

West Virginia University at Parkersburg
Education Division
Fall 2009
"Architects of the Future"

Instructor: Linda Novak
Office #1306

Phone: Office – 424-8388
Early Learning Center – 424-8311
Email – linda.novak@mail.wvu.edu

Course Title: ECE 240 Assessment and Observation of Young Children

Textbooks: Gullo, D. (2005). *Understanding Assessment and Evaluation*. New York: Teachers College Press.

MacDonald, Sharon (2006). *The Portfolio and Its Use*. Little Rock, AK: SECA

By the conclusion of this course the student will:

- Be aware of various assessment tools for observing and assessing development of children ages birth through age 5.
- Recognize and understand developmental levels in relation to observation and assessment.
- Recognize the appropriate assessment tool(s) and implementation strategies in an early childhood setting.
- Recognize the importance of parent communication and involvement in the assessment process.
- Recognize the importance of documentation in observing and assessing young children.
- Recognize the importance of assessment in developing appropriate curriculum and individual learning goals and objectives.

Topics to be studied include:

- What role observation and assessment has in the early childhood classroom
- How young children should be assessed
- Use and type of standardized assessments for individual children and classrooms
- Using portfolio assessments
- Linking assessment to curriculum and learning goals and objectives
- Communicating with parents about the assessment process
- Culturally, physically, and cognitively sensitive strategies
- Integrate 21st Century Learning Skills in the early childhood environment

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class and actively participate in class discussions and activities. The only excused absences are those listed in the college catalogue. If a student leaves class early or is tardy this will be counted as an absence. Refer to the college catalogue for a definition of tardy. Attendance/participation is worth 50 points toward the final grade and is converted in the following manner: 0 - 1 absence = 50 points, 2 absences = 30 points, 3 absences = 10 points, 4 or more absences = 0 points. Students missing more than 4 classes may be asked to drop the class. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor when absent to obtain make up work and/or assignment directions. Directions for missed assignments may be obtained during office hours or through email contact with the instructor. Class time will not be used to explain missed assignments. All make-up exams must be completed before the next scheduled class session. Test dates are listed in the course outline. Missed tests due to unexcused absences may not be made up unless authorization for a make up test is arranged with the instructor **PROIR TO** the scheduled test date.

Student Conduct: Students will be expected to adhere to the student code of conduct spelled out in the WVU-P Student Handbook. Behavior that interferes with the rights of other students to learn or the right of the instructor to teach will not be permitted. A warning will be issued to any student failing to adhere to this requirement. This included the use of cell phones in the classroom.

LAC: Tutoring services are available to all students having difficulty in English, mathematics, or the sciences. You may discuss any academic problems with your instructor or visit the Learning Assistance Center in Room 0404.

Counseling: Professional counselors are available to assist all students with personal or academic problems. You may arrange to see a counselor by visiting the Student Assistance Center in room 1213 or by calling 424-8211.

Considerations: Any student requiring special considerations for class work or testing under the ADA must meet with the instructor during the first week of class to discuss arrangements.

Emergency Evacuation: Upon activation of the building fire alarm, all building occupants must exit the building to a position of safety away from the building. If you will require assistance during an emergency evacuation, please contact the instructor so that arrangements can be made in advance. All students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the locations of emergency exits. Information concerning emergency exits is posted in this classroom.

Requirements: Students will be responsible for all assigned readings in textbooks and professional publications. Class participation is expected through relevant discussions in small groups and in the class setting. Writing assignments are expected to be well thought out, well written, through the use of complete sentences and correct grammar.

Assignments: To be eligible for full credit all assignments are due according to the Assignment List provided on the first class meeting. Assignments turned in after the due date will automatically have half of the total points for the assignment deducted and then are graded accordingly.

Exams: There will be three exams during this course. Each exam is worth 75 points. Exams can include true/false, multiple choice, essay, and short answer questions.

Final Project: The final project of a portfolio consisting of observations and assessments of young children is worth 100 points.

Grading: Grades are based on a possible 500 points:

A = 450 – 500 points	Assignments	125 points
B = 400 – 449 points	Exams	225 points
C = 350 – 399 points	Attendance/Participation	50 points possible
D = 300 – 349 points	<u>Final Project</u>	<u>100 points</u>
F = 0 – 299 points	TOTAL POINTS	500

COURSE SCHEDULE
ECE 240
FALL 2009

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TOPIC/ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
Aug. 26	Chapter 1 (UAE)	
Sept. 2	Observation Types (Descriptive/Interpretive) Assignment 1 due	25
Sept. 9	Chapter 2 (UAE)	
Sept. 16	Chapter 3 (UAE)	
Sept. 23	Chapter 4 (UAE) Assignment 2 due	25
Sept. 30	Intro, Chapter 1 (Portfolio) EXAM 1	75
Oct. 7	Chapter 2, 3 (pgs 25 – 35) (Portfolio)	
Oct. 14	Chapter 3 (remainder)(Portfolio)	
Oct. 13, 15	Chapter 4 (Portfolio) Chapter 7 (UAE)	
Oct. 21	Chapter 5 (Portfolio) Chapter 7 (UAE) Assignment 3 due	25
Oct. 28	Chapter 8 (UAE) EXAM 2	75
Nov. 4	Chapter 9 (UAE)	
Nov. 11	Chapter 10 (UAE)	
Nov. 18	No Class Meeting/ Out of Class assignment Assignment 4 due	50
Nov. 25	No class/Thanksgiving Break	
Dec. 2	Chapter 11 (UAE)	
Dec. 9	Portfolios Due	100
Dec 16th	Exam 3	75

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1 – Observe nature objects in class. Describe and reflect on this experience. A visual representation will also be generated.

Assignment 2 – Complete two Reader’s Cards on the topic of assessment of young children

Assignment 3 –Using anecdotal recording keeping techniques, observe children at play for one hour And focus on one (or two) child(ren). Describe the skills and abilities you observed. You may design your own recording keeping technique.

Assignment 4 – Design a portfolio to use for gathering assessment information. This will require the use of creativecurriculum.net. Your group will be entering data about a child throughout the semester in each of the four domains, accompanying photos and/or videos can be downloaded to support each documentation/observation.

Final Project

The final project for this course is a power point presentation. Included in the presentation will be photographs and written documentation of a child you have observed throughout the semester engaging in observable goals from the Creative Curriculum Goals and Objectives. Each of the four areas of development must be documented, in addition to the specific goals for each area. Documentation includes photos and written observations. Project will be presented in class. Part of this project can include cc.net observations/documentation and how it is used to assess children.

Final Project Grading Rubric

Requirement	Possible Points	Points Awarded	Comments
Project turned in on time	5		
Project presented in class	5		
Social Emotional Development			
Sense of Self	5		
Responsibility for Self and Others	5		
Prosocial Behavior	5		
Photo(s) and written documentation	10		
Physical Development			
Gross Motor	5		
Fine Motor	5		
Photo(s) and written documentation	10		
Cognitive Development			
Learning and Problem Solving	5		
Logical Thinking	5		
Representation and Symbolic Thinking	5		
Photo(s) and written documentation	10		
Language Development			
Listening and Speaking	5		
Reading and Writing	5		
Photo(s) and written documentation	10		
TOTAL POINTS	100		