

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Department Information
Division: Science & Math
Department: Child Development
Course ID: CD 111
Course Title: Observations and Methods in Child Development
Units: 2
Lecture hrs: 16
Laboratory hrs: 48
Prerequisite: CD 105
Co-requisite: CD 105
Departmental Advisory: None

Catalog Description: Introduction to observational methodologies and techniques used in the study of early childhood behavior including observation, recording, analysis, and interpretation as they relate to developmental principles, theories, and current research.

Schedule Description: Introduction to observational methodologies and techniques used in early childhood behavior. Students will observe, record, analyze and interpret child behavior.

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: ONE

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- A. Observe and record development of children in early childhood classroom settings in all major areas of development.
- B. Describe the topography of child behavior using behavioral definitions and terms.
- C. Identify common methods used in studying young children including their strengths and weaknesses.
- D. Conduct a variety of methods, such as observations and checklists, when assessing and observing the behavior of children.
- E. Be able to conduct a functional assessment of behavior to identify potential strengths and areas of concern.
- F. Identify environmental triggers that influence child behavior.
- G. Write behavioral objectives designed to further children's emerging developmental skills.

IV. CONTENT:

- A. Overview
 1. Developmental theories
 2. Guidelines for observing children
- B. The Elements of Observation
 1. Methods, behaviors, plans and contexts
 2. An introduction to observation and recording methods
 3. Narrative descriptions
 4. Time sampling
 5. Event sampling

6. Diary description
 7. Anecdotal record
 8. Frequency counts or duration records
 9. Checklists
 10. Application: recording methods in action
 11. Interpretation of observations, implementation of findings, and ongoing evaluation
- C. Observation Exercises
1. Introduction and preparation
 2. The newborn: birth to one
 3. The infant: age one to twenty-four months
 4. The young child: ages two through five
- D. Middle Childhood – The School-Age Years
1. The school-age years: the six-year-old child
 2. The school-age years: the seven and eight-year-old child

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Lecture
- B. Multimedia presentations
- C. Observation of young children
- D. Textbook reading and written assignments
- E. Class and group discussion
- F. Interactions with young children in an early childhood educational program

VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Reading:
 1. After reading part two of the textbook, analyze the checklist concepts at the end of the section. Be able to answer each question. Answers will be discussed in class.
- B. Writing:
 1. Write a few paragraphs to demonstrate the growth and development of each child that you have observed over the semester. Write a narrative summary that documents the four broad developmental areas: social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. It is important to be as positive as possible and focus on the child's strengths.
- C. Critical Thinking:
 1. Create a developmental checklist to help you identify the milestones for a particular child you observe. This will help you identify the milestones for that particular age. Use the checklist to develop classroom activities that connect to the milestones, and encourage growth in those areas.

VII. EVALUATION:

- A. Active class participation and attendance
- B. Observations
- C. Case study
- D. Tests and Quizzes
- E. Authentic Assessment

VIII. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- A. Bentzen, Warren R., Seeing Young Children: A Guide to Observing and Recording Behavior, Fifth Edition, 2004.
- B. Nilsen, Barbara Ann, Week by Week: Plans for Observing and Recording Young Children, Third Edition, 2002.
- C. Sharman, Carole, Observing Children: A Practical Guide, 2003.

IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: NONE