

Course Number: ECED 5830.01

Instructor: Lori Diefenbacher, 961-2660 #8054 (office) 966-4829 (home)
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Title: Topics in Early Learning: The Child as Naturalist

Credits: 3

Term: SU 2004 June 14-18 9:00-4:30

1. Course Description: Through activities and discussions, this course will introduce techniques and experiences that encourage a conservation ethic and nurture environmental awareness in young children. While a survey of environmental themes will be key, emphasis will be placed on the importance of nature education at the early childhood level.

2. Learning Outcomes: (MOSTEP standards that will be addressed are listed with each outcome). Participants will:

--learn to design classroom activities which foster a respect for nature
(Standards 1, 2, 4, 6)

--develop techniques and curriculum for nature experiences
(Standards 4, 5, 6, 8, 11)

--appreciate multicultural attitudes toward nature
(Standards 3, 7)

--collect techniques/ activities that enhance child's nature awareness
(Standards 5, 9)

--build and appreciate participants' adult awareness of nature
(Standard 9)

--learn to support environmental education with other curricula
(Standards 1, 4, 5)

--learn to be a "greener" teacher and access community resources
(Standards 9, 10)

3. Schedule of required readings, class preparations, and assignments, lectures, discussions, student presentations and exams: handouts each day, group preparations in class, journals

4. Textbooks: *Sharing Nature with Children*, by Joseph Cornell

5. Evaluation: Participation will be VERY important. Curricular project, Playground proposal; Garden proposal, Nature journal.

Grades

A--Completes all assignments on time with extended interpretation of required word, including research and documentation. Consistent participation in and enthusiasm for class activities.

B--Complete all assignments on time with adequate execution of requirements. Consistent participation in class activities.

C--All assignments completed but not on time and lacking in details. Make more comprehensive

Day 1: Introductions. Syllabus and assignments. Various activities in the morning will prepare students for a heightened nature experience throughout the week. Begin journals. Playgrounds (in-class assignment). Field trip.

Assignment: Read handouts

Day 2: Insects (Guest speaker). Discuss Flow Learning. Prepare for hike.

Assignment: Read handouts and Cornell book

Day 3: Field trip. How to engage young children in nature experiences.

Day 4: Organic Gardening. Field trip. Learning about food as nature.

Assignment: Garden proposal; Read handouts.

Day 5: Unit Plan Curriculum. Will spend the day writing units and presenting them to each other. Present journals to instructor.