**EDEC 1010.001: Learning with and from Young Children**

**Spring 2023**

**University of North Texas**

**Department of Teacher Education and Administration**

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| **Instructor**  Darla Taylor, Ph.D.  Dr. Darla, Dr. Taylor, Professor Taylor | **Course**  9:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.  Mondays, Wednesdays |
| **Office hours**: By Appointment  **TBA**  **Office: Matthews 205C** | **Course Meets**  ***Face-to-Face on Mondays and Wednesdays*** |
| **Email:** [Darla.Taylor@unt.edu](mailto:Darla.Taylor@unt.edu) | **Location:** Wooten 202 |
| **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.* (EDEC 1010.001)** | |

\***Class meetings are subject to change due to pandemic**.

**WHAT YOU WILL NEED FOR CLASS**

* computer or tablet
* art supplies such as markers, colored pencils, highlighters, crayons, scissors, etc.
* Expo marker (s)

# COURSE STRUCTURE

Our section is every **Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.in Wooten 202. We meet each Monday and Wednesday.** Please be sure to check your UNT email every evening/morning and/or the CANVAS announcements to know about any potential shifts in our schedule. Additionally, please note the following:

1. Once you select a seat in the classroom, I ask that you sit in the same seat for the remainder of the semester. It’s easiest that way for me to track attendance. It will also ease contact tracing, should we need to go back to that.
2. **If you are not feeling well, please do not come to class.** I will upload PowerPoints to Canvas. **Please keep me updated and take initiative to stay updated on course events. If you have excessive absences (missing class over 25% of the time), I will be in contact.**

# 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:

* Disrupt 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. These include excerpts from books, articles, videos, podcasts, and websites that are more up-to-date with research and information.

# COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

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

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

* **Participation and Attendance (60%):** 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. Some of these activities will be done in class. It is highly recommended you try to be in class each day to do these activities at the given time. This has been embedded to help you be successful with this course. It is also highly recommended to bring your laptop or pad to class daily in order to complete some of these graded activities. They will be put on CANVAS. The participation activities will be due on the Sunday evening before the new week of classes.
* **Attendance:** Attendance at all class meetings is **required** and is **essential** to your success in this course. This class is highly interactive and learning occurs through participation in class discussions and activities that are impossible to be duplicated outside of class. 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. Communication with the instructor is very important in this class. In the event that a student misses five or more classes, they could receive a failing grade. Students who miss more than one hour of class will be considered absent from that class meeting. Chronic tardiness or early departure will result in the lowering of a final grade at the instructor’s discretion (arriving more than 15 minutes late or leaving more than 15 minutes early). **Please note: it is the student’s responsibility to drop this course, if necessary.**
* **Artifact analysis (20%):** You’ll choose a schooling process or practice to research and analyze. Artifact’s analysis will also be part of early childhood specialization courses
* ***‘Spaces for Children’* Analysis (20%):** Using course texts, you’ll view two classroom scenes and provide an analysis of the ways the spaces are designed for and with children in mind.
* **Curricular Mapping (20%):** You’ll provide a curriculum map that features several curricular provocations based on scenarios of children that you also document. These provocations should focus on **inquiry** (not direct instruction).

# COURSE EVALUATION

**Points**

**Assignment**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Participation activities in class and online responses and reflections, and synopsis | 420 |
| Attendance – 15 class meetings X2 | 30 |
| Artifact analysis | 200 |
| *Spaces for Children* analysis | 200 |
| Curricular mapping | 200 |
| **TOTAL:** | 1050 |

**COURSE GRADING SCALE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A = 900 -1050 points | (90%-100%) |
| B = 800 -899 points | (80%-89%) |
| C = 700 -799 points | (75%-79%) |
| D = 600 - 699 points | (70%-74%) |
| F = <599 points | (<70%) |

**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 around grades, do 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:** I cannot look at your work ahead of time to make sure 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, as well as edit your work for clarity, you should be okay.

