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| EDEC 1010: Learning with and from Young Children  Fall 2024  University of North Texas | |
| **Instructor:** Dr. Danelle Adeniji | **Pronouns**: they/them/Doctor |
| **Office location:** Matthews | **Student office hours:**  And as needed by students |
| **Contact info:** danelle.adeniji@unt.edu | **Final Exam date/time/place:**  Thursday, December 12, 2024 |
| **Communication Expectations:** | With the exception of weekends, please allow 24 hours for a response if you send an email. Include the course number in the subject line to help me know what section you are in. |

**BRIEF OVERVIEW**

An introduction to early childhood education and care as a field of study that centers on young children’s play, experiences, and identities. This course focuses on observation to account for children’s knowledge-production within their everyday social practices. The course will engage students in material and intellectual inquiry that explores the relationships between children’s experiences and their human and more-than-human (e.g. technology, the natural world, material objects, etc.) worlds.

**OBJECTIVES**

This course is designed to denaturalize typical ways of seeing and understanding young children. Rather than considering yourself as a "teacher" in this course, we ask that you think of yourself as someone who has much to learn with and from young children. To do this, you will engage with the following course goals:

* Critically examine western colonial discourses and categorizations of "appropriate/inappropriate" or "good/bad" in viewing children's learning and experiences;
* Hone a pedagogy of listening to become keen observers of children being and learning in the world;
* Document children's experiences through simple acts of documentation that take up the language of learning with children;
* Engage in active inquiry with more-than-human worlds in order to gain perspective into learning as embodied, experiential, dialogical, and co-constructed;
* Develop a curriculum map that feature provocations that allow children to inquire and build on previous knowledges.

**TEXTS**

All texts will be uploaded to Canvas, corresponding with each week.

**ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS**

**Attendance**: This course is designed and organized to be highly collaborative and interactive. Our sessions will involve small and whole group activities and discussions. Therefore, your attendance and participation are essential to the learning of everyone in our course. It is very difficult to be enriched by discussions and collaborations if you are not physically present or prepared for class. [University policy 06.039](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.039%20Student%20Attendance%20and%20Authorized%20Absences.pdf) will be followed for attendance problems. If necessary, students may miss one class with a valid excuse (see [university policy for excused absences](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.039%20Student%20Attendance%20and%20Authorized%20Absences.pdf)) and not face penalties related to their grade (yet students are encouraged to save this absence for illness or emergencies that may arise). Students must let the instructor know as soon as possible if they will be missing class. It is the students’ responsibility to obtain all notes and handouts missed during their absence. All assignments are due on dates indicated on the syllabus regardless of student absences. A second absence will result in a loss of points from the total grade. In the event that a student misses four or more classes, they will receive a failing grade. Students who miss more than one hour of class will be considered absent from that class meeting. Please note: it is the student’s responsibility to drop this course, if necessary.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

Further details will be provided about the assignments during the semester.

**Assignments:** You will havethe following assignments during the course. More information will be provided closer to the deadlines, but these assignments include:

**Participation/Adding to the conversation (15%):** The course will be interactive with plenty of group discussions and activities. We’ll engage in material inquiry. In that time, you’ll be asked to present provocations to peers as well as respond to peers’ provocations.

**Your image of the child (20%):** You will apply the ideas we've been exploring in the first phase around a child/children. Through poem making, visual creations, and written reflection, you are going to reflect on the lenses you bring to “seeing” young children.

**Schooling process/practice analysis (20%)** You will apply the ideas we've been exploring in the second phase focused on deconstructing school policy/process. Choose a schooling process or practice to research and analyze, aiming to uncover aspects of these school practices and policies that you were previously unaware of.

**Curricular mapping (20%):** You will apply the ideas we've been exploring in the third phase focused on the explorations into inquiry, provocations, and emergent curriculum honoring children’s curiosities and interests. Working in small groups, you will select a topic to craft a curriculum map and devise three open-ended, inquiry-based provocations.

**Show your vision (25%)**: You will reflect on your understanding of children, schooling practices and environments, and curriculum. Demonstrate your vision by reflecting on your learning journey from this class.

