George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
Early Childhood Education

ECED 401.001 Developmental Pathways of Diverse Learners, Birth-Adolescence
3 Credits, Spring 2018
Mondays/ 7:20 – 10:00 pm
Thompson Hall L013, Fairfax Campus

Faculty
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Prerequisites/Corequisites
None

University Catalog Course Description
Examines child and adolescent development from diverse perspectives. Addresses typical and atypical physical, social and emotional, language, and intellectual development. Explores role of individual differences and culture in understanding and interpreting child and adolescent development. Offered by the Graduate School of Education. May not be repeated for credit.

Course Overview
Not Applicable

Course Delivery Method
This course will be delivered using a lecture and discussion format.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives
This course is designed to enable students to do the following:
1. Describe the major theories of development and critically examine the theories as they apply to the lives of culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse children and their families.
2. Examine the transactional nature of overall development in the context of the family, community, socioeconomic conditions, and culture.
3. Identify typical developmental milestones of diverse children from birth through adolescence and their cultural and socioeconomic variations.
4. Observe and describe overall development in the social and emotional domains as well as physical and cognitive as it occurs in natural environments and through play.
5. Identify environmental and biological/physical/medical at-risk factors that can contribute to possible developmental risk and atypical development across the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional domains.
6. Discuss the etiology of major disabilities as well as giftedness.
7. Select culturally and linguistically appropriate resources to use with diverse families and their children.
8. Identify culturally and linguistically responsive professional practices that facilitate development in the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional domains.
9. Explain the effects of child abuse and neglect on development.

**Professional Standards (Council of Exceptional Children and National Association for the Education of Young Children)**

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

**CEC Standard Elements**

*CEC 1.1* Beginning special education professionals understand how language, culture, and family background influence the learning of individuals with exceptionalities.

*CEC 1.2* Beginning special education professionals use understanding of development and individual differences to respond to the needs of individuals with exceptionalities.

**NAEYC Standard Elements**

*NAEYC 1a* Knowing and understanding young children’s characteristics and needs.

*NAEYC 1b* Knowing and understanding the multiple influences on development and learning.

**Required Texts**


This course also requires reading published journal articles on human development. Example journals include the following: *Early Education and Development, Child Development, and Human Development*. These and other journals are available on the Mason library website.

**Course Performance Evaluation**

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Studies Analysis Paper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Part 1: Infant/Toddler</td>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Part 1: Infant/Toddler Revised</td>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Part 2: Preschool</td>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Part 2: Preschool Revised</td>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Part 3: Early Elementary</td>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Final upload to TK20 (Key Assessment 2: all three revised full case studies analysis in one document)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Assignments and/or Examinations

Understanding and Integrating Developmental Pathways Case Studies Analysis (75 points)
This is Key Assessment 2 Content Knowledge: Understanding Development and Learning Case Studies Analysis that shows evidence of meeting CEC and NAEYC Standards. Students will submit the case studies analysis in three parts: (a) infant/toddler, (b) preschool, and (c) early elementary. Students will consolidate the three case study analyses into one document and will submit the consolidated document to Tk20 through Blackboard. Final course grades will not be released until the consolidated document is uploaded. The assessment description and scoring rubric are attached. Each case study analysis is worth 25 points and requires the following parts:

- Part 1: Identifying Children’s Unique Characteristics and Needs (12 points)
- Part 2: Describing Developmental Theories (6 points)
- Part 3: Multiple Influences on Young Children’s Development (7 points)

Revised Case Study Analyses (10 points)
Upon completion of Case Study 1 Infant and Toddlers and Case Study 2 Preschool, students will receive feedback from the course instructor with suggestions for strengthening their discussion of each case study analysis. Instructor feedback is provided to ensure candidates meet expectations as defined in the assessment rubric. Students will use the feedback to revise the case study analyses. Students will resubmit revised Case Study 1 and Case Study 2 to Blackboard by the specified due date. All three Case Studies (e.g. revised infant/toddler, revised preschool, and early elementary) will be consolidated into one document and submitted to Tk20 by the due date indicated on the syllabus.

