**EDUC 3304**

**Early Childhood Curriculum, Instruction and Environments**

**Course Description**

This course is designed as a study of all aspects of the early childhood classroom, including developmentally appropriate practices, curriculum, instruction, assessment, classroom management, and the physical environment. Current issues related to early childhood education will be examined. Students will be expected to demonstrate developmentally appropriate effective teaching practices in field-based setting.

**Prerequisites**

Concurrent enrollment in READ 3321.

**Intended Student Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

Knowledge Outcomes

1) demonstrate knowledge of varying early childhood models and learning environments, including child development and learning theories;
2) understand the importance of effective classroom management in the early childhood classroom and how to meet the social and emotional needs of children in the early childhood classroom;
3) exhibit an understanding of contextual factors and determine how this information should be used to plan assessment, plan lessons and differentiate instruction;
4) identify the importance of family involvement and communicating effectively with diverse families; and,
5) describe the interaction among assessment, data, instruction, and reflection in the early childhood classroom.

Skill Outcomes

1) create environments that encourage active involvement, initiative, responsibility, and sense of autonomy through the selection and use of developmentally appropriate curriculum, learning activities, and materials that are differentiated for individual learning, special needs, and language/cultures;
2) create and manage learning environments that provide individual and cooperative opportunities for children to construct their own knowledge through various pedagogical/instructional strategies that include decision-making, problem solving, cooperative learning, and inquiry experiences;
3) utilize contextual factors to create developmentally appropriate learning environments; and,
4) utilize technology ethically and legally.

Values Outcomes

1) value the need to create environments and classroom management techniques for all children that take into consideration culture, developmentally appropriate practices, abilities, disabilities, socioeconomic status, etc.;
2) value the importance of building relationships, which is the cornerstone of classroom management;
3) recognize personal biases and differences that may affect one's teaching;
4) practice professionalism and effective communication skills in teaching and the opportunity to work in field based classrooms; and
5) value continued professional development and learning.