

TOHONO O'ODHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Syllabus: **ECE 228 Family, Culture and Community**

Course Information

Course Prefix/Number: ECE 228
Semester: Fall 2016
Class Days/Times: Hybrid Schedule

Credit Hours: 3
Course Title: Family, Culture and Community
Room: CDI Head Start Center

Instructor Information:

Name: Karen McIlroy

Phone/Voice Mail: 520-235-8602
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Fax: 520-887-5385
Office hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. M-F

Course Description:

This course examines the influences of family, culture and community on the development and learning of young children. It includes developing a personal framework for understanding cultural differences in attitudes about play, child rearing and diversity of teaching methodologies. Students explore cross-cultural communication techniques, ways to assess and utilize family strengths, and strategies for involving families in the school and classroom.

Course Objectives:

During this course students will:

- Identify biases they have about how children, families and communities interact and behave
- Identify cultural differences in attitudes about play and education
- Identify and interpret verbal and non-verbal communication cues
- Explore culturally-appropriate teaching methodologies
- Explore ways to increase family and community involvement in school activities

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Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) :

After completion of the course students will be able to:

- Create culturally-relevant activities that promote building a positive classroom community
- Explain to family and community members the importance of providing time for children to play in school, at home and in their community environments
- Explain and demonstrate how non-verbal communication cues can influence verbal communication messages
- Design a classroom/school event and invitation letter that will encourage families and community members to participate in the children's educational activities and school environment

Course Structure:

| Course Specific Outcomes | Assessment/Measures |
|--|---|
| 1. Students will be able to identify one or more biases they have developed. | Small group hands-on activities designed to enhance student awareness of their biases (E.g., Sinking ship scenario) |
| 2. Students will be able to create a culturally-relevant activity for children that promotes building a positive classroom community | Class presentations of the activity for peer review |
| 3. Students will be able to identify child-level books that promote children's positive self-identity and positive social/emotional skills | Lists of a minimum of 10 books with author, title and copyright date submitted as a research assignment |
| 4. Students will be able to explain how non-verbal communication cues influence verbal communication messages | Assessment of peer interactions in partially-scripted role play scenarios |
| 5. Students will be able to design a classroom/school event and an invitation to that event that will encourage families and community members to participate in their child's educational environment | Written description of the event, a copy of the invitation, and a comprehensive assessment of the success of the effort to involve the family and community members |

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Texts and Materials:

Text: Chapters provided from The Art of Awareness by Deb Curtis and Margie Carter

Other Materials: Relevant articles, research links will be provided throughout the course

Grading policy:

A = Attend all on-site and online face-to face classes; participate in **all** forum assignments; submit **all** required homework assignments **on time**. Other trainings or events pre-approved by your instructor that you attend, in addition to the official class times, can count for extra credit toward your grade. You will need to provide a copy of your certificates verifying your attendance.

B = Miss up to 2 face-to-face classes with excused absences; participate in **all** forum assignments; submit **all** homework assignments **on time**. Extra credit makeup assignments can be submitted based on discussion and approval by the instructor. Other trainings or events pre-approved by your instructor that you attend, in addition to the official class times, can count for extra credit toward your grade. You will need to provide a copy of your certificates verifying your attendance.

C = Miss up to 3 face-to-face classes with excused absences; participate in **all** forum assignments and submit **all** homework assignments and **pre-approved** extra credit makeup assignments.

D = Miss more than 3 face-to-face classes; participate in **50% or less** of forum assignments; submit **less than 100%** of homework assignments.

F = Miss more than 3 face-to-face classes; participate in no forum assignments; submit **less than 100%** of homework assignments.

Expectations: 100% attendance, participation in all forum assignments and submission of all homework assignments. Your initial grade is an A.

Required: You MUST call or text me at 520-235-8602, or email me at kjmcilroy@gmail.com if you will be missing a class for it to count as an excused absence.

I check my phone and email frequently, so please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or information that you may need to clarify or complete assignments.

Cultural Component:

Discussions involving Hualapai traditions and cultural beliefs are an integral part of this course. The course explores ways in which cultural beliefs and practices influence young children's development and attitudes. It also explores the impact that families and community members can have on preserving and revitalizing Hualapai culture and language by participating in their children's education.

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Course Outline:

- Building a positive classroom and school community environment
- Exploring biases and attitudes that influence children's development and understandings
- Identifying and interpreting verbal and non-verbal behavior cues
- Creating culturally-relevant activities that build a positive classroom environment
- Building a home/school/community partnership that increases family and community member involvement in the children's education

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus is designed to evolve and change throughout the semester based on class progress and interests. You will be notified of any changes as they occur.