MLED 314.71W - YOUNG ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2012

Instructor: Michelle Jenkins, M.Ed.
Office Phone: 903-875-7619
Cell Phone: 903-654-7800
Email Address: mjenkins1@leomail.tamuc.edu
mjenkins@cisd.org

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbook:

ISBN: 978-0-7432-6077-0

Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) Competencies addressed in MLED 314:

Competency 001
The teacher understands human developmental processes and applies this knowledge to plan instruction and ongoing assessment that motivate students and are responsive to their developmental characteristics and needs.

The beginning teacher:
- Recognizes that positive and productive environments for middle-level students involve creating a culture of high academic expectations, equity throughout the learning community, and developmental responsiveness.
- Knows the rationale for appropriate middle-level education and how middle-level schools are structured to address the characteristics and needs of young adolescents.
- Knows the typical stages of cognitive, social, physical, and emotional development of middle-level students.
- Recognizes the wide range of individual developmental differences that characterizes middle-level students and the implications of this developmental variation for instructional planning.
- Demonstrates an understanding of physical changes associated with later childhood and adolescence and ways in which these changes impact development in other domains (i.e., cognitive, social, emotional).
- Recognizes challenges for students during later childhood and early adolescence (e.g., self-image, physical appearance, eating disorders, feelings of rebelliousness) and effective ways to help students address these challenges.
- Understands that student involvement in risky behaviors (e.g., drug and alcohol use, gang involvement) impacts development and learning.
- Demonstrates knowledge of the importance of peers, peer acceptance, and conformity to peer group norms and expectations for middle-level students, and understands the significance of peer-related issues for teaching and learning.
- Recognizes that social and emotional factors in the family (e.g., parental divorce, homelessness) impact the development of middle-level students in different domains.
- Uses knowledge of cognitive changes in middle-level students (e.g., emergence and refinement of abstract thinking and reasoning, reflective thinking, and increased focus on the world beyond the school setting) to plan instruction and assessment that promote learning and development.
- Analyzes ways in which developmental characteristics of middle-level students impact learning and performance, and applies knowledge of students’ developmental characteristics and needs to plan effective learning experiences and assessments.
- Recognizes the importance of helping middle-level students apply decision-making, organizational, and goal-setting skills.
- Understands that development in any one domain (i.e., cognitive, social, physical, emotional) impacts development in other domains.

**Competency 002**
The teacher understands student diversity and knows how to plan learning experiences and design assessments that are responsive to differences among students and that promote all students’ learning.

The beginning teacher:
- Demonstrates knowledge of students with diverse personal and social characteristics (e.g., those related to ethnicity, gender, language background, exceptionality) and the significance of student diversity for teaching, learning, and assessment.
- Accepts and respects students with diverse backgrounds and needs.
- Knows how to use diversity in the classroom and the community to enrich all students’ learning experiences.
- Knows strategies for enhancing one’s own understanding of students' diverse backgrounds and needs.
- Knows how to plan and adapt lessons to address students' varied backgrounds, skills, interests, and learning needs, including the needs of English language learners and students with disabilities.
- Understands cultural and socioeconomic differences (including differential access to technology) and knows how to plan instruction that is responsive to cultural and socioeconomic differences among students.
- Understands the instructional significance of varied student learning needs and preferences.

**Competency 004**
The teacher understands learning processes and factors that impact student learning and demonstrates this knowledge by planning effective, engaging instruction and appropriate assessments.

