



## **ECE 566.01W Early Childhood Learning Environments and Instructional Design SYLLABUS: Summer 1 2024**

This course provides knowledge and practice in designing developmentally appropriate learning environments and instructional design with the use of technological and other tools/materials to advance learning for children in prekindergarten through the primary grades. Students will investigate the relationship between the classroom environment and instructional planning for young children.

### **PROFESSOR INFORMATION**

Professor: Josh Thompson, Ph.D.

Office Location: Ed South 200

Office Hours: by appointment

Office Phone: 903-886-5537

Cell Phone: 214-663-6102

Office Fax: 903-886-5581

University Email Address: [Josh.Thompson@tamuc.edu](mailto:Josh.Thompson@tamuc.edu) (preferred)

Professor's Webpage: <http://faculty.tamuc.edu/jthompson>

Course Webpage: <http://faculty.tamuc.edu/jthompson/566>

**Preferred Form of Communication:** For general questions, I prefer you to post questions in D2L: Virtual Office. That way others may see our communication and they may benefit. Please email me anytime to ask a question about your particular work. You may call or text my cell phone anytime between 9am-9pm, Mon-Fri, or up until 3pm on Saturdays.

**Communication Response Time:** Expect to hear back from me within the next working day or two. Please ask again anytime I don't answer promptly or completely.

<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
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### **Materials – Text, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

Kostelnik, M., Soderman, A. K., Whiren, A. P., & Rupiper, M. (2019). *Developmentally appropriate curriculum: Best practices in early childhood education (7<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. London, UK: Pearson. (previous editions are welcome, digital subscriptions are fine, no supplemental ). ISBN 9780134747675.

**Required eTexts:** CCIE. (2016). *Exchange EveryDay*. Redmond, WA: Childcare Information Exchange. Delivered five days a week containing news, success stories, solutions, trend reports, and much more. Enroll in *ExchangeEveryDay (EED)*, a daily electronic newsletter all about early childhood education. This will help you keep up-to-date with all things topical and pertinent in early childhood education. *EED* is the official electronic newsletter for ChildCareExchange.com. It will be delivered to you five days a week bringing news stories, success stories, solutions, trend reports, and much more. To subscribe to *EED* go to [www.ccie.com/eed](http://www.ccie.com/eed).

NAEYC (2020). *Developmentally Appropriate Practice (4<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. Washington, DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children. Available online: <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/topics/dap/position-statement>

Texas Education Agency. (2009). *Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)*.  
<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/curriculum-standards/teks-review/texas-essential-knowledge-and-skills>  
<http://lead4ward.com/>  
[www.masteryconnect.com/](http://www.masteryconnect.com/)

Texas Education Agency. (2009). *English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS)*.  
<https://www.teksresourcesystem.net/module/standards/Tools/Browse?standardId=118068>

**Required Readings, as provided by the professor. For example:**

Duncan, S. (2011). Breaking the Code: Changing Our Thinking about Children's Environments. *ChildCareExchange*. <https://sandrাদuncan.com/>

**Recommended Resources:**

Curtis, D. & Carter, M. (2014). *Designs for Living and Learning: Transforming Early Childhood Environments (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)*. St. Paul, MN: Redleaf Press.

DeVinney, J., Duncan, S., Harris, S., Rody, M.A., & Rosenberry, L. (2010). *Inspiring Spaces for Young Children*. Lewisville, NC: Gryphon House.

DeVinney, J., Duncan, S., & Rosenberry, L. (2010). *Rating Observation Scale for Inspiring Environments: A Common Observation Guide for Inspiring Spaces for Young Children*. Lewisville, NC: Gryphon House.

Duncan, S., Martin, Jody, & Haughey, S. (2018). *Through a Child's Eyes: How Classroom Design Inspires Learning and Wonder*. Gryphon House.

Greenman, J. (2017). *Caring spaces, learning places: Children's environments that work*. Lincoln, NE: Exchange Press.

**Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives**

This class is listed by the University as an early childhood education course and will enable students:

1. To clarify developmentally appropriate principles and practices of early childhood education
2. To identify behavioral characteristics of young children to meet individual, developmental, ELL and diversity needs
3. To equip and supply an early childhood classroom
4. To plan and organize a child centered environment
5. To build communication skills with parents and paraprofessionals
6. To associate ECE TExES competencies with course content

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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**Technical Skills Needed**

Check LeoMail frequently, at least twice a week.