Other Requirements

Attendance and Participation (15 points)
Because active participation and engagement are imperative for optimal learning, preparation for and participation in in-class activities will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Students attend class, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class period.
- Students complete readings and prepare for class activities prior to class as evidenced by their ability to discuss and write about the concepts presented and examined in the texts as well as participate fully in related activities.
- Students are actively involved in in-class and online learning experiences as evidenced by (a) participating in all activities, (b) engaging in small- and large-group discussions, (c) completing written work related to the activities, and (d) supporting the participation and learning of classmates.
- Students show evidence of critical reflective thinking through in-class and online discussions, activities, and written reflections.
- Professional dispositions are to be displayed at all times while interacting with the instructor and other students. Cell phones are not to be used during class. Laptops are to be used for instructional purposes only.
Written Assignments
All formal written assignments will be evaluated for content and presentation. The American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition (APA) style will be followed for all written work. All written work unless otherwise noted must be completed on a word processor and should be proofread carefully. (Use spell check!) If students are not confident of their own ability to catch errors, they should have another person proofread their work. When in doubt, they should check the APA manual. Portions of the APA manual appear at the Style Manuals link on the Mason library website at http://infoguides.gmu.edu/content.php?pid=39979. Students may consult the Writing Center for additional writing support.

Students will do the following:
1. Present ideas in a clear, concise, and organized manner. (Avoid wordiness and redundancy.)
2. Develop points coherently, definitively, and thoroughly.
3. Refer to appropriate authorities, studies, and examples to document where appropriate. (Avoid meaningless generalizations, unwarranted assumptions, and unsupported opinions.)
4. Use correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar.
5. Type the paper with double spacing, indented paragraphs, 1-inch margins all around, and 12-point Times New Roman font.

• Grading
A = 95 – 100  A- = 90 – 94  B+ = 87 – 89  B = 80 – 86  C = 70 – 79  D = 60 – 69
F = < 60
Incomplete (IN): This grade may be given to students who are passing a course but who may be unable to complete scheduled coursework for a cause beyond reasonable control.

All CEHD undergraduate and graduate students are held to the university grading policies as described in the Academic Policies section of the current catalog, which can be accessed at http://catalog.gmu.edu. Those students enrolled in a CEHD Licensure Graduate Certificate program, however, must earn a B- or better in all licensure coursework. A degree-seeking graduate student will be dismissed after accumulating grades of F in two courses or 9 credits of unsatisfactory grades (C or F) in graduate courses. A 3.0 grade point average is required for completion of the graduate degree.

Professional Dispositions
Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/.
## Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments &amp; Readings Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1: Jan 22</td>
<td>Orientation &amp; syllabus review&lt;br&gt;The study of human development</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2: Jan 29</td>
<td>Developmental theories&lt;br&gt;Biocultural foundations</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3: Feb 5</td>
<td>Prenatal development &amp; birth</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4: Feb 12</td>
<td>The first three months</td>
<td>Chapter 4&lt;br&gt;&lt;strong&gt;Presentations: Grand Theories&lt;/strong&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5: Feb 19</td>
<td>Infancy: Physical &amp; cognitive development</td>
<td>Chapter 5&lt;br&gt;&lt;strong&gt;Presentations: Modern Theories&lt;/strong&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6: Feb 26</td>
<td>Infancy: Social &amp; emotional development</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7: Mar 5</td>
<td>Cultural contexts of development</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td><strong>No Class – Spring Break</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>#8: Mar 19</td>
<td>Language acquisition</td>
<td>Chapter 7&lt;br&gt;&lt;strong&gt;Due to Bb – CSA-1: Infant/Toddler&lt;/strong&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#9: Mar 26</td>
<td>Early Childhood: Physical &amp; cognitive development</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#10: Apr 2</td>
<td>Early Childhood: Social &amp; emotional development</td>
<td>Chapter 9&lt;br&gt;&lt;strong&gt;Due to Bb – CSA-1 Revised&lt;/strong&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#11: Apr 9</td>
<td>Middle Childhood: Physical &amp; cognitive development</td>
<td>Chapter 11&lt;br&gt;&lt;strong&gt;Due to Bb – CSA-2: Preschool&lt;/strong&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#12: Apr 16</td>
<td>School as a context for development</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#13: Apr 23</td>
<td>Middle Childhood: Social &amp; emotional development</td>
<td>Chapter 13&lt;br&gt;&lt;strong&gt;Due to Bb – CSA-2 Revised&lt;/strong&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#14: Apr 30</td>
<td>Adolescence: Physical, cognitive, social, &amp; emotional development</td>
<td>Chapters 14-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td><strong>No Class – Reading Day</strong></td>
<td>Individual meetings as needed or class make-up date due to inclement weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#15: May 14</td>
<td><strong>No Class – Finals Week</strong></td>
<td><strong>Due to Bb – CSA-3: Early Elementary&lt;br&gt;Due to Tk20 on Bb – Full CSA Paper&lt;br&gt;May 14 by noon</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

### Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: [http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/](http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/).
GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

• Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/).

• Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/).

• Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.

• Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see http://ods.gmu.edu/).

• Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

• Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to tk20help@gmu.edu or https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to http://coursesupport.gmu.edu/.

• For information on student support resources on campus, see https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website: https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/.