The beginning teacher:
- Understands the role of learning theory in the instructional process and uses instructional strategies and appropriate technologies to facilitate student learning (e.g., connecting new information and ideas to prior knowledge, making learning meaningful and relevant to students).
- Understands that the middle-level years are a transitional stage in which students may exhibit characteristics of both older and younger children, and that these are critical years for developing important skills and attitudes (e.g., working and getting along with others, appreciating diversity, making a commitment to continued schooling).
- Applies knowledge of the implications for learning and instruction of middle-level students' wide range of thinking abilities.
- Stimulates reflection, critical thinking, and inquiry among middle-level students (e.g., engages students in structured, hands-on problem-solving activities that are challenging; encourages exploration and risk-taking; creates a learning community that promotes positive contributions, effective communication, and the respectful exchange of ideas).
- Enhances learning for middle-level students by providing instruction that encourages the use and refinement of higher-order thinking skills (e.g., prompting students to explore ideas from diverse perspectives; structuring active learning experiences involving cooperative learning, problem solving, open-ended questioning, and inquiry; promoting students' development of research skills).
- Teaches, models, and monitors organizational and time-management skills at an age-appropriate level (e.g., keeping related materials together, using organizational tools).
Teaches, models, and monitors age-appropriate study skills (e.g., using graphic organizers, outlining, note-taking, summarizing, test-taking) and structures research projects appropriately (e.g., teaches students the steps in research, establishes checkpoints during research projects, helps students use time management tools).

Recognizes how social and emotional characteristics of middle-level students (e.g., interacting with peers, searching for identity, questioning principles and expectations) impact teaching and learning.

Analyzes ways in which teacher behaviors (e.g., teacher expectations, student grouping practices, teacher-student interactions) impact student learning, and plans instruction and assessment that minimize the effects of negative factors and enhance all students' learning.

Analyzes ways in which factors in the home and community (e.g., parent expectations, availability of community resources, community problems) impact student learning, and plans instruction and assessment with awareness of social and cultural factors to enhance all students' learning.

Understands the importance of self-directed learning and plans instruction and assessment that promote students' motivation and their sense of ownership of and responsibility for their own learning.

Analyzes ways in which various teacher roles (e.g., facilitator, lecturer) and student roles (e.g., active learner, observer, group participant) impact student learning.

Incorporates students' different approaches to learning (e.g., auditory, visual, tactile, kinesthetic) into instructional practices.

**Competency 005**

The teacher knows how to establish a classroom climate that fosters learning, equity, and excellence and uses this knowledge to create a physical and emotional environment that is safe and productive.

The beginning teacher:

- Uses knowledge of the unique characteristics and needs of middle-level students to establish a positive, productive classroom environment (e.g., provides opportunities to collaborate with peers, promotes students' awareness of how their actions and attitudes affect others, includes kinesthetic experiences and active learning within a planned, structured environment).
- Establishes a classroom climate that emphasizes collaboration and supportive interactions, respect for diversity and individual differences, and active engagement in learning by all students.
- Analyzes ways in which teacher-student interactions and interactions among students impact classroom climate and student learning and development.
- Presents instruction in ways that communicate the teacher's enthusiasm for learning.
- Uses a variety of means to convey high expectations for all students.
- Knows characteristics of physical spaces that are safe and productive for learning, recognizes the benefits and limitations of various arrangements of furniture in the classroom, and applies strategies for organizing the physical environment to ensure physical accessibility and facilitate learning in various instructional contexts.
- Creates a safe, nurturing, and inclusive classroom environment that addresses students' emotional needs and respects students' rights and dignity.

**Competency 008**

The teacher provides appropriate instruction that actively engages students in the learning process.

The beginning teacher:

- Employs various instructional techniques (e.g., discussion, inquiry) and varies teacher and student roles in the instructional process, and provides instruction that promotes intellectual involvement and active student engagement and learning.
- Applies various strategies to promote student engagement and learning (e.g., by structuring lessons effectively, using flexible instructional groupings, pacing lessons flexibly in response to student needs, including wait time).
Presents content to students in ways that are relevant and meaningful and that link with students' prior knowledge and experience.

- Applies criteria for evaluating the appropriateness of instructional activities, materials, resources, and technologies for students with varied characteristics and needs.
- Engages in continuous monitoring of instructional effectiveness.
- Applies knowledge of different types of motivation (i.e., internal, external) and factors affecting student motivation.
- Employs effective motivational strategies and encourages students' self-motivation.

Competency 011
The teacher understands the importance of family involvement in children's education and knows how to interact and communicate effectively with families.

