

The Role of Play in Child Development- FACS 393

Western Kentucky University

Department of Applied Human Sciences

Fall 2023

INSTRUCTOR

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 am to 12:30 pm or by appointment

Online office hours: Mondays and Wednesday 10:00 to 12:30 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Course Description: Prerequisite: FACS 191. Theoretical and empirical perspectives connecting play to children's learning and development will be examined. Students will examine the role of play in relation to brain development.

Course Objectives:

1. Define play
 - a. By the end of the semester, the students will be able to articulate the many definitions of play.
2. Develop an understanding of play's relationship to cognitive development
 - a. By the end of the semester, the students will be able to apply play's relationship to cognitive development in children.
3. Identify the relationship of cognitive development to other areas of development, understanding that all development is intertwined.
 - a. By the end of the semester the students will be able to apply and articulate the relation of cognitive development to other areas of development.
4. Recognize how diversity and disability (including gifted children and gender) impacts play and how to incorporate changes to environments where special populations are included
 - a. By the end of the semester, the students will be able to interpret how diversity and disability impacts play and how to incorporate changes to environments where special populations are included.
5. Identify barriers to play and strategies to enhance play
 - a. By the end of the semester, the students will be able to articulate barriers to play and strategies to enhance play.
6. Investigate attitudes of adults toward play as well as their role in enhancing play in all children
 - a. By the end of the semester, the students will be able to investigate, critique and interpret attitudes of adults towards play as well as their role in enhancing play.
7. Will learn methods and types of play as learning avenues for infants through adolescence
 - a. By the end of the semester, students will learn and apply methods and types of play as learning avenues for infants through adolescence.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Trawick-Smith, J. (2020). *Young Children's Play: Development, Disabilities, and Diversity*. Routledge Press.

Bohart, H., Charner, K., & Koralek, D. (2015). *Spotlight on young children: Exploring play*. Washington, D.C.: NAEYC Publishing.

Additional articles for reading may be required. These articles will be posted on blackboard.

Other Resources:

- ☐ Blackboard issues: **270-745-7000**
- ☐ **IF YOU CANNOT POST TO BLACKBOARD OR HAVE DIFFICULTY POSTING, CALL: 270-745-7000 (Information Technology)**
- ☐ **If you do not know ANYTHING about blackboard, training is provided at wku.edu/it. You may also call the listed phone number for Information Technology.**
- ☐ **I cannot teach you blackboard or assist you with blackboard problems. IT has been designed to assist you with that.**

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: This course will be conducted on the 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 material including internet sites requiring Adobe Reader and PowerPoint representations.
3. Group and individual written projects submitted in Microsoft Word or designated forms.
4. Viewing of videos and audio on the internet.
5. Review and practice of selected assessment tools.
6. Four (4) clock hours of field experience of preschoolers according to assignment details.
7. Creative student production to demonstrate knowledge.

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 (all email will be sent to a WKU email address and only to a WKU email address).
4. Access to Adobe Reader.
5. Ability to read PowerPoint slides.
6. Ability to view videos and audios on internet.
7. Ability to create videos and audio files and post them on the internet.
8. Actively participate in class via online activities.
9. Submit designated written assignments in Microsoft Word or other designated programs via Blackboard. Works and Word Perfect are NOT accepted.
10. Complete weekly online assignments.
11. Ability to work with group via online methods.
12. Complete online final exam.
13. Participate in 4 hours of field experience through specific assignments.
14. Obtain any documentation required by facility for fieldwork, if appropriate.
15. Identify children meeting specific criteria and obtain parental permission to conduct assessment activities and interview, as assigned.
16. Provide own transportation to conduct field work activities.
17. Maintain confidentiality of all information gathered about children and families through the field experience.
18. 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.

EVALUATION

Your grade for the course will be based on the assignments listed below. Class participation may be taken into account, as well as improvement over the semester.

QUIZES: Students' knowledge about child development will be evaluated through quizzes over each course unit except for unit 1. These quizzes will cover **all** readings and class material up for the defined section of the class. The quiz may include objective (e.g., fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, short answer) and essay questions. There will be **NO MAKE-UP** quizzes.

Observation Assignment: During the semester you will be expected to observe children for four (4) hours (details will be posted as we progress through the semester). Observations will be used as you develop your Cumulative Project. In addition to the transcript, you will need to write your personal thoughts about the play and interactions of the child highlighting different developmental elements that you observe. Observations must be completed in order to receive a passing grade.

Cumulative Project: This semester you are expected to develop a project that incorporates your readings, observations, course work and outside sources. You will have the option to select between several different projects. These will be presented later in the semester. The cumulative project must be completed in order to receive a passing grade.