* Please turn your assignments in as a Microsoft Word, Adobe pdf,, or PowerPoint. Canvas does not open .oft, or .pages. I will ask you to convert your work if you turn in work that I cannot open.
* Please do not ask to turn your work in AFTER the semester is over.

# NOTE ON GRADES FROM DARLA

I realize that society’s emphasis today on achievement and testing have unfortunately created a particular kind of anxiety for students around grades. I am not interested in grades; I assign them because regrettably that is the system we are held to in the university.

In this course, I want you to stay focused on the formulation of critical ideas and pushing your thinking around children and schooling. If I see that you are putting forth effort in this course to further your thinking of what learning *is* and can be, then you will be absolutely fine in this course. Reasons for making less than A would include:

1. Not completing and/or turning in assignments;
2. Maintaining ideas about learning as primarily and solely lecture-oriented or teacher- directed. *I am asking you to think about learning as happening within our experiences in the world;*
3. Thinking that the role of the teacher is to be the expert over “students”. I am asking you to think about teachers as facilitators of environments and as learning *alongside* children (not students, do not use the word “students” in this course).

**I have always had a motto with my students whether they are 3 years old or 51 years old: “We learn to love; we love to learn.” But it goes further than that. “We treat others the way we want to be treated!” That goes for the instructor, as well, right? Kindness and being courteous is always the key to what we do whether we are teachers, nurses, or servers of others. During this particular novel time of our lives, I want to encourage you to practice kindness and courtesy. This translates to loving one another and peace. My goal is to be my best with you by being kind, courteous, as well as keeping a listening ear and heart to your needs so you can be successful. This is a new way of teaching for me, too. I will do my very best. Let’s be patient with each other.`**