The beginning teacher:
- Applies knowledge of appropriate ways (including electronic communication) to work and communicate effectively with families in various situations.
- Engages families, parents, guardians, and other legal caregivers in various aspects of the educational program.
- Interacts appropriately with all families, including those that have diverse characteristics, backgrounds, and needs.
- Communicates effectively with families on a regular basis (e.g., to share information about students' progress) and responds to their concerns.
- Conducts effective conferences with parents, guardians, and other legal caregivers.
- Effectively uses family support resources (e.g., community, interagency) to enhance family involvement in student learning.

Additional readings as required via eCollege and other hand-outs.

Course Description: MLED 314 is designed to provide pre-service teachers with a knowledge base of the changes and issues that typically affect development in the years from age 8 through adolescence. Students will examine and study the various domains of physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development; and will consider how various learning theories, particularly multiple intelligence theory, can inform practices in the middle level classroom. The effect of environmental factors operating on development will also be explored.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the conclusion of the course, students will demonstrate the following outcomes at the knowledge/comprehension level.

- Students will understand the basic principles of development and how these principles impact student needs and learning.
- Students will recognize the developmental milestones in the major domains of development [cognitive, psycho-motor, social, and emotional], in concert with interactions of English language proficiency stages.
- Students will understand connections between adolescent development and the major learning theories.
- Students will gain awareness of societal issues currently impacting adolescent development [i.e., peer pressure, gangs, drugs, family structure, media impact, language differences, etc.].
- Students will learn to apply knowledge of development in interacting with adolescent students.
- Students will be able to apply developmental and language acquisition principles in determining reasonable expectations of the middle level students.
- Students will be able to support students in developing positive social relations and in dealing with conflict.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments:
- Introduction
- 11 Quizzes
- 12 Discussions
- Mid-Term and Final Exam
- Research paper submitted in drop box via eCollege
- Electronic presentation
- Comment/critique of peers’ presentations
- Dear Abbey/current event and reflection

All written assignments must be typed in a 12 point Times New Roman font with double spacing and one inch margins on all sides.

Introduction: Write an introduction about yourself covering the following areas: background information, relevant personal information pertaining to this class, and expectations of the course. The introduction should be at least 1 page in length.

Discussion Topics: A reflection of what has been read/reviewed throughout the course. These will be completed in eCollege and will vary week to week. For every discussion assignment, you will be responsible for commenting on two of your peers’ responses.

Hot Topic Research/Electronic Presentation Assignment: You will become our class expert on the issue you choose. This assignment will have three parts: 1) A research paper turned in to the eCollege drop box; 2) an electronic format of your topic turned into the eCollege via Doc Sharing and Drop Box; and 3) a critique/comment on two different electronic presentations of your peers.

- Research paper is to be 3-5 pages in length. Be sure to site sources at the end. This paper should be more than just a regurgitation of facts or an explanation of an argument. All of the opinions stated in the paper should be backed up by an expert. When you write a research paper you build upon what you know about the subject and make a deliberate attempt to find out what experts know. Again, a research paper is more than the sum of your sources, more than a collection of different pieces of information about a topic, and more than a review of literature in a field; a research paper analyzes a perspective or argues a point.

- Electronic format presentation will be available for all to view. Some examples could include an animoto, wordle, voki, power point, or a brief video clip summarizing your topic and/or research paper.

- You will also be responsible for commenting on and critiquing two different electronic presentations from your classmates. You need to view all of the electronic presentations via Doc Sharing. Then, on the discussion board, comment/critique 2 of those presentations. Please be sure to reference whose presentations you are critiquing.

Hot Topics to choose from: Limit 2 per topic; first come, first serve
- Media – Radio & TV
- Media – Social networking
- Cell phones (texting, sexting, etc.)
- Gothic tendencies
- Bullying
- Gangs
- Alcohol, tobacco & other drugs
- Adolescent suicide
Dear Abbey/Current Event Assignment:
Find/create a “Dear Abbey” adolescent scenario, typed in letter form, OR an adolescent current event (cite or attach document event source [i.e. – newspaper article, internet article, etc.] or if seen on TV, you can attach a video clip). Write a short paragraph reflecting your personal discovery about the scenario.

