

Course Syllabus
FACS 292 Diversity in Early Childhood Programs
Fall 2016

Course Information: FACS 292, 3 Credit Hours

Instructor Information: Sherri Meyer, M.A.E.
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Office Hours

Office schedule varies but I am available by phone or email regularly. Appointments for office visits can be made by emailing or calling; email is the best way to contact me for appointments.

Required Reading:

Howard, V.F., Williams, B., and Lepper, C.E. (2010). *Very young children with special needs: An foundation for educators, families and service providers*. (4th Ed.). Pearson: Boston, MA. ISBN#: 978-0-13-208088-0

Course Description: This course focuses on developing and enhancing the knowledge and skills to work with children and families from diverse developmental, cultural, racial, and socio-economic backgrounds. The exploration of the challenges families face in living in a diverse society and who have a child with special needs will also be reviewed. Implications of diversity for practice with various populations are emphasized throughout the course. Influential theories and relevant research, for professionals working with young children and families, are discussed.

Pre-Requisites: FACS 191, FACS 192

Course Objectives with Student Outcomes: After participating in this course, students should:

1. Have knowledge of the laws, regulations, and policies governing young children, including those with disabilities and those who are culturally diverse

By the end of the semester, the students will be able to apply the above to real life settings.

2. Have examined attitudes and beliefs of families and professionals concerning disabilities and diversity

By the end of the semester, the students will be able to critique and interpret these attitudes and beliefs.

3. Know the types of programs serving young children who are disabled and / or diverse

By the end of the semester, the students will be able to articulate and describe multiple programs serving young children who are disabled and / or diverse.

4. Have examined an overview of the major types of disabilities and the most prevalent cultures

By the end of the semester, the students will be able to evaluate and critique the major types of disabilities.

5. Learn communication methods across cultures and families of children with disabilities

By the end of the semester, the students will be able to evaluate and critique communication methods across cultures.

6. Describe the various professional and systems that support individuals with disabilities across the lifespan.

By the end of the semester, the students will be able to articulate and describe multiple programs serving young children who are disabled and / or diverse.

7. Use appropriate language when discussing, writing about, and interacting with people who have disabilities.

By the end of the semester, the students will be able to articulate and write using appropriate person first language.

8. Develop a method for educating others about various disabilities and cultures

By the end of the semester, the students will be able to describe methods for educating others about various disabilities.

Method of Instruction

This course will be conducted on Internet and it will not meet in a classroom. Being self-motivated and able to work independently is important for success in this class.

1. Group discussion via online discussion board.
2. Independent reading in textbooks and supplemental materials, including Internet sites requiring Adobe Reader.
3. Group and individual written projects submitted in Microsoft Word or designated forms.
4. Viewing of videos and audio on Internet.
5. Review and practice of selected child assessment tools.

Course Requirements

1. Regular use of a computer with Internet access and a web browser.
2. Familiarity with surfing the Internet, reading email and sending email.
3. An activated WKU Email account that is checked daily.
4. Access to Adobe Reader.
5. Ability to provide reports in APA. It is expected that all written assignments will conform to standards of documentation, organization, mechanics, and spelling.
6. Ability to view videos and audios on Internet.
7. Actively participate in class via online activities.
8. Submit designated written assignments in Microsoft WORD (doc., docx. or rtf) or other designated programs via Blackboard. Works and Word Perfect are not accepted.
9. Complete weekly online quizzes over assigned reading, videos, and assignments during designated time frame.