**Calendar**

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Inquiry Question** | **Readings, Videos, Podcasts, Websites** | **Assignment, Participation Points** |
| **PART 1: ORIENTING TOWARD CHILDREN** | | | |
| **Week 1**  **January 16 – January 19, 2023**  **As we believe, what we teach.** | Orienting towards children:  Inquiry Question:  What’s so great about young children? | [Article: Gray (2016) – “The Culture of Childhood: We’ve Almost Destroyed It!”](file:///E:\The%20Culture%20of%20Childhood_%20We’ve%20Almost%20Destroyed%20It%20_%20Psychology%20Today.pdf)  [Article: “Viewpoint- A Culture of Their Own: Exploring Childhood as a Unique Cultural Group” – (Plank, 2022)](file:///E:\Viewpoint_%20A%20Culture%20of%20Their%20Own_%20Exploring%20Childhood%20as%20a%20Unique%20Cultural%20Group%20_%20NAEYC.pdf)  Article - [Malaguzzi (1994) – “Your Image of the Child: Where Teaching Begins”](file:///C:\Users\darla\Desktop\Malaguzzi%2094%20-%20Your%20Image%20of%20the%20Child%20Where%20Teaching%20Begins.pdf)  Video – [“ I Just Love Kids…Well Then You Have Not Met Enough!”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjS2FdUrFPI)  Video – [“Here. It’s for Your Ears.” (the literal-ness of kids)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A2yVORYQo0)  Check out this website: [NIEER. org](https://nieer.org/) | Getting to Know You – (70 points)  We will do this during class time.  (Participation)  **Due: January 29, 2023** |
| **Week 2**  **January 23 – January 26, 2023** | Inquiry Question:  What is your conception of a child?  Recognizing the child as constructed by adults | \*Article - [Kohn (2015a)](https://www.alfiekohn.org/article/do-believe/) – “To Change What We Know, Consider What We Believe”  \*Article - [Christakis (2016a article)](https://www.salon.com/2016/03/19/well_thats_the_big_mystery_about_god_its_amazing_what_a_4_year_old_whos_given_the_opportunity_to_speak_freely_in_preschool_can_come_up_with/)- “Well that’s the big mystery about God”  Article - [Rinaldi (2001) – “The Pedagogy of Listening: The Listening Perspective from Reggio Emilia”](file:///E:\Rinaldi%20(2001).pdf)  \*These are very important articles to read. You will reference them in a later assignment.  There will be a visual graphic/graph to help you post your thoughts or those statements that stand out for you. You will have one for each week. | What’s There to Know About Children? Poem – (15 points) (Participation)- Prompts will be given to help you get started as we unpack what we need to know about children.  Reflection Graph: (10 points)  **Due: January 29, 2023** |
| **Week 3**  **January 30 – February 2, 2023** | Inquiry Question:  What is the role of play in the lives and learning of children?  Children’s play as a fundamental right | Discuss “Loose Parts” briefly – what are they?  Video - [Gray (2014) Decline of play [TEDTalk]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bg-GEzM7iTk)  Article - [Zosh et al., (2022) – “The Power of Playful Learning in the Early Childhood Setting”](file:///E:\The%20Power%20of%20Playful%20Learning%20in%20the%20Early%20Childhood%20Setting%20_%20NAEYC.pdf)  Article - ([Dickson) – “Landmark Study Shows Doll Play Nurtures Empathy”](file:///E:\Landmark%20Study%20Shows%20Doll%20Play%20Nurtures%20Empathy%20(1).pdf) | Play Memory – (15 points) – Write about a favorite memory you have playing as a child.  Reflection Graph: (10 points)  **Due: February 5, 2023** |
| **Week 4**  **February 6 – February 9, 2023**  **I will have to post a ZOOM tape for you on February 6. More information coming.** | Inquiry Question:  How is play a higher order skill?  Further examining play as a mode of inquiry | \*Article - [Jones (2003) – “Play & Creativity: Reflecting Children’s Rights to Dream, Imagine, Explore”](file:///E:\Jones%20(2003)%20(1)%20(3).pdf)  Podcast - [“Science of Happiness – What Happens When We Play” Podcast](file:///E:\Transcript%20-%20Episode%2099_%20What%20Happens%20When%20We%20Play.pdf)  Article – Christakis (2019) – [“Why is it Still So Hard to Give Young Children the Space and Time to Play?”](https://dey.org/why-is-it-still-so-hard-to-give-young-children-the-space-and-time-to-play/)  [Why Is It Still So Hard To Give Young Children the Space and Time to Play\_.pdf](https://unt.instructure.com/courses/73201/files/17679475?wrap=1) | **Making Observations (Participation)**  **Forms for Description – (20 points**)- Using the videos provided, you will practice writing anecdotal notes about the child/children.  **Due: February 12, 2023** |
