Department of Special Education  
College of Education, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Prefix & Number: ECE 354  
Title: Play Theory, Creativity & Aesthetics in ECE  
Credit: 3 hours  
Semester/Time/Location: Summer 2005 / Friday 4:30-9:00pm; Saturday 8:30-4:00  
EOB Classroom  
Instructor: Yvonne M. Randall  
Office Location: CEB 149  
Office Hours: By Appointment Only  
Telephone/email: yrandall@unlv.nevada.edu  
Note - during summer hours email is the only way to contact professor outside of class time  

Prerequisite Course(s): ECE 250 or consent of instructor

Course Description:  
This course is designed to explore and understand the current theories of play interpretation, creativity and be able to both observe and facilitate their role in the development of young children. An analysis and examination of the nature of creativity and creative expression among young children will be investigated. An identification of the aesthetics domain (art, drama, music, movement, etc.) will be covered along with methods for bringing them into the young child's world.

NAEYC GUIDELINES ADDRESSED

4. Teaching and Learning  
Candidates integrate their understanding of and relationships with children and families; their understanding of developmentally effective approaches to teaching and learning; and their knowledge of academic disciplines, to design, implement, and evaluate experiences that promote positive development and learning for all young children.

Candidates know, understand, and use a wide array of effective approaches, strategies, and tools to positively influence children’s development and learning.

XI. Course Objectives:  
Knowledge  
(Subject matter or discipline(s), Professional field of study, Pedagogical knowledge, Pedagogical content knowledge, Professional knowledge)

1. Use knowledge of how children develop and learn to provide opportunities that support the physical, social, emotional, language, cognitive, and aesthetic development of all young children from birth through age eight. (4.b)  
2. Use knowledge of how young children differ in their development and approaches to learning to support the development and learning of individual children. (*)  
3. Describe the nature of play and creativity which include giving several definitions,
describing the characteristics of the highly creative person and describing the process of play and creativity. (*)

4. Describe conditions which promote and inhibit creative teaching and learning. (*)

**Performance (Skills)**
(The ability to use content, professional and pedagogical knowledge effectively and readily in diverse teaching settings in a manner that ensures that all students are learning.)

1. Use individual and group guidance and problem-solving techniques to develop positive and supportive relationships with children, to encourage positive social interaction among children, to promote positive strategies of conflict resolution, and to develop personal self-control, self-motivation, and self-esteem. (4.b)
2. Establish and maintain physically and psychologically safe and healthy learning environments for children. (*)
3. Use informal and formal assessment strategies to plan and individualize curriculum and teaching practices. (4.b)
4. Demonstrate the ability to establish conditions which stimulate creative expression. (4.b)
5. Develop materials and ideas which can be used to stimulate creative expression and reinforce skills. (4.b)
6. Identify appropriate ways of promoting each child's total development through experiences in art, music, drama and other avenues of creative expression. (4.b)

**Disposition(s)**
(Values, commitments, and professional ethics that influence behaviors toward students, families, colleagues, and communities and affect student learning, motivation, and development as well as educator’s own professional growth guided by beliefs and attitudes related to values such as caring, fairness, honesty, responsibility and social justice.)

1. Demonstrate sensitivity to differences in family structures and social and cultural backgrounds. (*)
2. Reflect on their practices, articulate a philosophy and rationale for decisions, continually self-assess and evaluate the effects of their choices and actions on others (young children, parents, and other professionals) as a basis for program and planning and modification, and continuing professional development. (NAEYC 5.1.)
3. Demonstrate awareness of and commitment to the profession’s code of ethical conduct. (NAEYC 5.4)
4. Actively seek out opportunities to grow professionally by locating and using appropriate professional literature, organizations, resources, and experiences to inform and improve practice. (NAEYC 5.5.)
5. Establish and maintain positive, collaborative relationships with colleagues, other professionals and families, and work effectively as a member of a professional team. (NAEYC 5.6)
6. Serve as advocates on behalf of young children and their families, improved quality of programs and services for young children, and enhanced professional status and working conditions for early childhood educators. (NAEYC 5.7)
XII. Texts, readings, and instructional resources:

Required Textbook(s):

Suggested Readings:

XIII. Assignments, evaluation procedures, and grading policy:

Course Requirements:
1. Two Journal Article reports relevant to the course content of play
2. Teach 2 Fingerplays to the class
3. Team Project
4. Originate a Learning Toy
5. Exam

