



Chaminade
University
OF HONOLULU

EDUC 780 Course Syllabus

3140 Waiālae Avenue - Honolulu, HI 96816

www.chaminade.edu

Course Number: EDUC 780

Course Title: Special Topics: Understanding and Implementing the Science of Reading

College/School/Division: School of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Term: Spring 2026

Credits: 1

Class Location: Online (Canvas)

Instructor Name: Christopher Padesky, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Office hours by appointment

University Course Catalog Description

This course provides an in-depth exploration of literacy instruction through the lens of the Science of Reading. Students will learn the importance of literacy skills and how to effectively teach those skills to diverse K-12 students. The course covers the major concepts of literacy instruction, including phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, reading comprehension, reading fluency, and writing. Additionally, this course examines how the Science of Reading can be utilized to enhance literacy achievement for all students in Hawai'i, considering its unique cultural and linguistic landscape.

Conceptual Framework:

The Education Division's Conceptual Framework is based upon a set of beliefs that flow from the University's vision and mission statements, the Division's vision and mission statements, and the core academic beliefs of Chaminade University. These values and beliefs are based on the Catholic Marianist principles; a commitment to mentor teacher and educational leader candidates to their fullest potential; a commitment to teaching, scholarship and research; and a commitment to serve the university and the larger community. This alignment is designed to prepare education professionals who meet the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) standards for effective teaching by demonstrating professional dispositions and empathy, content knowledge, and the pedagogical/leadership skills to work effectively with a diverse community of learners.

Education Division Mission Statement:

The Education Division's mission is to foster the development of knowledgeable, proficient, and reflective teachers and educational leaders. Our programs are based in the liberal arts tradition, Catholic Marianist values, current research, best practice, and professional standards. In this context we develop educators who demonstrate ethical, effective and culturally responsive practices, and a commitment to building a just and peaceful society.

Marianist Values

1. Educate for formation in faith
2. Provide an integral quality education
3. Educate in family spirit
4. Educate for service, justice and peace
5. Educate for adaptation and change

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Articulate the importance of literacy skills and how to effectively teach students through the Science of Reading.
2. Define the major concepts of literacy instruction including phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, and writing.
3. Recognize the unique strengths and needs of multilingual students and students with dyslexia and/or dysgraphia.
4. Describe how the Science of Reading can be used to improve literacy achievement for all students in Hawai'i

Learning Materials

- [Need to rent or purchase] Nanton, Nick. (2022). *The Truth About Reading*. DNA Films.
- [Need to rent or purchase] Mackenzie, Jenny. (2023). *The Right to Read*. Artemis Rising Foundation & LeVar Burton Entertainment.
- [Free]Macias, Luis. (2013). *Embracing Dyslexia*. Learning Foundations.
- [Free] Reading Rockets Modules
- All other resources will be provided.

Assessment

Assignments	Points
Weekly Assignments and Discussion	75
Literacy as a Social Justice Issue	25
Total	100

May be subject to change based on the dynamics of current events. Late assignments submitted one-day late will receive a 10% deduction and two-days late with a 25% deduction. No late assignments will be accepted after. If there is an emergency, make sure to contact me before the due date of an assignment. No work will be accepted after the last day of the course.

Syllabus Change Policy: This syllabus is a guide and every attempt is made to provide an accurate overview of the course. Occasionally, it may be necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester due to the progress of the class, experiences of the students, and unforeseen changes in the schedule. Changes to the syllabus will be made with advance notice whenever possible.

Grading scale

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
0-69	F

Schedule

Module	Topic	Tasks
Module 1	Background on Literacy: History of reading and writing Background of Literacy in Hawai'i Overview of the Science of Reading	Discussion: History of Reading and Writing (15 pts)
Module 2	Reading Challenges: Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Reading Assets: Multilingual Learners	Discussion: Dyslexia and Multilingual Learners (15 pts)
Module 3	Reading Comprehension and Fluency	Discussion: Reading Comprehension and Fluency (15 pts)
Module 4	Assessment	Discussion: Assessment (15 pts)
Module 5	Disciplinary Literacy: We All Teach Literacy	Discussion: Disciplinary Literacy (15 pts)
Module 6	Reflections: Literacy as a Social Justice Issue	Discussion: Social Justice (25 pts)

Credit Hour Policy

This is a one-credit-hour course requiring 45 hours of student engagement, per the official CUH Credit Hour Policy. Students in this course are anticipated to spend 6 hours listening and responding to the Sold a Story Podcast and about 4 ½ hours per week engaged in weekly reading, discussion, and assignments.

Model Code of Ethics for Educators

The Model Code of Ethics for Educators is intertwined throughout the various activities within this course, as well as the other courses you will take within this program. The responsibility to profession, of professional competence, to our students, to the school, and with the use of technology are integral to all aspects of this course.

Changes to the Syllabus

While the provisions of this syllabus are as accurate and complete as possible, your instructor reserves the right to change any provision herein at any time. Every effort will be made to keep you advised of such changes, and information about such changes will be available from your instructor.

