

Spring 2011

Course Syllabus

Early Childhood Education

COURSE NUMBER: ECE 2312

COURSE TITLE: Foundations and Theories of Early Childhood Education

INSTRUCTOR: Linda Reasoner
Office Hours: By appointment
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The preferred contact method is by e-mail. The account will be checked daily and responses to you will be by e-mail in a timely manner. Students may call and leave a message that will be returned as soon as possible. If you should need to meet with me, an appointment will be scheduled.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the profession including historical and social foundations, awareness of value issues, ethical and legal issues, staff relations, and the importance of becoming an advocate for children, infancy through age 8 years, and families. Foundations and Theories in ECE is a study of the theoretical framework for preschool learning.

RATIONALE:

This course is designed for prospective early childhood teachers at the undergraduate level. The primary purpose is to help students gain an understanding of the profession. Current theories in early childhood education will be presented along with historical approaches.

On-line. Two credit hours.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Morrison, George S. *Fundamentals of Early Childhood Education* (Fifth Edition)

ISBN 0-13-233129-2

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Merrill Prentice Hall Publishing.

SUPPLEMENTAL READING

Required Reading:

Five (5) Journal articles of student's selection following assigned categories

HOW COURSE MEETS GENERAL EDUCATION OBJECTIVES

The general education curriculum is designed to provide a foundation for knowledge common to educated people and to develop the capacity for

an individual to expand that knowledge over his or her lifetime. Students who have completed the general education curriculum at Arkansas Tech University will be able to;

- Communicate effectively
- Think critically
- Develop ethical perspectives
- Apply scientific and quantitative reasoning
- Demonstrate knowledge of the arts and humanities
- Understand wellness concepts

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Tests (2 @ 100 points-mid-term & final).....	200 points
Chapter quizzes (13 chapters @ 50 points).	650 points
Homework Assignments (13 chapters @ 50 points)	650 points
Journal articles (5 @ 50 points).....	250 points
Total	1750 points

Bonus points: 50 points will be awarded for completion of the ATU course evaluation and submitted to ATU. This evaluation is distributed by ATU with an e-mail announcement. The student must confirm date of submission to the instructor. *It is your responsibility to watch for the e-mail announcement.*

Two Examinations and 13 Chapter Quizzes. Exams and quizzes may be multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill in the blank, essay or short answer. Anything that is covered in the assigned chapters and additional resources such as videos can be considered for test material. You are responsible for watching for examination and quiz announcements. The exams and quizzes will be available for specified time period. Clear instructions will be posted for the completion of the exams and quizzes. You will be required to complete the exam and quiz once you open the file. Make-up exams may be in a different format and are given only in extreme cases. You are responsible for discussing the reason for missed tests and requesting a makeup exam with the instructor. The decision of the instructor regarding granting the request will be made on an individual basis and the decision will be final.

Grade Categories:	90-100% = A
	80-89% = B
	70-79% = C
	60-69% = D
	<59% = F

COURSE POLICIES

BOOK ORDERING: Books are available at the Arkansas Tech University Book Store and can be ordered on-line through the Bookstore website: <http://shop.efollett.com/htmlroot/storehome/arkansastechuniversity70176.html> or through any on-line service such as Amazon.com.

- **HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:** Homework assignments for each lesson will be graded. Grades will be posted within a week of due date. If the grade is not posted in that time, you are encouraged to contact the instructor by e-mail. Applicable assignments should be e-mailed as attachments *by the due date* (late assignments will be penalized 10% per day). Some

assignments may include on-line discussion with fellow students. **Point values for homework assignments:** thirteen chapter assignments @ 50 points each; and five Journal articles of one to two pages following guidelines @ 50 points each. .

- **Attendance in the online class is documented by submission of assignments and completion of quizzes and examinations. Students missing three assignments will be reported to ATU Early Alert System. Students may be dropped from the class for excessive absenteeism by the instructor.**