| **Week 5**  **February 13 – February 16, 2023** | Inquiry Question:  How do children inquire and make sense of their social worlds?  Children’s inquiries within their human and more-than-human worlds | \*Article - [Kohn (2015b)](https://www.alfiekohn.org/blogs/sandwich/) – “Learning as a Sandwich”  Article - Gaunt (2020) – “The Magic of Black Girls’ Play”  Article - [(Fine & Desmond ) – “Inquiry-based Learning: Preparing Young Learners for the Demands of 21st Century”](file:///E:\Inquiry-based%20Learning%20Preparing%20Young%20Learners%20for%20the%20Demands%20of%20the%2021st%20Century_1_EdVoiceVIII_Ch1%20(1)%20(3).pdf)  Article - [Dyasi – “What Children Gain by Learning Through Inquiry”](file:///E:\Dyasi%20_%20FOUNDATIONS%20Vol.%202%20-%20Chapter%202%20(1).pdf)  Article - [Hill (2021) – “For Black Children, Play Can Be Transformative”](file:///E:\For%20Black%20Children,%20Play%20Can%20Be%20Transformative.pdf)  Video - [Sesame Street clip: Handclapping Chants](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5K-FpmUUc7U)  Video - [Peter Gray- Play-based Learning](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJaAegok8L4) - | **Let’s Go Play! – (Participation) – (20 points) –** Given a list of activities, choose 2 to initiate play with friends/significant other/children/or by yourself.  Reflection Graph: (10 points)  **Due: February 19, 2023** |
| **PART II: DECONSTRUCTING & RECONSTRUCTING SCHOOL** | | | |
| **Week 6**  **February ­20-February 23, 2023** | Inquiry Question:  What is the purpose of school?  Examining what classrooms aim to teach and what children actually learn | Video [– “Playdough Story”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eq9P4-5k_a0&t=1s)  Article - [Kohn (2006)](https://www.alfiekohn.org/rethinking-classroom-rules/) – “Rethinking Classroom Rules”  Article - Kaplan (2019) – “What’s Lost When We Rush Kids Through Childhood”  [Article: Sanchez (2017) “How School Stole Your Flow and How to Get it Back](https://unt.instructure.com/courses/69875/modules/items/4310605)”  Article – (2019) – [“On Play and Seriousness”](file:///C:\Users\darla\Desktop\On%20Play%20and%20Seriousness.pd) | **Assignment #1 – Artifact - Analysis of School Practice or Policy – (200 points)**  **Due: February 28, 2023**  **The Five Factors of Your Play Memory**  (Participation) – (30 points) – Using the five factors discussed in class/PowerPoint and your own play memory, discuss each of the five factors and how they impacted your play.  **Due: February 26,2023** |
| **Week 7**  **February 27 – March 2, 2023**  **Analysis of School Practice or Policy – (200 points)**  **Due: February 28, 2023** | Inquiry Question:  Why might school need to be deconstructed and reconstructed?  Continuing to think about the gaps between what we are supposed to learn and what we actually learn | \*[**Article - Christakis (2016) \* - Chapter 2, Redacted – “Goldilocks Goes to Daycare: Finding the Right Zone for Learning”**](file:///E:\Christakis%20(2016)%20Ch.%202%20Redacted%20(3).pdf)  Article: [Corcoran, Goff (2020)- “Professional Learning Module Mathematical Thinking: Rethinking Calendar Time Overview of Thinking](file:///E:\Overview%20of%20Rethinking%20Calendar%20Time.pdf)  Article: [Beneke, Ostrosky, & Katz (2008) – “Calendar Time for Young Children: Good Intentions Gone Awry”](file:///E:\YCBeneke.indd.pdf)  Videos: Sir Ken Robinson  [“Changing Education Paradigms”](https://www.ted.com/talks/sir_ken_robinson_changing_education_paradigms)  [“Do Schools Kill Creativity?”](https://www.ted.com/talks/sir_ken_robinson_do_schools_kill_creativity?language=en)  There will be a visual graphic/graph to help you post your thoughts or those statements that stand out for you. You will have one for each week. | **Reflection and Discussion About Readings and Video**  **Participation (10 pts.)** – Reflect and discuss what you read in the articles and what you watched and learned in the videos on the Discussion page in CANVAS.  **Due: March 5, 2023** |
| **Week 8**  **March 6 – March 9, 2023** | Inquiry Question:  What does the research say about children’s environments?  Reconstructing spaces for children in the image of the child | **\*Article:** [**Kuh (2014) Introduction\*- “Thinking Critically About Environments”**](file:///E:\Kuh%20(2014)%20Introduction%20(3).pdf)  Article: [Armstrong (2020) – “Culturally Responsive Teaching in Early Childhood Education”](file:///E:\Culturally%20Responsive%20Teaching%20in%20Early%20Childhood%20Education%20_%20Edutopia.pdf)  Video: [Five Big Ideas of Montessori](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lVK4fZlJlew)  Video: [“Designing Places for Learning”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbOFJus1wXM)  Website: [Responsive Classroom Approach](https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/about/)  There will be a visual graphic/graph to help you post your thoughts or those statements that stand out for you. You will have one for each week. | **Reconstructing Spaces for Children in the Image of the Child**  **Participation – (30 points) –** Answer questions over specific videos embedded in the PowerPoint and concerning what was discussed in class.  **Due: March 12, 2023** |
