ENGL 6391: Introduction to Graduate Study
For Students in MA in English with a Concentration in TESOL Program
Instructor: Michael K. Ford
Class Schedule: TR 9:30-10:45 am; Class Location: Academic 007
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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 to 11:00; Office: CIS 104

Catalog Description: ENGL 6391 Introduction to Graduate Study (3-0.)
A study of research methods, theoretical approaches and critical analysis.

- Broad-based introduction to the field of TESOL and TESOL based theories and research
- What to expect as a grad student and future TESOL Professional in this MA Program

General Description- 4 Components
1. Introduction to the Graduate Program
2. Introduction to the TESOL Profession
3. Research Methods
4. Introduction to Practical Teaching and Learning in the Classroom

Learning Goals

Upon completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Fully utilize the resources at their disposal to become life-long learners, independent thinkers and successful professionals.
2. Understand the different components and issues of TESOL as a career.
3. Understand the foundations of qualitative research and how this research can be used to inform instruction.
4. Access resources needed to acquire concepts, theories, research, and practice that will facilitate the ability to teach language effectively.
5. Acquire an initial understanding of “Practical and Fundamental Concepts of Teaching” in the classroom.

Assignments

- Power Point/Poster Presentation/Presentations
- Teach a class for English Language Learners Institute at the Center for International Studies
- Homework Assignments
- Reflective Observation Journal
- Formulate a Research Question and initiate a plan
- Design an action research project on language acquisition

**Texts:**

*Qualitative Inquiry in TESOL* by Keith Richards

*An Introduction to Second Language Acquisition Research* by Diane-Larsen Freeman and Michael H. Long

**Grading**

Homework 20%
Mid-Term Exam 20%
Reflective Observation Journal 10%
Formulate research question on language acquisition/ implement project 15%
Action Research Project/Presentation to Class 15%
Final Exam 20%

**OTHER ISSUES**

**Minimum standards and expectations** – commitment to learning your craft and future career

**Absences** – If you must miss a class, contact a classmate to get the homework assignment for you or to turn in your work. Late work will not be accepted under any circumstances. I do not accept work via email. All assignments must be submitted to receive a passing grade. No incompletes will be given.

**Personal Emergencies** – If you encounter a personal tragedy or some emotional distress that causes you to miss classes, get in touch with me as soon as you can.

**Academic Honesty** - All work composed for this class must be written exclusively for this class and be your original work. You may of course receive assistance on your writing, but submitting someone else’s work as your own or failing to acknowledge sources appropriately will be grounds for plagiarism. Violations of academic honesty and plagiarism will result in immediate failure of this class. You are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf.

**Special Requirements**: Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, in order to request such accommodations prior to any
being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. For more information, see http://www.angelo.edu/services/student_life/disability.html.

**Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days**
If you intend to be absent from class to observe a religious holy day, you should make that intention known in writing to me prior to the absence.