Discussion Points and Weekly Assignments/Participation: Your discussions points will be based on the interaction that you have on the discussion board. Topics will be posted on Sunday of each week. You will need to post your **original thought by Wednesday at midnight of each week and make at least three responses to your classmates' posts by 11:59 pm on the due date**. These assignments cannot be made up if missed and no late work will be accepted. Remember, these are to be quality responses that come from your own thoughts and are supported by your readings. A rubric explaining the discussion expectations will be posted.

Throughout the semester a variety of assignments and participation activities will be given. These assignments cannot be made up if missed and no late work will be accepted. Quality of work will be graded, and points will be lost if answers do not pertain to the topic and/or if they are not well-developed thoughts. Your name **MUST** be included in all of your assignment titles.

Missed assignments will affect your grade directly and indirectly through performance on in-class assignments, exams, and class participation. All reading assignments **MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO COMPLETING THE ONLINE ASSIGNMENT** on the date indicated on the class schedule. If the instructor suspects that students are not completing reading assignments prior to assignments, she reserves the right to change the syllabus and course calendar to include **POP TESTS IN ANY OR ALL CLASS WEEKS AND TO CHANGE THE GRADING SYSTEM** to include the results of the pop tests.

Grading Procedures: 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:

Grade	Points
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Item	Points Available
3 Quizzes	75 (25 points each)
Observations Assignment	50
Cumulative Project	125
Discussion Points and Weekly Assignments	150 (to be distributed evenly among assignments)

CLASS POLICIES

1. **SYLLABUS POLICY:** The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus and post a revised copy on the web or disseminate the revision by email at her discretion.
2. **MAKE-UP and LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:** No make-up work will be accepted for weekly assignments. Makeup work will **ONLY** be accepted for large assignments (e.g. critical papers, presentation, observation materials and tests) when Dr. Babb is contacted in advance and arrangements are made and only in extreme situations (e.g. family death, major illness, hospitalization).

Late work for weekly assignments will NOT be accepted. Late exams will NOT be accepted except under extreme cases and with proper documentation and if Dr. Babb has agreed to and made arrangements in advance.

Late work will only be accepted for major class papers or projects (e.g. fieldwork assignments). A 20% deduction will be taken for every day the paper is late. If you submit an assignment after the due time that counts as one day late and the deduction will be taken.

If you enroll late you will NOT be able to make up assignments with past due dates for credit.

3. **COMPUTER ISSUES POLICY:** Computer issues are not an acceptable excuse for work not submitted. However, I do understand that there can be Blackboard glitches that are out of your control. If you have a problem with Blackboard **you MUST call the WKU IT Service Desk immediately** and obtain a receipt verifying the problem. **NO adjustments will be made due to computer issues will be made without a receipt sent directly to me from the IT Service Desk.**

Please note- Blackboard apps do not provide a comprehensive Grade Center like the full-site and there are inconsistencies with the devices. After reviewing four separate devices, all had different appearances, items listed, and methods to access grades. The entire course is **ONLY** available on the full site. You may miss deadlines or complete assignments by misunderstanding the purpose of the apps and only using them. Be certain to check the full site for checking assignments, due dates, and grades. Blackboard submissions may be added in

the Mobile App, but it is your responsibility to verify posting in the Full-Site. The apps are not comprehensive and are only a tool to supplement the Full-Site. Additionally, the Blackboard gradebook does not account for dropped assignments and does not total or average according to the syllabus. Your final grade will be calculated using the point system provided in the syllabus.

4. **DROP POLICY:** Current university policy applies. Non-attendance does not constitute a withdrawal. Students are not automatically dropped from classes at WKU after the first week of class.
5. **PROJECT SUBMISSION POLICY:** **NO** course work will be accepted **VIA EMAIL**. Any emails containing work will be deleted.

Be certain to upload your work and projects in the correct assignment folder. **A 50% deduction will be taken for ALL materials uploaded in the incorrect location.** Once an assignment is submitted it is considered your final paper, even if it uploaded before the due date.

All must include in-text citations and a reference page in APA format.

All work must be double-spaced and 12 pt. font.

Original answers on discussion boards are due on Wednesday of the week assigned.

*******Materials MUST be submitted either in .pdf, PowerPoint, Publisher, or Word. Assume all other formats will not be accepted and will NOT be graded.*******

6. **INCOMPLETE POLICY:** Incompletes will be granted only in very unusual circumstances and in cases in which the student is both already passing the course and has a reasonable possibility of completing the material (see WKU Addendum below).
7. **CLASSROOM CONDUCT POLICY:** Conduct for this class is the responsibility of the student to conform to conduct conducive to learning by being prepared, attentive, and courteous and by conforming to policies set by the teacher to maintain an academic decorum. Anything that is done to disrupt learning may result in a student being dismissed from that weekly discussion or assignment and receiving a "0". In an online classroom, crass and degrading comments will not be accepted.
8. **AI TOOLS PROHIBITED:** Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are not permitted for any type of work in this class. If you choose to use these tools, your actions will be considered academically dishonest and a violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct.
9. **EMAIL ETIQUETTE:** Since email is a popular form of communication, it is important that respect and manners be demonstrated through email messages. The following should be part of any email to professors at WKU:
 - Include the course and section numbers in the subject line of **all** emails
 - A greeting (Dear Dr., Etc.) For me, you would want to say "Dear Dr. Babb"
 - Clearly written paragraph(s) indicating the question or concern you have
 - End the message (thanks, have a great day, best wishes, etc.)
 - Be sure and type your name at the end!!

