Welcome
Welcome to the on-line course MLED 560 Middle Level Reading Methods. This course will introduce you to the literacy needs of middle level students focusing on reading and writing methods for middle level teachers. The course includes reading two textbooks, a national report, and one adolescent novel (of your choice) as well as completing assignments that should assist you in developing your knowledge base. The readings and assignments are relevant to what will be expected of you in the middle school reading classroom.

My name is Dr. Gapp, and I am an Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of South Dakota. My research and background is in Reading Methods, Early Literacy, Reading Interventions, and Reading Assessments. Before entering higher education I have taught elementary school for twelve years and worked as a Reading Recovery Teacher Leader for 6 years.

IMPORTANT: This course is cross-listed with MLED 460 Middle Level Reading, which is an undergraduate section. MLED 460 and MLED 560 require different textbooks (with the exception of the Atwell text—both sections will read this book) and different assignments. Please be sure when referring to the syllabus, readings, assignments in the D2L shell, you are reading the requirements for MLED 560, the graduate section.

Textbook & Materials
The course includes reading two textbooks, reading a national report, reading an adolescent novel of your choice, and completing assignments that should assist you in developing your knowledge base in middle level teaching methods.

The textbooks you will need for this course are as follows:


Excellent Education—can be downloaded free of charge at [http://all4ed.org/reports-factsheets/reading-next-a-vision-for-action-and-research-in-middle-and-high-school-literacy/](http://all4ed.org/reports-factsheets/reading-next-a-vision-for-action-and-research-in-middle-and-high-school-literacy/)

A middle level (adolescent) trade book of your choice. This trade book will be used for an assignment (book review) in this course. Be prepared to write a one-paragraph rationale in the book review explaining why you chose this book and the appropriate grade level for your choice. Consider the literary quality of the book in terms of characters, setting, theme, plot and use of language. You might also consider the appropriateness for this age group and the appeal of the book for children.

The textbooks are available through Barnes & Noble at USD. You can purchase it in person or you can contact them at bn@usd.edu or by going to their web site at [http://usd.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=29552&catalogId=10001&langId=-1](http://usd.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=29552&catalogId=10001&langId=-1) to make your order of the book. They can also be reached at (605) 677-6291. To make an order they will need:

**Technology Requirements**

The University of South Dakota has established minimum technology requirements for participation in online courses. These are outlined under the “Technology Support and Requirements” section in the [Online Student Handbook](#) document in the Getting Started widget on the course homepage through the “CDE Online Learning Student Orientation” link.

**IMPORTANT:** You will need to have access to the web, e-mail, and Microsoft Office Word. It is very important that you have a USD User ID and are able to log into the course on D2L before the first class. You must interact on-line with other students and the professor. It will be a way of learning from each other.

**General Course Schedule**

In general, a typical week in this course will be sequenced as follows:

<table>
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<th>DAY</th>
<th>TASK</th>
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| Monday   | Start of the week; new course topics, materials, readings and discussion.  
Open for independent work and discussion posts.  |
| Tuesday  | Office hours @ 3:00 PM CT (optional)  
Open for independent work and discussions |
| Wednesday| Discussion post/response to readings due.  
Open for independent work and discussions |
| Thursday | Open for independent work and discussions |
| Friday   | Reply to at least one other class member’s discussion post due.  
Assignments typically due on Fridays. |
| Saturday | Open for work |

- Technology Requirements
- General Course Schedule
TIP: When the course starts on Monday, August 21st, be sure to take time to review the information found in each Icon on the D2L Homepage for this course. Be sure to run off a hardcopy of the syllabus and review it before the course starts. Weekly discussion forums can be found on the Discuss Link within the Communications Icon o the Black Navigation Bar. During the first week, you are expected to introduce yourself via D2L by posting a short introduction so we can begin to know you in the Introductory Message site on the Discuss Link within the Communications Icon.

General Course Requirements and Expectations
The South Dakota Board of Regents defines a credit hour as constituting one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction, and two hours of out of class student work. This is a three credit-hour course, so students should expect to invest around nine hours per week in the course.

Because this is an online course, where we will not meet face to face, this engagement will be facilitated via the following activities: posting in the weekly discussions; replying to classmates’ posts, and completing assignments (adolescent novel book review, on-line website review, professional power point presentation, and reflection paper). Please see the syllabus for more details (dates, grading criteria, rubrics, expectations, etc.). The instructor will read all discussion posts within a week of the due date. All other course work will be returned with feedback by two weeks from the due date.

IMPORTANT: This will not be a self-paced or correspondence-like course. You will be required to complete—and assessed on—weekly activities. Failure to do so may result in a reduced grade in the course, or being dropped from the course.

Getting Started
First, you will need to access the course in Desire2Learn (D2L). This can be done via the USD student portal, http://myu.usd.edu, or directly via https://d2l.sdbor.edu. The course should be listed in under “My Courses.” Note: you will not be able to access the course until the official start date.

Next, you should familiarize yourself with the CDE Online Orientation, which can be found in the Getting Started widget on the course homepage. It contains important information on accessing USD’s resources online.

Once in the course, you should do the following:

1. Read through the items in the Getting Started section on the top, left-hand side of the course homepage.
2. Orient yourself to the other important areas (widgets) of the homepage:
   ○ News: where course updates or messages from the instructor will be posted.
3. Familiarize yourself with the various tools that will be used throughout the semester:
   ○ Content: where all course materials reside
Assessments: where you will access your Grades and the Dropbox (to submit papers).

Communications: where you will access the weekly Discussions

Resources: where you will find the class list (which you can use to contact me), the FAQ, etc.

Course Mail: this is located at the very top, right-hand side of the course, and will be used for all official correspondence in the course; when you have unread Course Mail, a red badge will appear on the email icon:

![Email Icon with Red Badge]

4. Post your introduction in the first week’s discussion topic under Communications → Discuss.

**IMPORTANT:** You must complete the task #4(above) by the end of the first week of the course, or you risk being dropped from the course. If you are having problems doing so, please IMMEDIATELY contact me.

Contacting Me

My contact information is listed at the top of this document. The best way to contact me is via the USD email (Susan.Gapp@usd.edu) or via D2L email, which can be access within the course. I will do my utmost to respond to your requests within twenty-four (24) hours during the weekdays, or forty-eight (48) hours on the weekends and holidays. Note: **please do not use the pager tool to contact me.**