Course Grading:
Report on two journal readings 15 %
Fingerplays 10 %
Team Project 35 %
Learning Toy 15 %
Exam 25 %

Grading Scale
A = 95-100  
A- = 92-94  
B+ = 88-91  
B = 85-87  
B- = 82-84  
C+ = 78-81  
C = 75-77  
D+ = 68-71  
D = 65-67  
D- = 60-64  
F = 63-0

Course Policies:
1. Projects are to be submitted on or before due dates.
   Late projects will not be accepted.
2. Although content is of primary concern, appearance, grammar and composition, spelling and handwriting will be considered in all course requirements.
3. Due to the four-week class format each weekend is the equivalent of 25% of the class. One absence will result in an automatic F for the class.
XIV. Class Schedule:

*Course outline subject to change

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>COURSE CONTENT</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS &amp; ASSIGNED READINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, June 3, 2005</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
<td>Chapters 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>Defining Play from Many Perspectives</td>
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<td>The Child’s Perspective of Play</td>
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<td>Saturday, June 4, 2005</td>
<td>Embedding Play into Curricula</td>
<td>Chapters 3 &amp; 4</td>
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<td>Fostering Playful Learning throughout the Day</td>
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<td>Friday, June 10, 2005</td>
<td>Fostering Playful Learning through Pretense and Ongoing Assessment</td>
<td>Chapters 5 &amp; 6</td>
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<td>Fingerplay Presentations</td>
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<td>Saturday, June 11, 2005</td>
<td>Fostering Healthy Living through Playful Learning and Playful Teaching</td>
<td>Chapters 7 &amp; 8</td>
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<td>Fostering Creative Expression through Playful Learning and Teaching</td>
<td>Learning Toy Presentations</td>
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<td>Friday, June 17, 2005</td>
<td>Fostering Language and Literacy through Playful Learning and Teaching</td>
<td>Chapters 9 &amp; 10</td>
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<td>Saturday, June 18, 2005</td>
<td>Fostering Cognitive Competence through Playful Learning and Teaching</td>
<td>Team Project Presentations</td>
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<td>Friday, June 24, 2005</td>
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<td>Journal Articles Due</td>
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<td>Saturday, June 25, 2005</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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Collection of Student Assignments for Accreditation Purposes
Assignments for this course may be used as evidence of candidate learning in national, regional, and state accreditation reports of COE programs. Names and other identifying elements of all assignments may be removed before being included in any report. Your cooperation in the review of COE programs is appreciated. If you do not wish to have your coursework used, it is your responsibility to let the professor know. Thank you.

Disability Resource Center
The Americans with Disabilities Act mandates accessibility in all aspects of the learning environment. If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact the Disability Resource Center for coordination in your academic accommodations. The DRC is located in the Reynolds Student Services Complex in Room 137. The DRC phone number is 895-0866. (TDD 895-0652)

Academic Integrity Statement
UNLV and its College of Education demand a high level of scholarly behavior and academic honesty on the part of students. Violations by students in exhibiting honesty while carrying out academic assignments, and procedural steps for dealing with violations of academic integrity, are delineated within the Handbook of Regulations Governing Probation and Suspension Within the College of Education. This publication may be found in the Curriculum Materials Library (CML-CEB 101), or the Office of the Dean of the College of Education (CEB-301). To help familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, the University encourages you to visit copyright web page at http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright.

Religious Holidays
It is UNLV’s policy to give students who miss class because of observance of religious holidays the opportunity to make up missed work. Students are responsible for notifying the instructor no later than the last day of registration for the semester or summer term of plans to observe the holiday.
ASSIGNMENTS

**Fingerplays (2) (10 % of final grade)**
Each student will select two fingerplays and teach them to the class. You will need to demonstrate the fingerplay and then provide an instructional approach that you would use in a classroom of young students. Fingerplays can be found in "Ring of Ring of Roses" or other books of student’s choice.

**Journal Articles (2) (15 % of final grade)**
This assignment requires the participant to select, read and critique a research study or educational article on some area of play theory, creativity or aesthetics in early childhood education. During the search for an appropriate study, it is hoped that students will learn about the many types of professional journals available in the university library and the information they contain.


