



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

Description: Current Issues and Trends						
Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
ECE	3007	40607	1, 2005	EXT	1.00	Toowoomba

Academic group:	FOEDU
Academic org:	FOE004
Student contribution band:	National Priority Teaching
ASCED code:	070101

STAFFING

Examiner: Megan McLean

Moderator: Lindy Austin

RATIONALE

The opportunity to explore and critically evaluate widely-accepted practices and emerging trends is an essential feature of the pre-service program of any profession. To develop as a profession, early childhood educators will need to address constant demands for change, development and response to emerging issues at local as well as international levels. This course provides such an opportunity for early childhood educators.

SYNOPSIS

The course explores historical and contemporary issues related to many facets of the care and education of young children. Particular emphasis will be given to when, where and how early education takes place. Students will be expected to read in depth in a number of areas presented for study. This course emphasises literacy correctness in all its forms. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Working with Children: State law in Queensland requires that all adults (including university students, pre-service educators, trainers, vocational teachers, industry educators) working with children under the age of 18, in the State of Queensland*, obtain approval before commencing such work. Many education courses include a practical component (professional experience, project work, research, assessment etc.) that may require engagement with children under the age of 18. It is your responsibility to ensure that you possess a current suitability card (Blue Card) before commencing any practical components of this course. **DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 UNLESS YOU POSSESS A CURRENT 'BLUE CARD'**. For further information: <http://www.childcomm.qld.gov.au/employment/bluecard/informationSheets.html> *If you are undertaking practical experience outside the State of Queensland, Australia you should check local requirements.

OBJECTIVES

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

1. identify current local, national and international issues and trends in the education and care of young children;
2. evaluate critically the social, educational, political and economic bases of current issues and trends in early childhood education;
3. assess issues in relation to current teaching situations and develop constructive responses;
4. adopt an active role as advocate for young children;
5. use written communication effectively and appropriately;
6. write clearly, grammatically correctly and with accurate spelling and punctuation.

TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	Configuration of childhood and impact of early childhood services	12.50
2.	Theoretical and pedagogical shifts in curriculum	12.50
3.	The impact of technology on early childhood	12.50
4.	Equity issues and the early childhood field	12.50
5.	Ethics and professionalism in early childhood	12.50
6.	Children and the media	12.50
7.	Family support programs of partnerships in education	12.50
8.	Quality assurance and accountability	12.50

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

Barbour, C & Barbour, NH 2001, *Families, Schools, and Communities: Building Partnerships for Educating Children*, 2nd edn, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Bertram, T & Pascal, C 2000, *Early Excellence Centres: Developing High Quality Integrated Early Years Services*, Department for Education and Employment, Sudbury, Suffolk.

Frost, JL, Wortham, S & Reifel, S 2001, *Play and Child Development*, Merrill Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Jensen, MA & Hannibal, MA 2000, *Issues, Advocacy and Leadership in Early Education*, 2nd edn, Allyn & Bacon, Boston, MA.

Press, F & Hayes, A 1999, *OECD Thematic Review on Early Childhood and Care Policy: An Australian Report*, Department of Education,

Rodd, J 1998, *Leadership in Early Childhood: The Pathway to Professionalism*, Allen & Unwin, Frenchs Forest, NSW.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessment	55.00
Directed Study	50.00
Private Study	60.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg(%)	Due date
LITERATURE REVIEW	40.00	40.00	15 Apr 2005
EXAMINATION	60.00	60.00	END S1 (see note 1)

NOTES

1. Examination timetable will be available during semester.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:
 - (a) There are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
 - (a) To complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for each assessment item. To complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must demonstrate their ability to write clearly, grammatically correctly and with accurate spelling and punctuation.
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
 - (a) If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval then a penalty of 10% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each working day late.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:

To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must submit all assessment items and achieve at least 50% of the available marks for overall summative assessment.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
 - (a) The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
- 6 Examination information:
 - (b) In a Closed Examination, candidates are allowed to bring only writing and drawing instruments into the examination."
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:

(c) Any Deferred or Supplementary examinations for this course will be held in the fourth week of the semester following this course offering and the examiner will advise students involved in writing of the date time and location of any such examination.

8 University Regulations:

Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL <http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm> or in the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 1 (a) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. (b) If requested, students will be required to provide a copy of assignments submitted for assessment purposes. Such copies should be despatched to USQ within 24 hours or receipt of a request being made. (c) The examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. (d) The Faculty will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed or printed on paper-based media. (e) The Faculty will NOT accept submission of assignments by facsimile. (f) Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the examiner of the course to negotiate such special arrangements. (g) In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the Examiner's convenience. (h) Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in a course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of a course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete - Make up). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non directed personal study.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Students will require access to e-mail and internet access to USQConnect for this course.
- 2 **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Working with Children: State law in Queensland requires that all adults (including university students, pre-service educators, trainers, vocational teachers, industry educators) working with children under the age of 18, in the State of Queensland*, obtain approval before commencing such work. Many education courses include a practical component (professional experience, project work, research, assessment etc.) that may require engagement with children under the age of 18. It is your responsibility to ensure that you possess a current suitability card (Blue Card) before commencing any practical components of this course. **DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 UNLESS YOU POSSESS A CURRENT 'BLUE CARD'**. For further information: <http://www.childcomm.qld.gov.au/employment/bluecard/informationSheets.html> *If you are undertaking practical experience outside the State of Queensland, Australia you should check local requirements.
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