

**Course Title: Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools, Part I  
(Includes Parts A & B)**

**Instructor:** Carol Mowen

**Length:** 10 hours

**Part A:**

**Course Description:**

This course will cover a comprehensive set of topics to improve literacy in the secondary school. The definition of literacy including writing, thinking, technology, and media as well as factors that hinder literacy development are explored. A history of literacy and practical techniques for improving literacy in the classroom will be presented. The course will emphasize literacy across the curriculum while addressing methods for identifying struggling readers at the secondary level and overcoming obstacles to improve reading skills and comprehension. The consequences of illiteracy in today's technology driven society are profound, affecting job opportunities, advancement, and quality of life issues. Participants will learn *best practices* in literacy development based upon current research. This course can be taken alone or with *Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools, Part II, Part III, and Part IV* for additional course credits.

**Objectives:**

1. Knowledge –at the end of this course, the student will be able to understand the connection between variations in language, appearance, and culture, economic, social, and political rationale for literacy, and factors that hinder literacy.
2. Skills –after this course a student will be able to apply strategies to help the struggling reader, strategies to improve comprehension, and strategies to assess literacy and comprehension across the curriculum.
3. Dispositions – they will appreciate out of this outward signs of a struggling reader, a safe learning environment increases reading fluency, and the link between reading and thinking.

**Units:**

1. A Brief History of Literacy
2. Defining Literacy
3. The Essential Nature of Literacy in Today's Society
4. Identifying Struggling Readers
5. Reading Comprehension

**Methods of Instruction:**

- Video lectures and PowerPoint presentations
- Short answer quizzes
- Graded post assessments

- Final reflection question

**All steps listed under each topic must be completed to receive credit for the course. No partial credit will be given. Students must earn a minimum of 65% to pass the course.**

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**Percentage of Course Credit**

- Graded post assessments 70%
- Final Project 30%

**KDS Rubric for GA courses (passing requirements: 65 points):**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory (40 points)</b>	<b>Basic (50 points)</b>	<b>Proficient (60 points)</b>	<b>Distinguished (70 points)</b>
<b>Critical thinking post-work</b>	<u>Critical thinking post-work:</u>	<u>Critical thinking post-work:</u>	<u>Critical thinking post-work:</u>	<u>Critical thinking post-work:</u>
<b>And</b>	0-40% correct	60% correct	80% correct	100% correct
<b>Short answer quizzes</b>	<u>Short answer quiz:</u>  -Participant included no content from the course in his or her responses  -Participant did not address the questions posed	<u>Short answer quiz:</u>  -Participant included some content from the course, usually appropriate, in his or her responses  -Participant answered the questions directly, not always fully	<u>Short answer quiz:</u>  -Participant included appropriate content from the course in his or her responses  -Participant made thoughtful comments in direct response to the questions	<u>Short answer quiz:</u>  -Participant provided rich detail from the content of the course in his or her responses  -Participant made his or her responses to the questions personally meaningful
<b>Final</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory (5 points)</b>  -Participant included no content from the course in his or her responses  -Participant did not address the questions posed	<b>Basic (10 points)</b>  -Participant included some content from the course, usually appropriate, in his or her responses  -Participant answered the questions directly,	<b>Proficient (20 points)</b>  -Participant included appropriate content from the course in his or her responses  -Participant made thoughtful comments in direct	<b>Distinguished (30 points)</b>  -Participant provided rich detail from the content of the course in his or her responses  -Participant made his or her responses to the

		not always fully	response to the questions	questions personally meaningful
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