to-know basis to provide students with support measures. To speak to a confidential resource, students may contact USF Center for Victim Advocacy at 813-974-5757. Confidential resources do not notify the Title IX Office unless the student requests it. For more information about Title IX, available resources, or to make a report, please visit www.usf.edu/title-ix.

Course Hero / Chegg Policy

The USF Policy on Academic Integrity specifies that students may not use websites that enable cheating, such as by uploading or downloading material for this purpose. This does apply specifically to Chegg.com and CourseHero.com – almost any use of these websites (including uploading proprietary materials) constitutes a violation of the academic integrity policy.

Professionalism Policy

Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, etc. must be silenced during all classroom and lab lectures. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom/lab immediately so as to not disrupt the learning environment. Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, etc., and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade.

Turnitin.com

In this course, turnitin.com may be utilized. Turnitin is an automated system which instructors may use to quickly and easily compare each student's

assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly, you may be expected to submit all assignments in both hard copy and electronic format. After the assignment is processed, as instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment. For a more detailed look at this process visit <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Netiquette Guidelines

- Act professionally in the way you communicate. Treat your instructors and peers with respect, the same way you would do in a face-to-face environment. Respect other people's ideas and be constructive when explaining your views about points you may not agree with.
- Be sensitive. Be respectful and sensitive when sharing your ideas and opinions. There will be people in your class with different linguistic backgrounds, political and religious beliefs or other general differences.
- Proofread and check spelling. Doing this before sending an email or posting a thread on a discussion board will allow you to make sure your message is clear and thoughtful. Avoid the use of all capital letters, it can be perceived as if you are shouting, and it is more difficult to read.
- Keep your communications focused and stay on topic. Complete your ideas before changing the subject. By keeping the message on focus you allow the readers to easily get your idea or answers they are looking for.
- Be clear with your message. Avoid using humor or sarcasm. Since people can't see your expressions or hear your tone of voice, meaning can be misinterpreted.

Email and Discussion Board Guidelines

- Use the subject line effectively by using a meaningful line of what your email or discussion is about.
- Keep your emails and postings related to the course content. You should not post anything personal on a discussion board unless it is requested by the instructor.
- Any personal, course or confidential issues should be directly communicated to the instructor via email. The discussion boards are public spaces; therefore, any issues should not be posted there.

End of Semester Student Evaluations

All classes at USF make use of an online system for students to provide feedback to the University regarding the course. These surveys will be made

available at the end of the semester, and the University will notify you by email when the response window opens. Your participation is highly encouraged and valued.

Food and Drink Policy (for in-campus sessions only).

Please adhere to the firm policy of no beverages (other than bottled/capped water), food, tobacco products, or like items in the classroom. Your understanding of the necessity for this policy and cooperation will be greatly appreciated. This policy will be strictly enforced.

Learning Support and Campus Offices

Academic Accommodations

Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in order to receive academic accommodations. For additional information about academic accommodations and resources, you can visit the SAS website.

[SAS website for the Tampa campus and Sarasota-Manatee Teachout site.](#)

[SAS website for the St. Pete campus.](#)

Academic Support Services

The USF Office of Student Success coordinates and promotes university-wide efforts to enhance undergraduate and graduate student success. For a comprehensive list of academic support services available to all USF students, please visit the [Office of Student Success website](#).

Canvas Technical Support

If you have technical difficulties in Canvas, you can find access to the Canvas guides and video resources in the “Canvas Help” page on the homepage of your Canvas course. You can also contact the help desk by calling 813-974-1222 in Tampa or emailing help@usf.edu.

[USF IT Services](#)

Center for Victim Advocacy

The [Center for Victim Advocacy](#) empowers survivors of crime, violence, or abuse by promoting the restoration of decision making, by advocating for their rights, and by offering support and resources. Contact information is available online.

Counseling Center

The Counseling Center promotes the wellbeing of the campus community by providing culturally sensitive counseling, consultation, prevention, and training that enhances student academic and personal success. Contact information is available online.

[Counseling Center website for the Tampa campus and Sarasota-Manatee Teachout site.](#)

[Counseling Center website for the St. Pete campus.](#)

Tutoring

The Tutoring Hub offers free tutoring in several subjects to USF undergraduates. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information, email asctampa@usf.edu.

[Tutoring website for the Tampa campus and Sarasota-Manatee Teachout site.](#)

[Tutoring website for the St. Pete campus.](#)

Writing Studio

The Writing Studio is a free resource for USF undergraduate and graduate students. At the Writing Studio, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you, at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing.

Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, email: writingstudio@usf.edu.

[Writing studio website for the Tampa campus and Sarasota-Manatee Teachout Site.](#)

[Writing studio website for the St. Pete campus.](#)

Student Ombuds Office

Florida Statute 1006.51 and Florida Board of Governors Regulation 6.011 require that all public institutions provide ombuds services to students. The Student Ombuds Office at USF is a confidential, impartial, informal, and independent resource for students experiencing challenges related to the university. Ombuds can help students safely explore options, clarify processes, and consider next steps. [Learn more or make an appointment at usf.edu/student-ombuds.](https://usf.edu/student-ombuds)