Online Course Guidelines

- Students should communicate with each other using common courtesy, politeness, and appropriate behaviors. Inappropriate behavior, including, but not limited to the following, are unacceptable: bullying in any form, harassment in any form, making demeaning and/or derogatory comments, other aggressive behaviors in-person or virtually and/or other forms of communication.
- Discussion Participation: You will be evaluated on the quality of your contributions and insights. Quality comments possess one or more of the following properties: Offers a response that is relevant and contributes to moving the discussion forward, transcends simply stating “I agree,” and demonstrates in-depth thinking.

Writing Standards

All work submitted by Chaminade University students must meet the following writing standards. Written assignments should:

- Use correctly the grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure of Standard Written English.
- Develop ideas, themes, and main points coherently and concisely.
- Adopt modes and styles appropriate to their purpose and audience.
- Be clear, complete, and effective.
- Carefully analyze and synthesize material and ideas borrowed from sources. In addition, the sources of the borrowed material should be correctly acknowledged to avoid plagiarism (see Plagiarism).

Important Information

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is an essential aspect of all learning, scholarship, and research. It is one of the values regarded most highly by academic communities throughout the world. Violations of the principle of academic honesty are extremely serious and will not be tolerated.

Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at Chaminade by not participating in any act of dishonesty and by reporting any incidence of academic dishonesty to an instructor or to a University official. Academic dishonesty may include theft of records or examinations, alteration of grades, and plagiarism, in addition to more obvious dishonesty.

Questions of academic dishonesty in a particular class are first reviewed by the instructor, who must make a report with recommendations to the Dean of the Academic Division. Punishment for academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor and the Dean of Academic Division and may include an “F” grade for the work in question, an “F” grade for the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University.

For the most up to date information, please refer to the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) on the Chaminade University Catalog website.

TITLE IX AND NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

Chaminade University of Honolulu is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes the dignity of all people, inclusivity and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. For pregnant and parenting students, I am also obligated to provide you with similar resources for support and protections available to you. My goal is to make sure that you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

Nondiscrimination Policy & Notice of Nondiscrimination

The university is committed to comply with all State and Federal statutes, rules, and regulations which prohibit discrimination. The university is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, gender identity and expression, age, religion, color, national origin (including shared ancestry and ethnic characteristics), ancestry, citizenship, disability, genetic information, marital status, breastfeeding, arrest and court record (except as permissible under State law), sexual orientation, or status as a covered veteran. Inquiries about Title IX or general Civil Rights concerns may be referred to the University's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both and contact information may be found [HERE](#). *On-campus Confidential Resources may also be found here at [CAMPUS CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES](#).*

The University's Nondiscrimination Policy and Grievance Procedures can be located on the University webpage at:

<https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix-nondiscrimination-policies-procedures/>.

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to the [Campus Incident Report form](#). Chaminade University of Honolulu prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates.

The NOTICE of NONDISCRIMINATION can be found here: [Notice of Nondiscrimination](#).

Hazing Prevention Resources and Athlete Helpline:

Assists athletes, parents, coaches, and any allies interested in ensuring physical and mental safety for sports communities by offering confidential emotional support, crisis intervention, informational athlete-focused resources, and guidance related to concerns about any type of abuse—including hazing.

Chaminade University's Hazing Policy:

<https://catalog.chaminade.edu/studenthandbook/codeofconduct>

<https://hazingpreventionnetwork.org/athlete-helpline/>

<https://hazingpreventionnetwork.org/how-to-report-hazing/>

Basic Needs Resources: <https://chaminade.edu/basic-needs/>

Campus Safety/ SafeSwords

A program for students, faculty and staff, who may feel uncomfortable or unsafe walking alone on campus, at any time of the day. Call security, and a security professional will meet you at your location on campus. The security professional will escort you to your residence hall, car, etc. Students may utilize this when walking to and from night classes around campus or after late night events. [SafeSwords Webpage](#)

CUH Alert Emergency Notification

To get the latest emergency communication from Chaminade University, students' cell numbers will be connected to Chaminade's emergency notification text system. When you log in to the Chaminade portal, you will be asked to provide some emergency contact information. If you provide a cellphone number, you will receive a text from our emergency notification system asking you to confirm your number. You must respond to that message to complete your registration and get emergency notifications on your phone.

Assessment for Student Work

With the goal of continuing to improve the quality of educational services offered to students, Chaminade University conducts assessments of student achievement of course, program, and institutional learning outcomes. Student work is used anonymously as the basis of these assessments, and the work you do in this course may be used in these assessment efforts.

Student with Disabilities Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu offers accommodations for all actively enrolled students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act (2008).

Students are responsible for contacting Kokua Ike: Center for Student Learning to schedule an appointment. Verification of their disability will be requested through appropriate documentation and once received it will take up to approximately 2–3 weeks to review them.

Appropriate paperwork will be completed by the student before notification will be sent out to their instructors. Accommodation paperwork will not be automatically sent out to instructors each semester, as the student is responsible to notify Kokua Ike via email at ada@chaminade.edu each semester if changes or notifications are needed.

Kōkua 'Ike: Tutoring & Learning Services

Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students. Tutoring and writing help is available on campus at Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning in a variety of subjects (including, but are not limited to biology, chemistry, math, nursing, English, etc.) from trained Peer and Professional Tutors. Please check [Kōkua 'Ike's](#) website for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via TutorMe. Tutor Me can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply click on Account > TutorMe. For more information, please contact Kōkua 'Ike at tutoring@chaminade.edu or 808-739-8305.