Use AdobeReader to access required digital files.

Create papers and presentations in MS Office, or Open Office, or Pages.

Communicate regularly and robustly with classmates through D2L Discussion Boards.

**Instructional Methods**

This **Online class** meets in D2L BrightSpace on <http://myleoonline.tamuc.edu/>. Class runs from the first day of the semester until Final Exam week. Assigned readings should be completed before opening module. Lectures include powerpoint, videos of children and adults talking, hands-on materials, and handouts. Active participation in class discussion in D2L is expected from everyone. Class leadership is welcomed and encouraged; bring a song, a book or story, a game to play, or insights from the readings or field work observing in early childhood classrooms. Online work in D2L is frequent, such as powerpoints, videos, web-quests, sorting through activities. Regular quizzes over the chapters in the textbook help deepen your knowledge of the course content. Timely completion of online discussions is required.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

Successful students come to our class in D2L prepared, on-time, and ready to engage and participate in active learning. Online work frequently requires extensive reading beyond the textbook. Plan to read about two-hours every week.

### **GRADING**

A holistic grading approach is sought. Rather than a scorecard with points, students must account for their mastery of the course objectives, and thus their grade in the course. This is done through the use of the Professional Behavior Survey. You will **self-assess your professional behaviors** TWICE, once at the beginning, and again at the end of the course.

### **Assessments (each worth 10 points, 10% final grade)**

1. Evaluate a specific learning environment, utilizing one of the design criteria discussed online in Unit 2, and here <http://faculty.tamuc.edu/jthompson/environment/>. Post this evaluation in the appropriate D2L discussion board around the middle of the semester.

**Aligns with Student Learning Outcomes: 2, 3, 4, 5**

2. Design a **learning environment** for young children. Share it in our first online Gallery Walk around mid-semester.

**Aligns with Student Learning Outcomes: 2, 3, 4, 5**

### **MATERIALS PRESENTATIONS**

3. Design a **Family Communication** feature. It could be an APP-based program, a letter of introduction outlining your family communication procedures, or it could be a **Family Literacy Backpack** for sending early childhood activities home to encourage parent/child interaction. Further directions and a rubric posted in D2L.

**Aligns with Student Learning Outcomes: 2, 4, 5**

4. Design an interactive **bulletin board** on SmartBoard or poster board for use in an early childhood classroom. Provide a statement of goals and children's participation. Share this with class in a Gallery Walk. Further directions and a rubric posted in D2L.

**Aligns with Student Learning Outcomes: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

5. Invent a **folder game** that will teach some aspect of the early childhood curriculum and coordinate with the TEKS standards. This manipulative material is to be made for use as a center activity with a small group of children. Share this with class in a Gallery Walk. Further directions and a rubric posted in D2L.

**Aligns with Student Learning Outcomes: 2, 3, 4, 5**

6. Compile a **sub-folder** with essential information for you to share with a substitute teacher. Further directions and a rubric posted in D2L.

**Aligns with Student Learning Outcomes: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

7. Share a **playlist of at least 10 songs** appropriate for different times of the school day and transitions. Further directions and a rubric posted in D2L.

**Aligns with Student Learning Outcomes: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**

8. Write a **reflective essay** discussing the merits and critical analysis of at least 5 of your peers Materials Presentations in our Gallery Walk.

**Aligns with Student Learning Outcomes: 3, 4, 5, 6**

\* Presentation of **Family Communication feature, bulletin board, folder game, sub-folder, and playlist** may be video recorded and uploaded to the appropriate Discussion Board in D2L: Unit 5: Gallery Walk.

9. Participate together with the class to write and illustrate a **DAP book** demonstrating key developmentally appropriate practices in early childhood education as discussed in Chapters 1 & 2 of the Kostelnik textbook, in Copple, and in our D2L unit on DAP. Share your portion with our class and the final product will be combined in Gallery Walk and in Virtual Gallery Walk online in D2L.