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: University policy will be followed. At a minimum, the student (and any student caught assisting in the misconduct) will be given an **automatic** "F" for the test/assignment in question and possibly an "F" for the course. **Note:** Students are required to document properly all sources used in academic work. Failure to do so could involve the student in a charge of *plagiarism*. Plagiarism is defined as repeating another's sentence as your own, paraphrasing someone else's argument as your own, or even presenting someone else's line of thinking (to include other students) in the development of a thesis as though it were your own. Discussions and exchanges of ideas among students on class projects and papers are acceptable; however, students should credit appropriate sources for both ideas and words. For example, you must use quotation marks when citing someone's exact words and you must document quotes and paraphrases. When outside sources are used, a Bibliography or a Works Consulted page must be included. Discussion of material with others is part of a legitimate learning experience that should be encouraged in a policy relevant course. Nevertheless, the final project or paper must be the student's own properly documented work. A student charged with plagiarism will receive (at a minimum) **zero** points for the assignment. Subsequent cases of plagiarism will result in a minimum of one letter grade course reduction for each incident. In addition, any student who aids another student in plagiarism (e.g., provides a completed homework assignment to another student for submission) will be treated as also being involved in plagiarism and appropriate penalties will apply. Egregious cases of plagiarism (i.e., large sections copied from another source) will result in an automatic "F" for the course.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

COURSE CONTENT (Note: assignments are structured for a 16 week semester and will be posted)

UNIT

TOPIC

Course Content: Fifth Edition of Textbook

<u>Chapter 1</u>	You and Early Childhood Education: Becoming a Professional
<u>Chapter 2</u>	Early Childhood Education Today: Understanding Current Issues
<u>Chapter 3</u>	History and Theories: Foundations for Teaching and Learning
<u>Chapter 4</u>	Implementing Early Childhood Programs: Applying Theories to Practice
<u>Chapter 5</u>	Standards and You: Teaching Children to Learn
<u>Chapter 6</u>	Observing and Assessing Young Children: Guiding, Teaching, and Learning
<u>Chapter 7</u>	Infants and Toddlers: Critical Years for Learning
<u>Chapter 8</u>	The Preschool Years: Getting Ready for School and Life

<u>Chapter 9</u>	Kindergarten Today: Meeting Academic and Developmental Needs
<u>Chapter 10</u>	The Early Elementary Grades 1-3: Preparation for Life
<u>Chapter 11</u>	Educating Children with Diverse Backgrounds and Special Needs: Ensuring All Children Learn
<u>Chapter 12</u>	Guiding Children's Behavior: Helping Children Act Their Best
<u>Chapter 13</u>	Parents, Families, and the Community: Building Partnerships for Student Success

Journal articles. Students must select, read and write a synopsis about five journal readings in the field of Early Childhood Education. Choose an article from five of the categories listed.

- Read each article carefully before attempting to write a summary and application to your work and/or chosen work.
- For each article, write the bibliographic information about the article and a summary of the article.
- Analyze and indicate some practical application for you professionally and/or personally for the information presented in the article. If there is no practical application for you, choose another article or explain why there is no application for you.
- The summary should be approximately one to two pages Microsoft Word document, double spaced in length.
- Points will be deducted if these instructions are not followed.
- If you need assistance in locating sources of articles, please contact your instructor.

Category of Journal Articles:

1. What does it mean to be a professional in Early Childhood Education?
2. Contemporary issues affecting Early Childhood Education.
3. What is Developmentally Appropriate Practice?
4. What is Preschool?
5. Who is the young child?
6. Strategies for teaching young children.
7. Strategies for effective parent/family collaboration with Early Childhood educators.

On-line Problem-solving activities. From time to time we may do activities as part of an on-line discussion which will be part of the assignment scores. You must participate to earn credit for these activities.

Submission of assignments and journal articles:

Use the following pattern for labeling assignments and journal articles that you send as attachments. The same heading can be used if you include your assignment in the body of the e-mail. Submit all assignments as a Word document.

Your name.assignment chapter.date Example: Jones.chapter1assign.1-12-10

Example: Jones.article1.2-1-10

Calendar Dates Proposed: Any changes will be provided through announcements on BlackBoard and e-mail messages. *It is your responsibility to check for changes.*

Assignments are posted on Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. and are due the following Sunday. Quizzes open on Monday morning and close at 11:00 p.m. on Sunday. The exception is during holidays and mid-term and final exams. It is recommended you print the schedule and/or transfer dates to your personal calendar.