| **March 10, 2023** | **Midterm** | **Midterm** | **Midterm** |
| **March 13 – March 17, 2023** | **Spring Break** | **Spring Break** | **Spring Break** |
| **Week 9**  **March 20 – March 23, 2023** | Inquiry Question:  What else can school look and feel like?  Examining progressive approaches to early childhood education | **\*Article -** [**Kuh & Rivard (2014) Ch. 1\*- “The Prepared Environment”**](file:///E:\Kuh%20&%20Rivard%20(2014)%20Prepared%20Environment-2%20(4).pdf)  Article - [Lolly (2005) - “Infants have their own curriculum”](E:\\Infants Have Their Own Curriculum (1).pdf)  Article - [Maguire-Fong (2021) - “Rethinking Infant Curriculum: Part 2”](file:///E:\Rethinking%20Infant%20Curriculum%20Part%202%20(2).pdf)  Video – [“The Importance of Respecting Babies”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFKEjvgwYqU)  Website – [Preschool Curriculum: Individualization Based on Interests, Strengths, and Needs](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/curriculum/consumer-report/criteria/individualization-based-interests-strengths-needs) | **Assignment #2 – Spaces for Children Analysis – (200 pts)**  **Due: April 4, 2023**  **Children’s Environments –**  **Participation (20 pts)-**  Compare three early childhood environments based on the videos embedded in the PowerPoint (Swedish, Japanese, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Preschools) using the provided graphic organizer.  **Due: March 26, 2023** |
| **Week 10**  **March 27 – March 30, 2023** | Inquiry Question:  Where and how can learning happen?  Learning that feels like freedom, and “classrooms” that are outside of classrooms | Article - [Curtis & Carter (2005) – “Rethinking Early Childhood Environments to Enhance Learning”](file:///E:\Curtis%20&%20Carter%20(2005)-2%20(3).pdf)  Article - [Bentley (2012b) – “Firemakers, Barnyards, & Prickley Forests: A Preschool Stroll Around the Block”](file:///E:\Bentley%20(2012).pdf)  [Article – Cassella (2021) - “Daycares in Finland Built Their Own ‘Forests’, and It Changed Kids’ Immune System”](file:///E:\\Cassella%20(2021)%20-Daycares%20in%20FinlandBuilt%20Their%20Own%20Forests%20And%20It%20Changed%20Kids'%20Immune%20Systems.docx)  **Video** – CNN News Report on Reggio Emilia Italy Early Childhood Schools in the US <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVv5ZL9nlgs> | **Comparing Approaches-**  **Participation –**  **(25 -pts)-**  Compare Montessori and TeWharkiki approaches after/while viewing the embedded videos in the PowerPoint. Graphic organizer is provided.  **Due: April 2, 2023** |
| **PART III: CURRICULUM THAT HONORS YOUNG CHILDREN** | | | |
| **Week 11**  **April 3 – April 6, 2023**  **Assignment #2 – Spaces for Children Analysis – (200 pts)**  **Due: April 4, 2023** | Inquiry Question:  What are the affordances of loose parts and everyday materials?  Material inquiry through exploration of our common worlds | Article - [Schwall (2015) -](E:\\Schwall_ The Grammar of Materials (2).pdf)  [Grammar of Materials](E:\\Schwall_ The Grammar of Materials (2).pdf)  Article [– Pennsylvania State University (2019) “Loose Parts: What Does That Mean?”](E:\\Loose Parts What does that mean)  [Article: Smith-Gilman (2018) – “The Arts, Loose Parts, and Conversations”](file:///E:\Microsoft%20Word%20-%20Smith%20Gilman%20layout%2031818.docx.pdf)  Article – [Valasek(2022) – Harnessing the Joy of Open-Ended Materials with Your Child”](file:///C:\Users\darla\Desktop\Valasek%2022%20-%20Harnessing%20the%20Joy%20of%20Open-Ended%20Materials%20with%20Your%20Child.pdf)  Video: [Playing with Loose Parts](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFEg6Mlc490)  Video - [“Open-Ended Play Ideas”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3mxNnq7xkM) | **Discussion of Loose Parts and Documenting Loose Parts Collection – Participation - (50 points)**  **Due: April 9, 2023**  Bring your collection of “loose parts” to class. (10 pts) |
| **Week 12**  **April 10 – 13, 2023** | Inquiry Question:  What can curriculum for young children look like?  Designing provocations that provoke thinking | Article - [Massey (2017) – “Art from the Heart: Creating a Meaningful Art Curriculum for Young Children”](file:///E:\Massey%20(2017)%20(1)%20(2).pdf)  Article - [Wien (2008) – “Moving Into Uncertainty: Sculpture with Three-to-Five -Year-Olds”](file:///E:\Wien%20(2008)-1%20(2).pdf)  [Article –Learning Liftoff (2016) - “How School’s Learning Environment Affects Student Achievement”](file:///E:\How%20School's%20Learning%20Environment%20Affects%20Student%20Achievement.docx)  Video: [“Incorporating Loose Parts in Early Childhood Classrooms to Promote STEAM”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xk9wGZdq04o)  There will be a visual graphic/graph to help you post your thoughts or those statements that stand out for you. You will have one for each week. | Synopsis of Reading and Videos from the past 2 weeks -Participation –  (50 pts)- a graphic organizer will be provided.  **Due: April 16, 2023**  Bring your collection of “loose parts” to class. (10 pts) |
