

HDF 350
Birth - Kindergarten Education: Professional Seminar I
Spring 2006

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Karen M. La Paro
145 Stone Building, 256-0097
Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00-3:30 and by appointment
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CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Professional Seminar to examine issues related to teaching infants and toddlers. Review current issues in early education including ethics, diversity, and professional standards related to birth-kindergarten teachers. Videotaped observations are used for self-assessment and to highlight adult-child interactions in the classroom.

As a speaking intensive course, the course also has the goals of enhancing the subject area through active engagement in oral communication and to improve students' abilities in oral communication.

Teachers Academy Conceptual Framework Mission Statement

Professional education at UNCG prepares and supports the development of caring, collaborative, and competent educators who work in diverse settings. This mission is carried out in an environment that nurtures the active engagement of all participants, values individual as well as cultural diversity and recognizes the importance of reflection and integration of theory and practice. UNCG's professional education programs are guided by shared commitments to:

- Equity and excellence in teaching, research, and service;
- Professional integrity and ethical deliberation in dealing with students and colleagues (university-based, school-based, and community-based);
- The construction of a professional knowledge base through collaboration and collegiality; and
- The dissemination of professional knowledge, skills, and dispositions through the preparation and continuing professional development of teachers, principles, and other school personnel.

TEXT:

Feeney, S. & Freeman, N. K. *Ethics and the Early Childhood Educator: Using the NAEYC Code*. NAEYC: Washington: DC.

TECHNOLOGY (REQUIRED):

Access to video camera (available through TLC)

This course will require students to videotape themselves in their practicum setting and review these tapes with group members and the instructor. ***The videotapes must be turned into the instructor in VHS format provided!!! Points will be deducted from your final grade if these instructions are not followed.***

Access to Blackboard

Course assignments and online discussions will be posted on Blackboard

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Demonstrate the development of personal values and an adherence to a professional code of ethics, related to becoming caring, collaborative, and competent professionals.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of, personal opinions on and respect for ethical and professional responsibilities for children, families, and colleagues.
3. Demonstrate critical skills in effective communication, collaborative consultation, team building, and conflict resolution and display personal characteristics appropriate for professional functioning (e.g. active listening, flexibility, problem solving).
4. Demonstrate understanding the roles of the teacher as a researcher, decision-maker, advocate and consultant and the interrelatedness of these characteristics in professional development.
5. Demonstrate professional attitude in seeking new knowledge and experience by staying abreast of current professional literature, participating in research, seminars, staff development, lectures, professional organizations that foster learning, and by communicating with knowledgeable individuals.
6. Participate in the examination and critique of videotaped observations of effective and ineffective teaching practices and classroom processes.

CLASS POLICIES

Attendance and Participation

The class meets on Thursdays from 4-5:30 (see course schedule for specific dates). Class attendance is required. *Five points will be deducted from your final grade for each absence.* As a courtesy, if you are sick or unable to attend class please notify the instructor in advance. *Missing part or all of a class will be considered an absence and a minimum of 2 points will be deducted from your final grade.* If you miss class, you are responsible for getting notes from fellow students and obtaining any assignments or handouts. Assignments are due by 5PM on the date stated on the syllabus unless otherwise noted. *1 point per day will be deducted from an assignment grade if the assignment is turned in late. Assignmentst will be accepted up to 5 days after the due date – after 5 days, you will receive 0 points for the assignment.*

This course is a seminar which requires your participation. Up to 2 points per class meeting will be added to your final grade based on your participation.

It is expected that you will be respectful of your classmates and the instructor by following these guidelines:

1. Do not converse with others while the instructor is speaking or while other classmates are speaking.
2. Turn off all cell phones and pagers, or silence the ringer or set them to vibrate rather than ring.
3. If you must arrive after class has begun or leave once class has started, please do so quietly.

Students are expected to understand and follow the UNCG honor code, which is printed in your student handbook. This means that any information you collect is accurate to the best of your ability, that you write your assignments in your own words, and that all ideas and information taken from outside sources are properly cited and referenced. Further, it is unacceptable to turn in assignments for this class that were completed for another class. Please ask if you every have questions on these issues. Also, if you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.

This course requires additional hours outside of class meeting times to complete assignments and meet with peers. These are required activities and assignments and points are allocated to these activities. NCATE assessments must be completed and returned to the instructor – these are departmental requirements.

