

EDTE 502: Early Childhood Education
(2 units)

Time: 8 AM- 4 PM, M-F, Summer 2010

Room: MRH127

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Office Hours: By appointment.

Course Description

This course is a comparative study of the development of the young child as described by Maria Montessori other educational philosophers at the turn of the century, and contemporary philosophers. It examines the child's growth in relation to the family and community. Particular emphasis is given to the development of the child from birth to age six.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, candidates will achieve the following outcomes:

Outcome A: Academic Excellence, Critical Inquiry and Reflection

- Each student will understand Maria Montessori's findings on cognitive, behavioral, and physical development in relation to the child's environment-- and how these principles compare to those of other educators such as Piaget and Dewey.
- Each student will be able to compare Montessori's principles with modern educational thought and practice. The student will also become acquainted with theories and research which support Montessori's original work.
- Each student will learn about a variety of different approaches regarding the adult's role in educating the young child as well as the relationship between the adult and child.

Outcome B: Community and Service

- Each student will understand the role of the home environment in the learning process for the child from birth to six years.
- Each student will understand the role of the prepared environment (classroom) in the learning process for the child from birth to six years.

Outcome C: Ethics, Values and Diversity

- Each student will learn the difference between a Montessori educational environment, the home environment and other more traditional preschool settings.
- Each student will be able to describe the needs of the child that are satisfied by the family and home environment, and what needs are met by the Montessori educational environments.

Course Requirements

Required Texts:

- Montanaro, Silvana Q. (1991). *Understanding the Human Being: The Importance of the First Three Years of Life*. Mountain View, CA: Nienhuis.
- Montessori, Maria. (1988). *The Absorbent Mind*. England: Clio Press.
- Montessori, Maria. (1998). *The Secret of Childhood*. London: Sangam Books Limited.
- Montessori, Maria. (1988). *The Discovery of the Child*. Oxford, England: Clio Press.
- Montessori, Maria. (1989). *The Child in the Family*. Oxford, England: Clio Press.
- Healy, Jane M. (1987). *Your Child's Growing Mind*. New York: Broadway Books.
- Montagu, Ashley. (1971). *Touching: The Human Significance of the Skin*. New York: Harper & Row.
- Verny, Thomas and John Kelly. (1982). *The Secret Life of the Unborn Child*. New York: Bantam Day.

Reading and Class Participation

Class members are required to independently read all assigned materials and to prepare for discussions of the readings before coming to class. Active participation in every class session is expected.

Reference Albums

Students will be expected to develop a reference album with essays, pictures, and step-by-step lessons based on the lectures, books, and articles discussed during the course.

Exam

There will be a comprehensive written exam given during the week of July 26-30, as a preparation for the AMI written exams the following summer.

Assessment Criteria

1) Environment #1 (Home Environment) Album	50%
2) Exam	25%
3) Prenatal & Postnatal Timeline	10%
4) Participation	15%

Grading

A	=	94-100%
A-	=	90-93%
B+	=	87-89%
B	=	83-86%
B-	=	80-82%
C+	=	76-79%
C	=	73-75%
C-	=	69-72%
D+	=	66-68%

D = 63-65%
D- = 60-62%
F = Below 59%