| **Week 13**  **April 17 – April 20, 2023** | **Inquiry Question:**  What do I do while children play, inquire, and experience the world?  Teachers as facilitators, observers, and documenters | [Documenting children’s learning](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RdOqkukZikE) video  Article - [Kohn (2021)](https://www.alfiekohn.org/blogs/paradox/) – The Progressive Teacher’s Role in the Classroom  Article - [Seitz (2006) – “The Plan: Building on Children’s Interests”](file:///E:\Seitz%20(2006)%20Provocations-1%20(1).pdf)  Article - [Halls & Wein – (2013) – “’The Wind Goes Inside Me’: Kindergarten Children’s Theories About Running Fast”](file:///E:\Halls%20&%20Wien%20(2013)-1%20(3).pdf)  Article - [Biermeier (2015) – “Inspired by Reggio Emilia: Emergent Curriculum in Relationship-Driven Learning Environments”](file:///E:\Biermeier%20(2015)%20(Provocations)%20(2).pdf)  Article: Mikes & Duffy (2022)  There will be a visual graphic/graph to help you post your thoughts or those statements that stand out for you. You will have one for each week. | **Synopsis of Reading and Videos -Participation –**  **(25 pts)** – a graphic organizer will be provided.  **Due: April 23, 2023** |
| **Week 14**  **April 24 – 27, 2023** | Inquiry Question:  How can children’s interests be curriculum?  Thinking and doing school with children’s interests and inquiries at the center | Curriculum Mapping  Explore [Pre-K Guidelines](https://tea.texas.gov/academics/early-childhood-education/texas-prekindergarten-guidelines)  Explore [K-3 TEKS](https://tea.texas.gov/academics/curriculum-standards/teks/texas-essential-knowledge-and-skills)  Article - [Wien (2001) Ch. 7 – “Emergent Curriculum in the Primary Classroom: Interpreting the Reggio Emilia Approach in Schools”](file:///E:\Wien%20(2001)%20Ch.%207%20(1)%20(1).pdf)  Article – [Gillespie – “Rocking & Rolling: It’s Never ‘Just Play’](file:///C:\Users\darla\Desktop\Gillespie%20-%20Rocking%20and%20Rolling%20It's%20Never%20Just%20Play.pdf) “  Article – Valasek (2022)- “How Do You Spell Butterfly?”Connecting Play to Content Learning  Video [– “Supporting Children’s Individual Needs”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zd6Qvu18p_s)  Video – [Play-based Learning in Early Years](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhJL8eY-5NU)  Video: [“Investigating Balls”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZ3ynCkQufk)  Video – [“Heather’s Story”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQ3_1Y4drAo)  There will be a visual graphic/graph to help you post your thoughts or those statements that stand out for you. You will have one for each week. | **Assignment #3- Final – Curriculum Mapping – (200 points) – Due: May 9, 2023**  **Reflections and Discussions -Participation – (10 pts)** – Discuss on CANVAS what points were made in the articles and videos that made an impression on you. Post to two peers.  **Due: April 30,2023** |
| **Week 15**  **May 1 – May 4, 2023** | Inquiry Question:  How can school expand children’s worldviews and meanings?  Creating critical and intellectually rigorous/vigorous curriculum | Curriculum Mapping – Adding appropriate means of assessment  Article - [Wien (2013) – Pedagogical Documentation](file:///E:\Making%20Learning%20Possible%20Through%20Pedagogical%20Documentation.pdf)  Article - [Curtis (2004) – “Creating Invitations for Learning”](file:///E:\Curtis%20(2004).pdf)  Video – [Documenting Children’s Learning](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RdOqkukZikE)  There will be a visual graphic/graph to help you post your thoughts or those statements that stand out for you. You will have one for each week. | Reflections and Discussions -Participation – (10 pts)- Discuss on CANVAS what points were made in the articles and videos that made an impression on you. Post to two peers.  **Due: May 4, 2023** |
| **May 3-4, 2023** | Pre-final Days | Pre-final Days | Pre-final Days |
| **May 4, 2023** | Last Class Meeting Day | Last Class Meeting Day | Last Class Meeting Day |
| **May 5, 2023** | Reading Day | Reading Day | Reading Day |
| **May 6- 12, 2023** | Final Exams | Final Exams | Final Exams |
| **Finals week:** Curricular maps **due May 9, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.** | | | |