**COURSE EVALUATION**

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| **Assignment** | **Points** |
| Participation/Adding to the conversation | 15 |
| Your Image of the Child | 20 |
| School Process/Practice Analysis | 20 |
| Curricular Mapping with Centers | 20 |
| Show Your Vision | 25 |
| **TOTAL:** | 100 |

**ON GRADES**

In this course, I want you to stay focused on the formulation of critical ideas and pushing your thinking around children and schooling. To do well in this course, you need to:

1. Complete and turn in assignments;
2. Unlearn any previously held ideas that learning is solely lecture-oriented or teacher-directed. *I am asking you to think about learning as happening within our experiences in the world;*
3. Rethink your role of being a teacher as being a facilitator of environments and as learning *alongside* children.

All of this is to say a few things:

1. It is your responsibility to keep track of your grades. Grades on Canvas may be inaccurate so to figure out your grade, total up your points and divide it by the total possible number of points.
2. If you want to dispute your grade on an assignment, wait 24 hours and then send me an email with a rationale as to why you believe your grade should be higher.
3. If you have severe anxiety about grades, let me know early on. I have made arrangements with students to not give grades until the end, at which point it is a discussion between us. I’m happy to do the same with you.

**Note on late assignments:** *If you turn assignments in late, I reserve the right to only provide a grade and zero to few comments. Late assignments may be subject to grade reduction.*

**Looking at assignments ahead of time and redoing assignments:** With a large class, I cannot look at your work ahead of time to ensure you are “on track” or allow assignments to be redone for a higher grade. I will provide you with examples for all of the assignments so be sure to use them as guides for your own. If you use them and the rubric and edit your work for clarity, you should be okay.

**CALENDAR**

***\*****The readings and assignments on this calendar are subject to revision.*

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| **Date** | **Inquiry Question** | **Readings** | **Assignment** |
| **PART I: DECONSTRUCTING & and RECONSTRUCTING OUR IMAGE OF CHILDREN** | | | |
| Week 1  Aug 22nd | Orienting towards children: What’s so great about young children? | As we believe, what we teach |  |
| Week 2  Aug 29th | What is your conception of a child?: Recognizing the child as constructed by adults | Malaguzzi (1994)  Wurm (2005) |  |
| Week 3  Sept 5th | Play as fundamental to children’s rights: What is the role of play in the lives and learning of children? | Jones (2003)  Gray (2014) |  |
| Week 4  Sept 12th | Inquiry as fundamental to children’s rights: What children gain by learning through inquiry | Bentley (2012)  Dyasi (2007) |  |
| **PART II: DECONSTRUCTING & RECONSTRUCTING SCHOOL** | | | |
| Week 5  Sept 19th | What is the aim of schooling?: Unpacking your schooling/learning experiences | Kohn (2006)  Christakis (2016) | #1 assignment due |
| Week 6  Sept 26th | Looking critically at schooling policies and practices: Why might schools need to be deconstructed and reconstructed? | [Is It Time To Dump Calendar Time And Letter Of The Week? Studentcentricity podcast (player.fm)](https://player.fm/series/studentcentricity/is-it-time-to-dump-circle-time-for-young-kids) |  |
| Week 7  Oct. 3rd | Classroom as spaces for children: Reconstructing spaces for children in the image of the child | Kuh (2014)  Curtis & Carter (2005) |  |
| Week 8  Oct 10th | Environment as a third teacher: What else can school look and feel like? | Strong-Wilson & Ellis (2007)  Kuh & Rivard (2014) |  |
| Week 9  Oct. 17th | Teachers as facilitators of children's environments: Teachers’ role in children’s learning and inquiry |  |  |
| Week 10  Oct 24th | Teachers as facilitators of children's environments: Teachers’ role in children’s learning and inquiry | <https://www.rootsandwingsfc.com/blog/howtoplanreggio>  Plotinsky (2022) | #2 assignment due |
| **PART III: DECONSTRUCTING & RECONSTRUCTING CURRICULUM** | | | |
| Week 11  Oct 31st | Inquiry based learning: Moving into uncertainty | Pelo (2007)  Wien (2008) |  |
| Week 12  Nov. 7th | Material inquiry through exploration of our common worlds: What are the affordances of loose parts and everyday materials? | Schaefer (2016)  Massey (2017) |  |
| Week 13  Nov. 14th | Emergent curriculum 1: How can children’s interests be curriculum? | Wien (2001)  Seitz (2006) |  |
| Week 14  Nov. 21st | Emergent curriculum 2: Creating curriculum that honors children | Mikes & Duffy (2022)  Halls & Wien (2013) | #3 assignment due |
| Nov. 28th |  | No Classes |  |
| **PART IV: REFLECTING ON OUR UNDERSTANDINGS OF**  **CHILDREN, SCHOOLING, & CURRICULUM** | | | |
| Week 15  Dec. 5th | Toward creating a better environment for children: Thinking and doing school with children’s interests and inquiries at the center | Young & Morgan (2015)  Christakis (2016) |  |
| Week 16  Dec. 12th | Final reflection: What have we learned? | Bucher (2023) | #4 assignment due |

