

# ECFS 3743

## Curriculum and Instruction for Early Childhood Course Description

Program planning, strategic design, and a practical foundation for teaching and learning in early childhood environments. Methods and materials for an early learning curriculum with an emphasis on the growth, development, learning and individual differences in designing learning experiences for children from two to six years old.

## Course Prerequisites

ECFS 2743: The Study of Young Children

## Required Materials

Textbook: Gestwicki, C. (2017). Developmentally Appropriate Practice : Curriculum and Development in Early Education, 6th Edition. ISBN: 9781305501027

### Suggested Textbook:

American Psychological Association. (2010). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6 th Edition. ISBN: 9781433805615

### Other on-line sites:

[www.swu.edu](http://www.swu.edu) [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov)

[www.oconee.k12.sc.us](http://www.oconee.k12.sc.us)

[www.pickens.k12.sc.us](http://www.pickens.k12.sc.us)

[www.anderson1.k12.sc.us](http://www.anderson1.k12.sc.us)

[www.anderson4.k12.sc.us](http://www.anderson4.k12.sc.us)

[www.anderson5.net](http://www.anderson5.net)

[www.greenville.k12.sc.us](http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us)

## Accreditation

Southern Wesleyan University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate, baccalaureate, and masters degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Southern Wesleyan University.

The teacher education programs at Southern Wesleyan University are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), [www.ncate.org](http://www.ncate.org). This accreditation covers initial teacher preparation programs and advanced educator preparation programs at the main campus in Central and all other learning centers operated by SWU. The university's teacher education programs are also approved by the South Carolina State Board of Education.

## Course Learning Outcomes

<b>CLO#1</b>	Plan meaningful preschool experiences for a child or group of children based on an understanding of influences on young children's development. (NAEYC 5a, 5b, 5c)
<b>CLO#2</b>	Identify factors in early childhood environments that impact student learning and engagement. (NAEYC 1a, 1b and 1c; 4 a, 4b and 4c)
<b>CLO#3</b>	Evaluate various methods utilized in the instruction of preschool children. (NAEYC 4a, 4b and 4c; 5 a, 5b, and 5c)
<b>CLO#4</b>	Strengthen the knowledge that a child's development is very complex and clearly shows the hand of God.

## Course Learning Assignments and Assessments

### Grading

Discussions	10 %
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Thematic Unit Plan	20 %
Lesson Plans	10 %
Journal Articles	15 %
Quizzes	25 %
Web Toolbox	10 %
Assignments	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Discussions: 10%**

Respond to the questions and reply to at least 2 peers to participate fully in all discussions by Saturday. Please *post an initial post (should be at least 100 words and MAY include one citation) by 11:55 pm on Wednesday and a reply to at least two peers by 11:55 pm on Saturday. One sentence replies will not be accepted.*

### **Thematic Unit: 20%**

Students are required to create an integrated thematic unit of study. This unit will be presented at the end of the course. Students will use their knowledge of developmentally and culturally appropriate methods and materials for teaching preschool children to develop a unit of study that would theoretically last for approximately four (4) weeks. A learning center related to your unit must be included and presented to the class.

### **Lesson Plans: 10%**

Students will write three (3) daily lesson plans, each integrating at least two content areas. Lesson Plan format will be shared in class. Students will also create an integrated plan covering one week of instruction for a preschool age group of their choice. This plan will help students create their final thematic unit. The topic of the unit must be approved.

**Article Reviews: 15%**

Student will read three articles related to teaching preschool children. These articles must be from professional journals (Young Children or Childhood Education). After reading each article, you will write a one-page summary and a one page reflection of the article.

**Quizzes: 25%**

There will be 4 quizzes during the course.

**Web Toolbox: 10%**

Students will create a web toolbox that includes a personal review of at least 10 websites for preschool children. Each site will be evaluated based on its content, ease of access, developmental and cultural appropriateness and more.

**Assignments: 10 %**

There are several different assignment during the course. Instructions for each assignment are in the module for the session, and also in the syllabus.

## GRADE EQUIVALENCY TABLE

All grades are reported in a system of eleven letter grades designated as "A" through "F" with appropriate plus and minus additions reflecting the following scheme:

Percentage Value	Letter Grade	Numeric Value for GPA
96-100	A	4.0
93-96	A-	3.7
90-93	B+	3.4
87-90	B	3.0

84-87	B-	2.7
81-84	C+	2.4
78-81	C	2.0
75-78	C-	1.7
73-75	D+	1.4
70-73	D	1.0
<70	F	0.0

## Course Policies

### Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is a key to success in the course. Please refer to the Attendance Policy outlined in the Catalog for full details of the SWU policy on attendance.

Online attendance is based on completion of at least one designated assignment by the due date/time posted within the course site for each session. Online activities may include lecture, assignments, readings, discussion forums, and assessments (e.g. quizzes, tests).

### Late Assignment Policy

#### Assignments

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Assignments are due by midnight on the days specified.

In the case of extenuating circumstances (such as hospitalization, child birth, major accident, injury, military obligation, or bereavement), it is the responsibility of students to contact the instructor as soon as practicable. The instructor may waive the penalty for late work if the circumstances are justified.

Students must submit final course assignments no later than the last day of the term. No assignments are accepted after the last day of the term.

## Discussions

Students must submit discussion board postings during the time frame indicated.

## Communication

The course site (Canvas) and SWU email are the primary tools for class communication, assignments, handouts, etc. All participants must have access to the course site and SWU e-mail and are expected to access them on a daily basis.

While it is important to maintain good communication with the instructor, Internet connectivity problems and home computer problems are not considered adequate excuses for missing assigned class work.

## Technology Requirements

To be successful in this course, all participants are expected to ensure their technology equipment meets the [recommendations \(Links to an external site.\)](#) provided by SWU's Technology Services.

Students requiring technical support related to their courses or other SWU-provided technologies should send an e-mail to [helpdesk@swu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@swu.edu) or call 864.644.5050.

## Academic Honesty

Honesty in all matters - including honesty in academic endeavors - is a valued principle at Southern Wesleyan University. It is the expectation of the university that all those joining the academic program will act with integrity in all matters.

No forms of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Students are encouraged to help each other maintain these high standards. All academic dishonesty should be reported to the faculty directly. Faculty, upon evidence of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or misuse of another's intellectual property), either by voluntary confession, report of another student, or on the basis of work submitted, must follow the procedure outlined in the Catalog (under *Academic Honesty*). This includes but is not limited to a zero for the work involved, 10% course grade reduction, or a failing grade for the course. Unresolved cases may be appealed using the Appeal Process outlined in the Catalog (under *Academic Honesty*).

## Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Southern Wesleyan University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. Accommodations can be made for students with disabilities, as outlined in "Services for Students with Disabilities," found under mySWU's Student tab under [Learning Resources \(Links to an external site.\)](#). Any student desiring accommodations must send a request and supporting documentation to Dr. Tonya Strickland at [tstrickland@swu.edu](mailto:tstrickland@swu.edu).