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/curriculum/consumer-report/criteria/individualization-based-interests-strengths-needs>

**Major Assignment Due Dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assignment** | **Due Date** |
| **Assignment #1 – Artifact of School Practices or Policies (200 points)** | **February 28, 2023** |
| **Assignment #2 – Analysis of Children’s Spaces** | **April 4, 2023** |
| **Assignment #3 – (Final) – Curriculum Map** | **May 9, 2023** |

**Important Dates**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **January 16, 2023** |  | **Last day to W from entire term.** |
| **January 20, 2023** |  | **Last day to add a class section.** |
| **January 31, 2023** |  | **Drop with a grade of W begins** |
| **February 24, 2023** |  | **Last day to change to pass/no pass grade option** |
| **March 10, 2023** | **Semester midpoint** | **Semester midpoint** |
|  |  |  |
| **April 7, 2023** |  | **Last day to drop a course with a W** |
| **April 8, 2023** |  | **First day to request incomplete (eligible if you are passing at the time of the request)** |
| **May 3-4, 2023** | **Pre-finals** |  |
| **May 4, 2023** | **Last class meeting day** | **Last class meeting day according to UNT** |
| **May 6 – 12, 2023, 2023** | **Final Exams** | **Final Exams** |
| **May 12, 2023** | **Last day of term** | **Congratulations! You did it!** |
| **May 17, 2023** |  | **Grades posted** |

# 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.](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

**Face Coverings.** UNT encourages everyone to comply with the City of Denton mandate to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection.

**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, and the professor can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. **Please inform the professor if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community. *Please note that I am not responsible for catching you up on material you’ve missed.***

* **Attendance:** Attendance at all class meetings is **required** and is **essential** to your success in this course. This class is highly interactive and learning occurs through participation in class discussions and activities that are impossible to be duplicated outside of class. 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. Communication with the instructor is very important in this class. In the event that a student misses five or more classes, they could receive a failing grade. Students who miss more than one hour of class will be considered absent from that class meeting. Chronic tardiness or early departure will result in the lowering of a final grade at the instructor’s discretion (arriving more than 15 minutes late or leaving more than 15 minutes early). **Please note: it is the student’s responsibility to drop this course, if necessary.**

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (https://[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-](http://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](mailto: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.

# 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.

**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 CANVAS for contingency plans for covering course materials.

**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](http://www.spot.unt.edu/) or email [spot@unt.edu.](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**Department of Teacher Education and Administration**

The Department of Teacher Education and Administration seeks to improve educational practice through the generation of knowledge and to prepare education professionals who serve all students in an effective, inclusive and equitable manner. Its focus is on the preparation of highly competent educators, researchers and administrators who employ current theory and research as they fill these important roles.