**I will provide examples of the assignments in DocSharing towards the due dates so you have correct guidelines to follow.

### GRADING

Grades will be earned for activities, assignments, quizzes, and exams completed through e-college.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECollege Discussions/Comments</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECollege Quizzes</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electronic Presentation</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comment/Critiques of Peers’ Presentations</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dear Abbey/Current Event</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15</td>
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### TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The following technology is required to be successful in this course:

- High speed internet connection (Dial up is not recommended)
- Microsoft Office Word 2003, 2007, or 2010
- Access to eCollege
- Access to the university library site (online)
- Access to university email

A computer lab is located in the Bain Center and is available to students Monday-Friday between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm. The lab provides computers, internet access, and printers for student use.
ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

ECollege is a vital component to this class. Assignments, discussions, and quizzes will be completed through eCollege each week. Announcements related to assignments, exams, date changes, or class cancellations will be available through eCollege. To access your eCollege account:

1) Go to www.tamu-commerce.edu
2) Click on the myLEO link at the bottom of the page. This will take you to myLEO.
3) Login to your myLEO account. Your username is your eight digit campus wide identification number. Unless you have changed it, your password is your six digit birth date.
4) Click the eCollege tab located on the toolbar near the upper right side of the screen.
5) Click the My Courses tab in upper left corner.
6) Click on the white arrow next to the words Fall 2012-W1.
7) Click on MLED 314 71W – M. Jenkins Young Adolescent Development. You are now in the course.
8) Be sure to read the announcements on the homepage every time you log in.
9) You may find it helpful to complete the student orientation tutorial. Simply click on the orientation link on the My Courses page.

Texas A&M University Commerce offers an online library. To access available materials and databases, go to http://web.tamu-commerce.edu and click on “Current Students” at the top of the page. Then, click on the “Library” in the middle of the page.

Texas A&M University also offers an online Writing Center that may be beneficial to you when completing writing assignments. The web address is http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/academics/colleges/artsSciences/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:
Communication is vital in this course. Remember that you are responsible for your learning. I will help you as much as possible, but you must let me know that you are having problems or questions that you cannot answer. As your instructor, I am available to help you in any way possible. Students may contact me by phone or email. Please feel free to call me on my cell (before 9:00 p.m. please). I will make every effort to return emails and phone calls within 24 hours during the week. Weekend contacts may not be returned until the following Monday. Please note that you MUST use your university issued email account when contacting me for any issue related to this class.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:
Written assignments:
- Student work is expected to be well-written, logical, and easy-to-read and follow; this would also include our eCollege language. Complete sentences, absent of text talk (i.e. LOL, OMG,…), will be required.
- Complete all written assignments in a professional manner. This includes on-time delivery and professionalism in regards to appearance, format, grammar, and content. All written assignments must be typed in a 12 point Times New Roman font with double spacing and one inch margins on all sides. Excessive errors in grammar, spelling, and vocabulary will result in the reduction of your score by at most a letter grade.
- Assignments should also be saved on a flash drive or copied on paper for your records.
**Professionalism:** You are expected to demonstrate professional behavior in all that you do. This includes but is not limited to communicating appropriately, taking responsibility, and demonstrating initiative. As we proceed through the course, we will disagree from time to time about a variety of subjects. It’s okay to disagree; it’s not okay to be disagreeable. Prepare to present your disagreements in reasonable ways. Thoughtful participation in discussions is expected. This requires reading the assignments and thinking about them. For each deviation from professional behavior, your final grade and/or assignment will be lowered by 15%.

**Assignment due dates:**
All assignments will be submitted on time. This means electronically submitted by midnight on the day the assignment is due. You are more than welcome to turn in assignments early. Late assignments will not be accepted. As students of an undergraduate program, promptness and professionalism are expected. No exceptions!