**Aligns with Student Learning Outcomes: 1, 2, 5**

10. Complete unit quizzes and exams over course content.

**Aligns with Student Learning Outcomes: 1-6**

### TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology in your online course. All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

### ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

#### Access and Log in Information

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's

home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of D2L please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Master how to navigate D2L Brightspace Learning Environment

<https://youtu.be/ysM2cc2zIPM>

Are you ready for online courses? Take this Survey:

[https://tamuc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bPkN3qgfNXkSN4V](https://tamuc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bPkN3qgfNXkSN4V)

Contact Office for Academic Technology for help:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/facultyStaffServices/academicechnology/readiness-for-online-courses.aspx> Contact us at [online@tamuc.edu](mailto:online@tamuc.edu).

For login issues, contact CITE Helpdesk at 903-468-6000. (Use university ID and password to sign-in)

For additional Brightspace Technical Support problems, contact 1-877-325-7778, 24/7.

### Interaction with Instructor Statement

**Preferred Form of Communication:** For general questions, I prefer you to post your question in Virtual Office. That way others may see our communication and they may benefit. Please email me anytime to ask a question about your particular work. You may call or text my cell phone anytime between 9am-9pm, Mon-Fri, or up until 3pm on Saturdays.

**Communication Response Time:** Expect to hear back from me within the next working day or two. Please ask again anytime I don't answer promptly or completely.

Communicate with me as needed. Use [Josh.Thompson@tamuc.edu](mailto:Josh.Thompson@tamuc.edu) or my office phone 903-886-5537 or cell phone 214-663-6102 (preferred).

**Feedback on student work:** Quizzes and online exams are auto-graded. Short answer questions require manual grading, as do all objects uploaded in assignments or online Gallery Walks. Generally, I catch up reviewing your work around the end of each week – please permit me two to three days to respond to your work with my feedback. If you don't hear from me within a week, please ask me to review your work again.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures/Policies

#### *Attendance*

Attendance online in D2L is expected; regular, consistent participation is important. We do important things every week of class – don't miss it. Excessive absences (less than 5 hours a week logged in to D2L or 5 days without logging into D2L) may prompt an administrative withdrawal.

#### *Participation*

This course builds cumulative knowledge and insight; you cannot pass the class by just completing assignments all at one time. You must follow along and contribute as chapters,

units, discussions, and projects unfold throughout the semester.

### *Grading*

A holistic grading approach is sought. Rather than a scorecard with points, students must account for their mastery of the course objectives, and thus their grade in the course. This is done through the use of the Professional Behavior Survey. You will **self-assess your professional behaviors** TWICE, once at the beginning, and again at the end of the course.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

### **University Specific Procedures**

#### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

#### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

#### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

#### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a

disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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**Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

**Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

**AI use in course [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]**

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty



**ECE 566 Learning Environments**  
**COURSE OUTLINE (tentative, as of 5/1/2024)**

DATE	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENT
<b>Unit 1</b> <i>June 3-8</i>	Intentional Environments	D2L: Unit 1 Duncan article Kostelnik, chaps. 1 & 2 Thompson & Stanković-Ramirez article	Post Intro Professional Behavior Survey START HERE Module: Intro Discussion & Professional Behavior PRE-Quiz Due June 8
<b>Unit 2</b> <i>Jun 10-15</i>	Setting the stage for learning	D2L: Unit 2 T-TESS ECERS CLASS Kostelnik, chaps 3-8	1 Evaluate environments 2 Design environment Unit 2: Discussion & Quiz Due June 15
<b>Unit 3</b> <i>Jun 17-22</i>	P.L.A.C.E.S. Domains of Curriculum	D2L: Unit 3 Kostelnik, chaps 9-14	1 <sup>st</sup> Gallery Walk 3 Family communication 4 Bulletin board 5 Folder game Unit 3: Discussion & Quiz Optional Mid-Term Exam Due June 22
<b>Unit 4</b> <i>Jun 24-29</i>	Integrating Curriculum Designing Learning Observing Learning	D2L: Unit 4 Kostelnik, chaps 15-16	2 <sup>nd</sup> Gallery Walk 6 Sub folder 7 Playlist Unit 4: Discussion 9 DAP book Due June 29
<b>Unit 5</b> <i>July 1-2</i>	Celebration of Learning	D2L: Unit 5	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gallery Walk 8 Reflective essay Post all assignments in U5 Participate in all Unit 5: Discussions Professional Behavior Survey <b>Due July 2</b>
<b>All assignments due Tuesday, July 2 @ 8pm</b>			