Emails that display hostile attitude, those that are inappropriate or those that contain rude messages will be returned to the student with no answer. Please be respectful of your colleagues and professors. In this class, you are looked upon by the Professor as both professionals and colleagues; respect will be given to you and is expected in return. I reserve the right to return emails that do not follow proper email etiquette requesting that you resend the email using proper procedure.

Any email requesting information that is contained in the syllabus or assignment descriptions can be answered stating, "This material is in the syllabus or assignment procedure. Please read the information before emailing. If you then have specific questions, please send those to me after reading."

10. **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY:** Words and ideas are the intellectual property of the individuals who originated them. Thus, **whenever you quote more than three words in sequence from any single source, you must enclose those words "in quotation marks". Cite in parentheses the author of the book or article,**

the year of publication, and the number of the page on which the words were written (e.g., van Zeijl et al., 2006, p. 995). Include the complete citation of the source in your references at the end of your paper. Failure to follow these procedures will result in loss of points on any paper in which such failure occurs. It may also result in a grade of “F” for the course. Furthermore, failure to follow these procedures may be viewed as **PLAGIARISM** and, thus, a violation of university policies that pertain to academic integrity.

11. **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:** Western Kentucky University is committed to Academic Integrity. I expressly prohibit plagiarism and all other violations of academic integrity. According to *Webster’s Third New International Dictionary*, **PLAGIARISM** may include (a) stealing or taking credit for another person’s words or ideas and (b) failing to give credit to a source (c) reusing your work from a previous assignment in either this course or another course. Plagiarism is a serious offense and is considered an act of Academic Dishonesty. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. **THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REPORT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY VIOLATIONS TO THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENT LIFE AND ASSIGN A GRADE OF “F” FOR THE ASSIGNMENT AND MAY RECEIVE AN “F” IN THE COURSE.** This includes ANY form of cheating and/or plagiarism. Assignments will be submitted using plagiarism detection software.
12. **WRITING POLICY:** Writing assignments for this class must be consistent with the style of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. All papers must be written in formal English: typed, correct grammar, word selection, spelling, and punctuation. Errors in grammar, spelling and punctuation are unacceptable, because all university computer labs are equipped with software that includes “spell check” and “grammar check” options.
13. **COURSE REPEAT POLICY:** If you are retaking this course for any reason, you may NOT use any work submitted during the previous attempt at the class. All graded materials submitted MUST be rewritten containing ALL NEW information. Any work “resubmitted” for the same assignment will be given a zero and you may fail the class due to self-plagiarism.
14. **Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online Courses:** The U.S. Department of Education requires that distance education courses include regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty. For more information about Regular and Substantive Interaction at WKU, please visit the [Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online and Distance Learning webpage](#).

In this course, regular and substantive interaction will take place in the following ways:

- Weekly optional synchronous sessions (office hours),
- Class-wide feedback to weekly assignments,
- Weekly announcements, and
- Timely and detailed feedback on assignments provided within two weeks of submission for weekly module assignments and within two weeks for major projects.

15. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Class attendance is critical for success! Attendance policies not only apply to face-to-face classes, but they also apply to semester-based web classes.
 - Registration in a course obligates the student to attend regularly. In a semester-based online class, this means signing into Blackboard for class review and/or participation at least twice each week.
 - Students enrolled in online semester-based classes who, without previous arrangement with the instructor or department, fail to login to Blackboard during the first week of classes and submit at least one assignment MAY be dropped from the course.
 - Nonattendance does NOT release students from the responsibility to officially drop any course for which they have enrolled and chose not to complete.
 - Students wishing to change their schedule or add/drop a class, may do so during set time periods. Students enrolled in face-to-face, and term-based web courses should follow the dates published in the academic calendar.
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WKU Syllabus Statements

Statements include:

1. Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online Courses
2. Title IX/Discrimination & Harassment
3. ADA Accommodations
4. Plagiarism Policy
5. Writing Center assistance
6. The Learning Center assistance
7. Incomplete policy
8. Withdrawal policy

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Title IX/Discrimination & Harassment: Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's [Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy](#) (#0.2070) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's [Counseling and Testing Center](#) at 270-745-3159.