GUIDELINES FOR ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Participation in class activities. Students will participate in a variety of in-class activities designed to heighten their awareness of issues involving ethical and professional standards as well as discussions and debates related to videotaped teaching observations. Your participation in these activities is a requirement and responsibility of being a member of this class.
2. Midterm exam. Students will complete a midterm exam. The midterm exam will be online and covers resources related to teaching in North Carolina, the UNCG BK Program, and UNCG Teachers Academy requirements.
3. In-class presentation and discussion. Each small group will present a summary of their videotaped teaching experience and facilitate a class discussion. *Feedback from the Speaking Center is required for your in-class videotape presentation.*
4. Videotaped observations. Students will complete (2) 30-minute videotapes of themselves interacting with children at their practicum placement for HDF 425. Format and requirements will be discussed in class and available on Blackboard under Assignments. These videotapes will be the basis of small group discussions of teaching processes. For each video you will be required to meet with your group and the course instructor to review tapes. Sign up sheets for these meetings will be posted on my office door, Stone 146. Videotape #1 should be completed after 6 hours in the classroom (i.e., after 2 weeks in your placement) and videotape #2 should be completed no earlier than April 6th.

GRADING:

Videotape Observation #1 - **75 points**

Videotape Completion – 25 points

Meeting with Group/Instructor – 25 points

Written Construct Analysis – 25 points

Videotape Group Presentation – **75 points**

In-class Presentation – 50 points

Consultation with the Speaking Center – 25 points

Midterm - **50 points**

Videotape Observation #2 – **75 points**

Videotape Completion – 25 points

Meeting with Group/Instructor – 25 points

Written Construct Analysis – 25 points

Online Discussion Participation – **45 points**

Icebreaker – 5 points

Practicum Placements – 5 points

Discussion Question – 10 points

"I Am Sam" Reaction – 10 points

Journal Sharing – 10 points

Student Teacher Questions – 5 points

Participation – **2 points** possible each class meeting

Attendance (-5) for each missed class – NO EXCEPTIONS

You may attend Strictly Speaking Workshops (See Speaking Center link on Blackboard) for additional 5 points per workshop for a maximum of 10 points, extra credit.

Final Grades

A+	100-98	320 - 313
A	97-94	312 - 300
A-	93-90	299 - 288
B+	89-88	287 - 279
B	87-84	280 - 269
B-	83-80	268 - 256
C+	79-78	255 - 250
C	77-74	249 - 236
C-	73-70	235 - 223
D+	69 -68	222 - 217
D	67 - 64	216 - 204
D-	63 - 60	203 - 191
F	< 60	190 and below

COURSE SCHEDULE (HDF 350 – Spring 2006):

Class Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
January 12	Course Overview NCATE Assessments		
January 19	Group Assignments NCATE Assessment Group Mission Statement Speaking Center Overview		Online Group Discussion - Ice Breaker
January 26	Student Teaching/Teacher Academy Application Process (Cheryl Sarrat)		Online Group Discussion – Introductory discussion about placements
February 2	Classroom Observations/Teacher-Child Interactions – Responsive Behavior		
February 9	NO CLASS	Feeney and Freeman – Chapters 1-3	Online Discussion Question (Chapters 1-3) Video Assignment #1 Group Meetings
February 16	Ethical Responsibilities to Children	Feeney and Freeman - Chapter 4	Video Assignment #1 Group Meetings
February 23	Video #1 Presentations		Small Group Presentations
March 2	NO CLASS		
March 9	NO CLASS – Spring Break		Midterm Due (online) 5PM March 16 th
March 16	NO CLASS		
March 23	Ethical Responsibilities to Families and Adults "I Am Sam"	Feeney and Freeman – Chapter 5	Online Journal Sharing

March 30	"I Am Sam"	Feeney and Freeman – Chapter 6	Video Assignment #2 Group Meetings Online Discussion – Questions for Student Teachers
April 6	Student Teaching Panel		Video Assignment #2 Group Meetings Online Reaction Paper to "I Am Sam"
April 13	NO CLASS		
April 20	NO CLASS		
April 27 Last Day of Class	NCATE Belief Statement Final Presentations Video #2		Small Group Presentations
Exam Day	Final Wrap Up		

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed necessary.

12-20-05