ECE 560: Early Childhood Curriculum Design
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2013

Instructor: David L. Brown, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: By Appointment
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Office Fax: 903-886-5581
University Email Address: David.Brown@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Class Meetings:

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Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:


Course Description:

This course will explore various curriculum models and underlying theories utilized in designing early childhood curriculum. Additionally, participants will examine factors which have influenced curriculum development in Early Childhood Education. Moreover, participants will determine how certain factors have influenced the development of a variety of curriculum models which have shaped present curriculum in early childhood education.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1) To identify significant factors that has influenced curriculum development in early childhood education.
2) To examine curriculum models that have been used in a variety of early childhood programs.
3) To critique early childhood curriculum models and curricula in light of issues of culture, philosophy, content, implementation, and state and national standards.
4) To generate an early childhood curriculum framework that reflects best practices to promote the growth and development of all children.
5) Describe distinguishing features of major early childhood curricula models and programs.
6) Classify different early childhood curricula models in relations to the philosophical/theoretical/historical bases of the curriculum model.
7) Demonstrate leadership ability as a professional educator for analyzing curriculum materials and models with particular attention to assessment, content, connections and alignment to state and national standards.
8) Synthesize knowledge of evaluation research involving the comparisons of curriculum models.
9) Examine the relationship among theory, research, and practice regarding major curriculum models.
10) Continue the development of a personal philosophy and knowledge base necessary to provide leadership in curriculum development and implementation in the field of Early Childhood Education.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Assignment/Requirements:

A) Each student will attend and participate in discussions, readings, and collaborative activities during each class session. Additionally, each student will complete assigned readings and be ready to share and discuss in class. Class participation is defined as regular attendance to class, coming to class prepared by having read the assigned readings; formulating questions for class discussion; active participation during in-class activities and discussions; and displaying professional conduct during class.

B) Curriculum Program/Model PowerPoint Presentation: Each student will select a curriculum model to research and prepare a presentation of the model/program that incorporates theoretically sound learning principles. The presentation should involve the audience as active learners and provide a comprehensive review including the theoretical philosophies, curriculum implementation, criticisms, assessment, and historical and contemporary supporters. A week prior to the presentation, students should provide the Instructor with a detailed outline of the topics and information that will be addressed in the presentation for approval. Students are expected to include the following in their presentations: 1) chart/table differentiate your key model
with another major model 2) Web of various components of the model and 3) a
description of philosophy that relates to model. Be sure to include your thoughts on the
merits of such model in terms of meeting the needs of children and families. The
information must go beyond what is covered in the book. Your investigation of the model
should include/but not limited to the following in your class discussion and presentation:

1) What the model looks like in the classroom.
2) The theoretical basis for the model/program.
3) The historical evolution of the program/model.
4) What others have said about the model: formal evaluations including critiques of
its effectiveness and theoretical soundness.
5) Implications for the model across age levels in early childhood education (EC-4th
grade)
6) An evaluation of this model in terms of its theoretical connections (or lack of
connections) to state and national standards.

Please consult Websites, Textbooks, Articles, and other resources for information on
your program or model.
Create a handout that will guide the discussion of this model. Bring enough copies for
every class member. (100 pts)

C) Each student will select a position statement on curriculum development in Early
Childhood Education. Students should read the position statement and write a 2-3 page
synthesis of the major ideas and suggestions regarding curriculum development and
implementation in early childhood education. (35 pts)

D) Each student will individually write a paper based on the information gathered in the
curriculum model presentation. The purpose of this paper is to provide a professional
examination/critique of the curriculum/program model. Specifically, the paper should
reference all areas that are referenced in course assignment (B). All written assignments
should follow the American Psychological Associations format for writing professional
papers and reports. Please include the bibliography of the citations used in writing the
paper. The paper should be double-spaced and contain 4- 6 pages (excluding the
bibliography). (100 pts)

E) Each Student will select chapters from textbook and develop a written Chapter Summary
or PowerPoint handout of key ideas in chapter. Copies of the Chapter Summary or
PowerPoint handout should be made for all class members and distributed during the
presentation of chapters to class. (65 pts)

The curriculum/program models to be examined include:

A. Montessori  K. Parents as Teachers
B. Project Approach  L. HIPPY Program
C. High Scope  M. Leap Frog Curriculum
D. Bank Street  N. HOSO Math/Science
E. Reggio Emilia  O. Anti-Bias Curriculum
F. Waldorf  P. Open Court Reading Program
G. Constructivist Teaching  Q. Sesame Street Curriculum
H. Protect Zero (Multiple Intelligences)  R. Arts-Based Curriculum
I. Path-Social Emotional Curriculum  S. HighReach Learning Program
J. Creative Curriculum
Grading

- Curriculum model PowerPoint presentation: 100 pts
- Chapter Summaries: 65 pts
- Professional Paper/Curriculum model: 100 pts
- Review of Position paper: 35 pts

Total: 300 pts

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This is not an Online Course but some technological resources will be required.