ADA Accommodation: In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

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.
- Student papers will be checked using plagiarism detection software.
- Should I learn, after an assignment has been graded, that a student has cheated in any form, I reserve the right to change that specific assignment grade to a failing grade. The student will also fail the course.

Writing Center Assistance: *The Writing Center on the Bowling Green campus* is offering **only** remote assistance to writers during the covid-19 pandemic. WKU students may request feedback on their writing via email or arrange a real-time Zoom conference to discuss a paper. See instructions and how-to videos on the website (www.wku.edu/writingcenter) for making online synchronous (Zoom) or asynchronous (email) appointments. Students may also get short writing questions answered via email; just put "Quick question" in the subject line to (writingcenter@wku.edu).

The WKU Glasgow START Center/Writing Center will be offering writing tutoring sessions in synchronous online format as well as in person, by appointment only. More information on how to make appointments and what to expect from your appointment will continue to be posted at <https://www.wku.edu/startcenter/>.

The Learning Center Peer Tutoring Services: The Learning Center (TLC) provides free tutoring services that empower students to achieve academic success. Trained peer tutors are available to review course content, answer questions, and demonstrate effective study strategies. TLC offers individual appointments and group sessions (PASS) for hundreds of undergraduate courses. For more information or to make an appointment, visit www.wku.edu/tlc.

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 they are 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.

Week	Start Date	Topic/Assignment	Due Date
Unit 1: Introduction			
Week 1	August 21	Class Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reading required 	August 27
Unit 2: Background of Play			
Week 2	August 28	Play History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frost, et al., Ch. 1 (posted on Blackboard; Course Documents: Reading Assignment Articles) 	September 3
Week 3	September 4	Types of Play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trawick-Smith, Ch 3 Trawick-Smith, Pgs. 29-35 	September 10
Week 4	September 11	Adult-child Play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trawick-Smith, Ch. 4 	September 17
Unit 3: Importance of Play			
Week 5	September 18	Unit 2 Quiz The Importance of Play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trawick-Smith, Ch. 1 Bohart, et al., pgs. 26-36 	September 24
Week 6	September 25	Evidence for Play in the Classroom and School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hirsh-Pasek, et al., Ch. 2 (posted on BB) Bohart, et al., pgs. 37-45 	October 1
Week 7	October 2	Play Environments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frost, et al., Ch. 9 Bohart, et al., pgs. 17-25, 65-74 FALL BREAK OCTOBER 2-3	October 8
Unit 4: How Children Play			
Week 8	October 9	Unit 3 Quiz Infants and Toddlers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trawick-Smith, Ch. 5 Bohart, et al., Pgs. 5-16 	October 15
Week 9	October 16	Preschool Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trawick-Smith, Ch. 6 	October 22
Week 10	October 23	School-Aged Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trawick-Smith, Ch. 7 Bohart, et al., pgs. 98-106 	October 29
Week 11	October 30	Impact of Culture and Gender Trawick-Smith, Pgs. 36-40 Observation Materials Due	November 5
Week 12	November 6	Impact of Culture and Gender Continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bohart, et al., pgs. 56-64 Donohue, Ch. 6 (posted on BB) 	November 12
Week 13	November 13	Children with Disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trawick-Smith, Pgs. 41-58 	November 19
Week 14	November 20	Presentation work week Cumulative Project Presentation and Written Work due HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!	November 26
Week 15	November 27	Presentation Viewing and Comments	December 3
Week 16	December 4	Unit 4 Quiz- NOTE: This is a WEDNESDAY due date	December 6

SYLLABUS AGREEMENT FORM
Western Kentucky University

I, _____, (print name) have reviewed the syllabus, course policies, and class schedule for FACS _____ during the semester of _____, _____ (semester and year) on _____, 20____ (date) and understand the classroom policies, expectations, and rules as stated in the syllabus, course policies, and class schedule. By signing this form, I agree both to comply with the policies outlined and accept the policies and expectations for this course.

The following documents have been reviewed (please initial each one)

_____ Syllabus

_____ Student Success (reviews late work, finals, grade appeals, attendance, backing up work, code of conduct, academic honesty, & consequences of cheating)

_____ Course Outline and/or Schedule

SIGNED _____

DATE _____

PLAGIARISM POLICY

According to Random House Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, plagiarism is the unauthorized use of close imitation of the language and thought of another author and the representation of him or her as one's own original work (1479). It is against school policy to plagiarize. Therefore, by signing this form, I, _____ (print name), understand that plagiarism is wrong. I also understand that if I choose to plagiarize, the steps outlined by Western Kentucky University policy will be taken.

SIGNED _____

DATE _____

Please complete and upload on blackboard. The signatures on the form must be actual legal signatures and may not be typed or electronic.