**Mission.** The Department of Teacher Education and Administration integrates theory, research, and practice to generate knowledge and to develop educational leaders who advance the potential of all learners.

**Vision.** We aspire to be internationally recognized for developing visionary educators who provide leadership, promote social justice, and effectively educate all learners.

**UNT Teacher Education Program Commitments**

While teaching has always been a relational and intellectual endeavor, we acknowledge that *teaching is also both an ethical and a political act.* We recognize that many of the practices and traditions in schools today perpetuate long-seated historical and social oppressions. These social inequities are structural *and* socially constructed along dimensions of intersecting identities, including, but not limited to, race, color, ethnicity, national origin and identity, dis/ability, gender identity and expression, sex, sexual orientation, religion, immigration status, language, social class, age, and genetic orientation.

It is through our radical imaginations that we can create spaces for critical inquiry and engagement in schools at multiple levels: intellectual, ethical, physical, social, emotional, ecological, and aesthetic. We envision classrooms to be inclusive places that serve as complex and just ecosystems that allow for multiple identities, modes of expression, and ways of engagement to thrive together. We do this because we are committed to dismantling oppression. Teachers play an important role in this movement. Our teacher education program supports the development of core values related to:

* **Identity.** Preparing teachers who have agency and critically reflect on their lived experiences and identities as a way of informing their professional knowledge and humanizing pedagogies.
* **Inquiry.** Preparing teachers who value and inquire into the complex identities, as well as intellectual and transformational capacities, of children and youth.
* **Activism.** Preparing teachers who create curriculum that responds to children’s and youth’s inquiries and identities, as well as the sociopolitical and socioeconomic conditions of the world outside of schools—in neighborhoods, communities, and society-at-large.
* **Community.** Preparing teachers who recognize and honor the unique sociocultural experiences and communities of children and youth with whom they work.

We commit to teaching and teacher preparation that takes a transformative stance toward school change. We believe—acting in solidarity with teachers, children, youth, school leaders, and communities—we can radically reimagine and reconstruct schools and, thus, our society.

**Teacher Preparation at The University of North Texas**: **Core Commitments**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Commitments->** | **As Teachers** | **To Children and Youth** | **In our Practice** | **To Radically Imagine** |
| **Identity** | **We are** individuals with cultural histories, knowledges, talents, and interests that we use as resources in our teaching. | **We value** and nurture the love, grace, humor, compassion, creativity, patience, joy, and peace young people bring into our teaching spaces. | **We practice** humanizing pedagogies that are asset-based, equitable, and appreciative of who we are and who we are becoming. | **We imagine** schools as spaces where teachers are encouraged and given space to be different in what they do with young people and their communities. |
| **Inquiry** | **We are** intellectuals with a deep understanding of academic content, curriculum development, and flexible pedagogies. | **We value** young people’s knowledge, creativity, curiosity, aesthetics, imagination, and embodied ways of being as essential, educative and liberating | **We practice** curriculum as critical inquiry and research where children and youth are positioned as capable, knowledgeable and social agents for change. | **We imagine** a curriculum in schools that is shaped by societal goals and influenced daily by events unfolding in the world around us. |
| **Advocacy &**  **Activism** | **We are** activists working against injustice for young people, teachers, and communities rooted in racism and other forms of discrimination. | **We value** and embody caring in all its forms – personal, social, cultural, linguistic, and ecological – as essential to growing a positive learning and living environment. | **We practice** activism in the curriculum by engaging children and youth in work that contributes to the creation of  more just, more caring, and more peaceful world. | **We imagine** metaphors for schools as nurturing spaces for the whole individual rather than as efficient factories or businesses that produce products and profit. |
| **Communities** | **We are** members of multiple communities — connected in ways that make our successes intertwined. | **We value** inclusive learning communities that connect us within and outside of our classrooms. | **We practice** humility through our vulnerability; hope in the face of adversity; and resilience in response to our efforts that have fallen short. | **We imagine** schools as sustaining intersecting ways of being, knowing, and languaging. |