**University Specific Procedures:**

**Academic Honesty Policy:**
Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. Disciplinary action for these offenses may include any combination of the following:

1. Point deduction on an assignment.
2. Failure for an assignment.
3. A grade of zero for an assignment.
4. Failure for the course.
5. Referral to the Academic Integrity Committee or department head for further action.
6. Referral to the Dean of the College of Education and Human Services, Business and Technology, Arts and Sciences, or Graduate School as appropriate.
7. Referral to the University Discipline Committee.
8. Communication of student's behavior to the Teacher Certification Office and/or Dean of the College of Education as constituting a reason to bar student from entering into or continuing in a teacher certification program. Procedures, A 13.04, 13.12, 13.31, and 13.32

**ADA Statement:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
Student Disability Resources & Services

**Student Conduct:**
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

### COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC &amp; ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS DUE</th>
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| **Week 1:** August 27-September 2 | ➢ Read Ch 1 & 2 in *Why Do They Act That Way? (WDTATW?)*  
➢ Complete “Introduction” assignment  
➢ Choose hot topic | Introduction due August 30 *** 
Due September 2:  
• Discussion topics *(there are 2)*  
• Ch 1 & 2 Quiz |
| **Week 2:** September 3-9 | ➢ Review PPR Competency 001  
➢ Work on hot topics research paper/presentation | Due September 9:  
• Discussion topic  
• Competency 001 Quiz |
| **Week 3:** September 10-16 | ➢ Read Ch 3 & 4 in *WDTATW?*  
➢ Work on hot topics research paper/presentation | Due September 16:  
• Discussion topic  
• Ch 3 & 4 Quiz |
| **Week 4:** September 17-23 | ➢ Review PPR Competency 002  
➢ Work on hot topics research paper/presentation | Due September 23:  
• Discussion topic  
• Competency 002 Quiz |
| **Week 5:** September 24-30 | ➢ Read Ch 5 & 6 in *WDTATW?*  
➢ Work on hot topics research paper/presentation | Due September 30:  
• Discussion topic  
• Ch 5 & 6 Quiz |
| **Week 6:** October 1-7 | ➢ Review PPR Competency 004  
➢ Work on hot topics research paper/presentation | Due October 7:  
• Discussion topic  
• Competency 004 Quiz |
| **Week 7:** October 8-14 | ➢ Review Ch 1-6 in *WDTATW?*  
➢ Review Competencies 001, 002, and 004  
➢ Work on hot topics research paper/presentation | Due October 14:  
• Mid-Term Exam |
| **Week 8:** October 15-21 | ➢ Read Ch 7 & 8 in *WDTATW?*  
➢ Work on hot topics research paper/presentation | Due October 21:  
• Discussion topic  
• Ch 7 & 8 Quiz |
| **Week 9:** October 22-28 | ➢ Review PPR Competency 005  
➢ Work on hot topics research paper/presentation | Due October 28:  
• Discussion topic  
• Competency 005 Quiz |
| **Week 10:** October 29-November 4 | ➢ Read Ch 9 & 10 in *WDTATW?*  
➢ Work on hot topics research paper/presentation | Due November 4:  
• Discussion topic  
• Ch 9 & 10 Quiz |
| **Week 11:** November 5-11 | ➢ Review PPR Competencies 008 and 011  
➢ Work on hot topics research paper/presentation | Due November 11:  
• Discussion topic  
• Competencies 008 and 011 Quiz |
| **Week 12:** November 12-18 | ➢ Read Ch 11-13 in *WDTATW?*  
➢ Work on hot topics research | Due November 18:  
• Discussion topic |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 13: November 19-25</th>
<th>Work on hot topics research paper/presentation</th>
<th>Due November 25: Hot topics research paper and electronic format presentations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 14: November 26-December 2</td>
<td>View electronic presentations of peers</td>
<td>Due December 2: Comments/critiques of peers’ electronic presentations</td>
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</table>
| Week 15: December 3-9 | Review Ch 1-13 in *WDTATW*? & PPR Competencies 001, 002, 004, 005, 008, and 011 | Due December 9
| | Work on *Dear Abbey*/Current Event assignment | *Dear Abbey*/Current Event assignment |
| | | Final Exam |

**Disclaimer:**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule of the class. Any alterations will be announced in class, on eCollege, or via email. Students who do not attend class, log into eCollege, or check their email assume full responsibility for missing alterations to the course.