**NOTEWORTHY**

**University Mental Health Services:** This is undoubtedly an incredibly difficult time for everyone, and for some students, current and ongoing events may be challenging your fortitude. Please know that UNT has resources to support students who may find it difficult to find joy at this time: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/> . You can also contact the center at 940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu). For mental health resources, please refer to the following website: <https://speakout.unt.edu/content/mental-health-resources>

**Food/Housing Insecurity:**The UNT Food Pantry is open for curbside deliveries. Please visit the website for more details: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>. A student with difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, is urged to contact the Dean of Students, Suite 409 at the University Union.

**Title IX Services:** Sexual discrimination, harassment, & assault: The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are civil rights violations. UNT’s Dean of Students’ website offers a range of resources to help support survivors, based on their needs: <http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources>. Renee McNamara is UNT’s Student Advocate and she can be reached via email at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students’ office at 940-565-2648.

**POLICIES**

**Attendance.** Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community. You can use this form to let me know: <https://forms.gle/WXYfzxQ8JfYFBhtH7> *Please note that I am not responsible for catching you up on material you’ve missed.*

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

**Incompletes:**All assignments need to have been completed for a grade to be issued.

**Assignments:**  Submit assignments via Canvas. *If you turn an assignment in late, you will receive zero to little feedback. I reserve the right to simply give a grade in the case of a late assignment.*

**Integrity:**Students who submit work either not their own or without clear attribution to the original source, fabricate data or other information, engage in cheating, or misrepresentation of academic records will be subject to charges. **Any infraction of this nature, whether it be a phrase or more, can result in a grade of a 0 (zero) for the assignment.** Please also see the UNT policies below for more on this.

**Course Materials for Remote Instruction.** Remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a [webcam and microphone – faculty member to include what other basic equipment is needed] to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Additional required classroom materials for remote learning include: [list specific software, supplies, equipment or system requirements needed for the course]. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at <https://online.unt.edu/learn>

**UNT’S STANDARD SYLLABUS STATEMENTS**

**Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences.** According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

**ADA Accommodation Statement.** UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu. (UNT Policy 16.001)

**Emergency Notification & Procedures.** UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course.

**Student Evaluation Administration Dates.** Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

**Sexual Assault Prevention.** UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648.

**Acceptable Student Behavior.** Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

**Educator Standards Addressed in this Course**

The UNT Educator Preparation Program curriculum includes alignment to standards identified by the Texas State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) for beginning educators. These standards are addressed throughout your preparation and assessed through the TExES Certification exams required for your teaching certificate. Additionally, the Commissioner of TEA has adopted these rules pertaining to Texas teaching standards:

Texas Teaching Standards:

Standards required for all Texas beginning teachers fall into the following 6 broad categories:

Standard 1--Instructional Planning and Delivery. Standard 1Ai,ii,iv; 1Bi,ii (Lesson design)

Standard 2--Knowledge of Students and Student Learning

Standard 3--Content Knowledge and Expertise

Standard 4--Learning Environment

Standard 5--Data-Driven Practice

Standard 6--Professional Practices and Responsibilities

EC-12 Professional Pedagogy and Responsibilities (PPR) Standards

The beginning EC-12 teacher knows and understands:

- Competency 001: 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

- Competency 002: 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

- Competency 005: 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

- Competence 007: principles and strategies for communicating effectively in varied teaching and learning contexts.

EC-12 Tech Apps Standards

The beginning EC-12 teacher knows and understands how to:

- Standard I. use and promote creative thinking and innovative processes to construct knowledge, generate new ideas, and create products

- Standard II. collaborate and communicate both locally and globally using digital tools and resources to reinforce and promote learning.

- Standard III. make informed decisions by applying critical-thinking and problem solving skills.