Class Starts		January 13, 2011
Confirmation of attendance		Due January 14, 2011
		Due- Brief biography outlined under Announcement Tab
Chapter 1	Assignment	Due January 23, 2011
	Quiz*	Available January 17, 2011, 8:00 a.m. January 23, 2011 11:00 p.m.
Chapter 2	Assignment	Due January 30, 2011
	Quiz*	Available January 24, 2011 8:00 a.m. January 30, 2011 11:00 p.m.
Chapter 3	Assignment	Due February 6, 2011
	Quiz	Available January 31, 2011 8:00 a.m. February 6, 2011 11:00 p.m.
Chapter 4	Assignment	Due February 13, 2011
	Quiz	Available February 7, 2011 8:00 a.m. February 13, 2011 11:00 p.m.
Chapter 5	Assignment	Due February 20, 2011
	Quiz	Available February 14, 2011 8:00 a.m. February 20, 2011 11:00 p.m.
Chapter 6	Assignment	Due February 27, 2011
	Quiz	Available February 21, 2011 8:00 a.m. February 27 2011 11:00 p.m.
Mid-term Examination		* Available February 28, 2011 8:00 a.m. March 2, 2011, 11:00 p.m.

(*Check

for official dates in announcement and e-mail)

Three Journal articles**		Due March 2, 2011
Chapter 7	Assignment	Due March 13, 2011
	Quiz	Available March 7, 2011, 8:00 a.m. March 13, 2011 11:00 p.m.
Chapter 8	Assignment	Due October 31, 2010
	Quiz	Available March 14, 2011 8:00 a.m. March 20, 2011 11:00 p.m.
Chapter 9	Assignment	Due April 3, 2011
	Quiz	Available March 28, 2011 8:00 a.m. April 3, 2011, 11:00 p.m.
Chapter 10	Assignment	Due April 10, 2011
	Quiz	Available April 4, 2011 8:00 a.m. April 10, 2011 11:00 p.m.
Chapter 11	Assignment	Due April 17, 2011
	Quiz	Available April 11, 2011 8:00 a.m. April 17, 2011 11:00 p.m.
Chapter 12	Assignment	Due April 24, 2011
	Quiz	Available April 18, 2011 8:00 a.m. April 24, 2011 11:00 p.m.
Chapter 13	Assignment	Due May 1, 2011
	Quiz	Available April 25, 2011 8:00 a.m. May 1, 2011 11:00 p.m.
Two Journal articles* *		Due May 3, 2011
ATU Course evaluation-optional		Due May 3, 2011 Student confirmation of date completed
Final Examination		**Available May 3, 2011, 8:00 a.m. May 8, 2011 11:00 p.m. (**Check for official dates in announcement and e-mail)

Important Notices:

- **The quiz availability dates and times will be posted in the announcements section of BlackBoard and by e-mail. It is your responsibility to check dates.**
- **Quizzes and examinations must be completed at the time the quiz/examination is opened. Students cannot re-open the quiz. In case of a problem with the BlackBoard system contact the instructor immediately and the ATU Helpdesk.**
- **Journal articles may be submitted at any time prior to the due date.**
- **Late submissions of assignments will have point deductions.**
- **Attendance in the online class is documented by submission of assignments and completion of quizzes and examinations. Students missing three assignments and/or quizzes will be reported to ATU Early Alert System.**

Arkansas Child Maltreatment Reporting Act, 12-12-507

As students in the field of Early Childhood Education, the report of Child Maltreatment and the role of teachers as mandatory reporters is an extremely important part of working with young children and families. **Each student should be aware of and follow the child maltreatment guidelines for any program that you participate in as part of your education experience.**

Arkansas Child Maltreatment Reporting Act, 12-12-507 requires that a statewide central registry be established within the Department of Human Services (DHS) for the collection of information relative to child maltreatment. To meet the needs of this act, the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Childhood Education, Child Care Licensing has developed guidelines that child care programs, staff and volunteers must follow to provide each child with a continuous, safe and stable environment. These requirements are as follows:

- Every child care facility owner, employee, and volunteer must have their background reviewed through an Arkansas Child Maltreatment Central Registry Check at application and every five years thereafter..
- Every child care facility must have written procedures for reporting allegations of child maltreatment and suspected licensing violations.
- The **Child Maltreatment hotline number for Arkansas 1-800-482-5964** must be posted as to make it accessible to all employees, volunteers and/or parents who participate in the program.

Every person who is employed or volunteers in a child care setting is a mandatory reporter of suspected child maltreatment, therefore it is their legal duty to report any suspicions of abuse or neglect by following the program's written procedures and/or by immediately calling directly to the Child Abuse Hotline.