Access to a Computer with:
- Internet Access.
- Microsoft Word Processing Software.
- Microsoft Power Point Software.
- Adobe or Foxit Reader to open PDF File.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Dr. Brown will send email attachments of all readings relating to course topics. We will not use e-college in this course.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Participation & Communication: Each of you are expected to participate fully in assigned readings related to course topics, chapter presentations, discussions of current articles, and presentations of math science lessons. Your active and thoughtful participation is expected in course assignments. Regular attendance is necessary and will be expected of all students.

In regards to communication, please use my email (David.Brown@tamuc.edu) to correspond with me regarding class matters. Also, I will be happy to schedule individual appointments with you, if needed. Also, I will post readings on my website for individual assignments. Students will be provided information to access documents on the website.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Lecture and readings: Material from course lectures will not always be found in your text. Use of class discussions and class activities will be included in most class sessions. Please note that all questions on the examinations will be taken from the text, as well as the classroom lectures, videos, and discussions. Typically, you will be expected to read 1 to 2 chapters per week. It is advised that you do not wait until the night before to start the reading material. It is
recommended that you stay current with chapter readings, and read the assigned chapter/s before each class.

If you would like to review an assignment, come by my office during office hours or set up an appointment. If you are having problems in class, please come and talk to me immediately. I am better able to help you if you come to me early. Please understand that you should not come to me at the end of the semester, unhappy with your grade, asking for a way to change it. Grades will not be changed.

**Citizenship:** All Students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student 92s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

**Student Conduct:** All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. You are adults and will be treated as such. Discriminatory, rude, and inappropriate language will not be tolerated in this class and students will be asked to leave or drop the class. If a student continues to act in the same manner during future classes, the instructor reserves the right to drop the student from the course.

**Late Work:** Assignments are due on specific dates, as assigned. Assignments will be accepted after the due date with the exception of major projects. However, a 10 point deduction will be applied to assignments that are 1 day late, and an additional 5 points for each day thereafter.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism WILL NOT be tolerated and will result in an automatic F in the course. Various versions of your work and final papers will be run through Turnitin software – this is not meant to “catch” you in the act, but rather assist you in seeing possible areas that may be unintentionally plagiarized and allow for editing your work.

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly work free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of this institution.

Texas A&M University-Commerce has explicit rules and regulations governing academic dishonesty and academic misconduct. As the University states, “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” These policies are stated in detail in the Student’s Guide Handbook. Each student is expected to read this document and abide by the contained policies. These university policies will be followed in this class. The minimum penalty for an act of academic dishonesty will be the assignment grade of 0 or F on the assignment. The maximum penalty is expulsion from the University.

Texas A&M University-Commerce further 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.

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it. Visit the following websites:

- [http://www.plagiarism.org/](http://www.plagiarism.org/)
- [http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html](http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html)
- [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml)
**Attendance:** Attend all classes. Arrive on time and remain until class is dismissed. Class meets from 4:30 PM until 7:10 PM on Tuesdays unless noted otherwise by the instructor. If you must miss a class due to a professional responsibility and know ahead of time, discuss this with the instructor on the first night of class to create a make-up plan. If you must miss a class due to an unforeseen excused absence or professional responsibility, email or leave a telephone message for the instructor before class, then give the instructor a written plan for make-up work at the beginning of the next class session. You must discuss this plan with the instructor and gain his approval to receive make-up credit. Each unexcused absence will lower your final average score by 10 points. For a definition of an excused absence, please see the Texas A&M University-Commerce Catalog or Student’s Guidebook.

**Cell Phones/Computers:** Please respect the instructor and your peers by turning off your cell phones and other technical devices during chapter presentations, unless you have notified me at the beginning of class that you have a critical family situation about which you must be notified. This should constitute only emergencies.

**Scholarly Expectations:** All works submitted for credit must be original works created by the scholar uniquely for the class. It is considered in appropriate and unethical, particularly at the graduate level, to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor. Work submitted at the graduate level is expected to demonstrate higher-order thinking skills and be of significantly higher quality than work produced at the undergraduate level.

**University Specific Procedures:**

**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
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

**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).
References


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Articles:


**Websites for Curriculum Models:**

http://www.latelier.org/usefullinks/
http://www.Montessori.edu/
http://www.project-approach.com
http://www.bankstreet.edu/about/
www.Highscope.org
www.WaldorfWorld.net; www.bobnancy.com
http://www.Highreach.com

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