**Journal Article Assignment Profile**
*Referencing the Journal Article via APA 5th edition format (examples):*

Author(s), (Year of Journal). Title of Article (small case letters except first word), *Name of Journal, Volume* (issue), pages.


**Specific Requirements for Article Critiques:**
- **Provide purpose**: a paraphrase of the researchers’ words
- **Subjects**: name, age, sex socioeconomic status, hereditary and environmental factors, (if applicable)
- **Procedure**: description of steps taken and any special apparatus, tests or techniques
- **Results**: findings
- **Conclusions**: researcher’s interpretations of whether hypothesis is substantiated
- **Reflections**: the most important section, the place for students to express personal opinions, questions to consider. Is it a worthwhile study? Are there any points of agreements or disagreements with the researcher? What are the theoretical implications?
Journal Article Grading Criteria:

- Organization: 1 point (APA style, grammar, spelling, continuity, punctuation and order)
- Content: Information Data: 2 points
- Reflections: 2 points
- Total: 5 points

Learning Toy or Game (15% of final grade)

Students will originate an educational toy or game for young children. The toy or game should be self-corrective in nature. When constructing this learning instrument it is important that the creator consider the developmental and academic value inherent in the product. Use theory to back up your academic claims. Also include the instructions on how to use your product.

Criteria:

Written Paper:
- Organization: 5
- Research Support: 20
  (Cite literature and theorists who would support the use of your game and or toy.)
- Instructional Directions: 10
- Objectives: 20
- Creativity: 10

Oral Presentation:
- Creativity: 10
- Organization: 5
- Self Corrective: 10
- Objectives: 10

Total Points for Assignment = 100
**Team Project Presentations:** (35% of final grade)

Team Topics
1. Movement Exploration
2. Puppetry
3. Nutrition
4. Bulletin Boards
5. Storytelling and Poetry
6. Music

The purpose of this assignment is to provide teachers of young children with research materials, activities, organization and the opportunity to conduct a mini workshop pertinent to selected topic.

Presentation Ideas
What is the importance of your topic?
What new research has been conducted?
What materials and activities would be of value for the teacher of young children?
A bibliography is to be constructed and handed in with the assignment.

You are required to make an Oral Presentation as well as generate a written presentation.

Criteria for Oral Presentation:
- Organization: 20
- Activities: 80
- Total: 100

Criteria for Written Presentation:
- Table of contents: 10
- Goals: 10
- Organization: 10
- Research section supporting the use of your discipline (2-3 page review): 20
- Activities (see format criteria): 30
- Bibliography: 10
- Each members responsibilities: 10
- Total: 100

Activity Format:
Objective/Purpose of Activity:

Procedure:

Materials:

Evaluation:
# Team Project Rubric

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<tr>
<th>Proficiency Target</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Completeness of Oral presentation</th>
<th>Completeness of Written presentation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exemplary</strong></td>
<td><em>clear and logical sequence and order</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>easy to follow</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>typed</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>appropriate grammar and spelling</em></td>
<td><em>provides significant information related to topic</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>all major areas discussed (to include the following: issues for and against, research, content)</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>activities provide audience with knowledge of the topic area</em></td>
<td><em>provides significant information related to topic</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>all major areas discussed (to include the following: issues for and against, research, content, and reflection)</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>all 6 criteria for written assignment completed</em></td>
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<td><strong>Acceptable</strong></td>
<td><em>somewhat logical sequence and order</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>difficult to follow</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>typed</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>minimal grammar and spelling errors</em></td>
<td><em>provides sufficient information related to topic with gaps in research noted throughout presentation</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>some areas are discussed (to include the following: issues for and against, research, content)</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>activities provide audience with limited knowledge of the topic area</em></td>
<td><em>provides sufficient information related to topic with gaps in research noted throughout presentation</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>some areas are discussed (to include the following: issues for and against, research, content)</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>5 of 6 criteria for written assignment completed</em></td>
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<td><strong>Unacceptable</strong></td>
<td><em>no logical sequence or order</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>not typed</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>poor grammar and spelling</em></td>
<td><em>provides little information related to the topic with significant gaps in research throughout presentation</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>no areas are discussed (issues for and against, research, content)</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>activities provide no knowledge of the topic area or activities not utilized during oral presentation</em></td>
<td><em>provides little information related to the topic with significant gaps in research throughout presentation</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>no areas are discussed (issues for and against, research, content)</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>4 or less criteria for written assignment completed</em></td>
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