ECED 1115 - Foundations of Early Childhood Education

Spring Semester 2011
Instructor: Merle Viaud Class Schedule: Mon. 1:30pm – 3:00pm
Office: B148a Fri. 1:30pm – 3:00pm
Phone: 323-5767 Email: mviaud@langara.bc.ca

Office Hours: please call or email me to make an appointment

Course Description
The purpose of the course is to survey the historical, philosophical and cultural origins of Early Childhood Education. An attempt will be made to discover the main influences on the education of young children today. Every great educational thinker in history has had something to say that has a bearing, directly or indirectly, on the field of Early Childhood Education. Trends and issues in Early Childhood Education will be discussed in a search to address current early child care and education concerns in Canada.

Required Text

Supplementary Texts


Learning Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course students should be able to:

➢ Discuss the contributions of key historical figures that have shaped current early childhood education systems, practices and beliefs.

➢ Explain the influence of world events, (i.e. WWII, Women’s Movement etc.), cultural values and political ideologies on early childhood education.
- Identify cycles and themes inherent in the history of early childhood education and recognize the re-emergence of these in contemporary settings.

- Understand the issues related to early childhood education in Canada today.

- Demonstrate skills and attitudes that contribute to professional practice and that foster pride in the profession and a commitment to continue the legacy of previous generations of great educators.

**Course Content**

**Introduction to Early Childhood Education**

**Historical and Philosophical Perspectives**

Maria Montessori

Early Education in North America

History of Early Childhood Education in Canada

Goals of Early Childhood Programmes in Canada Today

Current Issues and Trends in Early Childhood Education

**Course Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Course Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>all through the course</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>Feb 14</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Presentation</td>
<td>Starting March 5</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ECED 1115 Foundations of Early Childhood Education

Assignment 1
Research Report and Expository Essay on Maria Montessori

Due Date: February 14th
Course Weight: 20% of final grade

Students will use secondary research to prepare a report on the life and work of Maria Montessori. The report should include an introduction to Maria Montessori and discussion of her philosophy of education; her theory of child growth and development; her teaching methods and the role of the teacher; and a description of the materials and resources that she used.

The last page of the assignment is to be a short expository essay to include a discussion and critique of the Montessori Method, noting the aspects that are or are not relevant to the care and education of young children in today’s society. This portion of the assignment will be your personal opinion based upon your knowledge of her work. Some of the common criticisms of the Montessori Method will be discussed.

In preparation for writing the report, students are required to read the both sections on Montessori in their courseware, and a minimum of two of the articles that are on reserve at the Langara library. Additional research is always helpful to gain a comprehensive understanding of the topic. Students are however, cautioned to use reliable sources that describe the philosophy in its purist, historical form. The College Style Sheet may also be useful for information regarding the writing of research reports and expository essays. This may be found online and in the bookstore.

The paper is to be 5 to 7 pages typed, double-spaced or neatly hand written with all information referenced in APA style. A full and complete reference page is also required. A guide to APA style will be handed out in class.

Criteria for Evaluation:

Research Report: Students must present a comprehensive discussion in all areas and demonstrate an understanding of the reading material.

Introduction to Maria Montessori, her background – 3 marks
Overview of her Philosophy - 3 marks
Theory of Child Growth and Development - 5 marks
Teaching Methods and the Role of the Teacher – 8 marks
Curriculum areas and examples of Materials - 7 marks
Expository Essay: Students must illustrate an ability to understand the intent and structure of the Montessori Method and apply the information to children in today’s society. – 5 marks

Presentation:
Including: page format, organization, text references, reference page, spelling and grammar - 5 marks

Total /36
ECED 1115 Foundations of Early Childhood Education

Assignment 2
Seminar Presentation

Due Date: Commence on February 28
Course Weight: 25%

Working in pairs or small groups, students will research and creatively present a selected topic from the list provided.

Outline: Students will submit a 2 to 3 page written outline of the key points to be presented including references. Due: ________________, 2011

Presentation: The topics may be presented in a variety of formats. Students should consider what method suits their topic. Presentations may take the form of dramatic performances, interviews, puppet shows, cooking shows, rallying speeches, parent meetings etc. The possibilities are only limited by your imagination. All presentations must show a reverence and respect for the topic. The focus is on getting the information across in a fun and memorable format; however emphasis and effort should be directed towards the content. Visuals such as teaching materials, photographs, overheads enhance the learning. A method to involve the class in the presentation or review of information should also be planned. Presentations should be 30 to 40 minutes, including time for discussion. Two topics will be presented each class.

Evaluation:
Research and comprehensive coverage of the topic (in your presentation and in the summary you pass out to your peers) /20
Presentation: energy, creativity and effort to engage and hold the interest of the class while setting the tone for the topic /15
Organization and team work /5
Materials and resources to enhance the presentation /5
Written summary (format, spelling, grammar, APA) /5
Total grade /50

Course weight: 25%

My seminar topic is _____________________________

My seminar topic presentation date is ________________

My group members are: (note names and contact phone numbers below)
ECED 1115 Foundation of Early Childhood Education

Seminar Topics

Historical and Philosophical Influences
Rachelle and Margaret McMillan (Open Air Nurseries)
Elizabeth Peabody
Pattie Smith Hill and Susan Blow

Countries and Cultural Influences
Kibbutz
Sweden
China

Programmes and Philosophies
Kaiser Child Centres
First Nation’s Child Care and Education
Head Start Program
Waldorf Schools
High Scope (David Weikart)
Reggio Emilia (Loris Malaguzzi)