10. Complete online final exam.
11. Maintain professionalism online by being respectful of comments by other students, never being rude, not using inappropriate language, or other such activity. Violation of this standard will lower your grade.
12. Take time to become acquainted with the course and the components of the course.
13. Backup all your files so that if something happens to them in transit you will have copies.
14. All assignments will be uploaded on Blackboard. Instructor will not accept emailed assignments or late assignments.
15. You may always contact me about your grade.
16. We have a wonderful technology support staff who are available to help with problems. 745-7000 is their number.
17. If you have any questions about the material, assignments, or the course, please email me. I will try to answer your questions. If I cannot answer them then I will try to find the answer for you.
18. Students are responsible for all assigned readings and are expected to actively participate in class discussions based on information from the readings and experiences in the field.
19. The course schedule, topics, and procedures are subject to change as deemed necessary by the professor or in the case of extenuating circumstances.
20. When contacting the professor, please put the course ID (FACS 292) and your name in the subject line. This way I can respond appropriately and keep track of correspondence.
21. When uploading an assignment, name your file in the following manner: your last name, **Week X, Reflection (assignment name) or Week 3 Review. A named file should look like this — Meyer Week 1 Review.**
22. It is *imperative* that students put their names on their work. This means for the posting as well as the typed work.
23. Students are responsible for making sure ANY work being uploaded to Blackboard has been successfully uploaded.
24. When it comes time to grading, if no assignment is in the grade book, a zero will be given.
25. The only time you *will not* see an exclamation mark is if the assignment is a quiz that the computer is set to automatically grade (and then you will see a score), OR the assignment is a discussion board posting. An exclamation mark will not show up in the grade book for discussion board postings. You can verify your discussion board posting has uploaded correctly as you will be able to view that post.
26. Withdrawals and incompletes will not be provided to students to keep them from receiving a failing grade in the class.
27. The WKU incomplete policy and withdrawal policy found in the WKU handbook (<http://www.wku.edu/coursecatalog/index.php?subcategoryid=75>) is used to determine if a student can withdrawal or will receive an incomplete.

Attendance Policy: There is no attendance policy per say for this class although points are awarded for attendance and participation through the Discussion Board. However, per university requirements, the student should participate in the first week's work before the end of the first week of classes to show that they are actively participating in the class. Failure to participate may result in being dropped from the class for non-attendance. It is expected that students will participate in weekly class discussions and in Blackboard to submit all assignments, quizzes, and exams as well as obtain information on the current week's class. Discussion Board will be used.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS: Student Disability Services

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the office for Student Accessibility Resource Center in Downing Student Union room 1074.

The phone number is 270-745-5004. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services

PLAGIARISM POLICY: Plagiarism is a serious offense and is considered an act of Academic Dishonesty. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the professor a failing grade. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of the Dean of Student Life for disciplinary sanction. This is in accordance to the Western Kentucky University student handbook:

<http://www.wku.edu/coursecatalog/index.php?subcategoryid=106>

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. The policy for academic dishonesty will be followed.

Incomplete:

A grade of "X" (incomplete) is given only when a relatively small amount of work is not completed because of illness or other reason satisfactory to the professor. A grade of "X" received by an undergraduate student will automatically become an "F" unless removed within twelve (12) weeks of the next full term (summer term excluded.) An incomplete must be removed within this twelve-week period regardless of whether the student is registered for additional work in the next term. A grade of "X" received by a graduate student, with the exception of thesis courses or similar projects, will automatically become an "F" unless removed within twelve (12) weeks of the next full term (summer term excluded). A student should work with the professor who assigned the incomplete on an independent basis in order to complete the necessary assignments. The grade of "X" will continue to appear as the initial grade on the student's transcript, along with the revised grade. A grade of incomplete is not used under any circumstances as a substitute for "F" or "W."

Withdrawal from the University

For various reasons, it is occasionally necessary for a student to withdraw from the University. Prior to the midpoint of the semester, students may use TopNet to withdraw.

After the midpoint of the semester, the student should report to the Office of the Registrar to initiate withdrawal procedures. Students leaving the institution without an official withdrawal will receive failing grades in all courses in which enrolled and endanger their future status in the institution. Students withdrawing after the midpoint of the semester, a bi-term or comparable period during the summer session must consult with their professors as to the withdrawal grade. The official date of the withdrawal is the date the withdrawal is processed on TopNet or the written notice is received in the Office of the Registrar. Students wishing to return to WKU at a later date must submit an application for readmission prior to the deadline for submitting applications.

Grading Policy

I grade on a percentage scale based on your total number of points compared to the total number of points available for the class as follows:

A = 100-90% B = 89-80% C = 79-70% D = 69-60% F = anything below 60%

The instructor reserves the right to make changes or modify the course as deemed appropriate or necessary.

NAEYC Professional Standards

1. PROMOTING CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

1a. knowing and understanding young children's characteristics and needs, from birth through age 8

1b. knowing and understanding the multiple influences on early development and learning

2. BUILDING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

2a. knowing about and understanding diverse family and community characteristics

6. BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL

6d. integrating knowledgeable, reflective and critical perspectives on early education