Course Syllabus

Introduction to Early Childhood Education

EEC1001 / CRN: 84604 / Fall 2026

B Session (8/17/26 – 10/07/26)

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

Contact Information

Instructor

Mrs. Amanda Manning
Instructor, Education & Early Childhood
Amanning3@gulfcoast.edu
Office: Social Sciences 229
Phone: 850-769-1551 - ext. 2869

Office: Social Sciences 229
Office Hours: MWF 10:00-11:00
Response Time: 24-48 hours

Division Chair

Robert Saunders, Jr., PhD.
Professor and Chair
rsaunder2@gulfcoast.edu
850-872-3826

Division Administrative Assistant

Ms. Jody Walton
Senior Administrative Assistant
jwalton1@gulfcoast.edu
850-872-3825

Course Information

Important Note

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

Catalog Description:

This course encompasses major learning and teaching outcomes designed to provide students with learning opportunities related to the study of child development with an emphasis on the typical and atypical elements of physical, cognitive, and psychosocial development of the young child, ages birth to 5 years. Theories of Early Childhood Development and recent brain research provide the foundation for teaching techniques that foster healthy development in each of the developmental domains. This course provides an overview of developmentally appropriate practices for children with a focus on best practices for nurturing the development of the whole child.

3 credit hours
Prerequisites: none – **This course is a pre- or co-requisite for all other EEC courses.**

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Understanding an environment that fosters optimal growth and development in young children.
2. Identifying the challenges for teachers and families that are associated with the child's family socio-economic status, diverse culture and family structure, and special needs and disabilities.
3. Identifying and understanding characteristics of physical, intellectual, language, emotional, and social development throughout each stage of a child's development.
4. Identifying and demonstrating age-appropriate behavior management strategies for young children.

Upon successful completion of EEC 1001, the student will be able to:

1. Identify skills needed by childcare professionals in a variety of childcare settings, including center-based, family, in-home, nursery and after-school.
2. Explain state and local rules and regulations which govern childcare.
3. Identify the physical and behavioral indicators of child abuse and neglect.
4. Write competency statements based on knowledge of planning for and establishing and maintaining a healthy environment for young children.

5. Provide examples of physical, social/emotional, and intellectual development of children from birth through eight years.
6. Evaluate age-appropriate methods of guiding behavior in young children.
7. Identify effective methods of establishing positive and open communication with children's families or primary caregivers.
8. Explain the importance of continued training for childcare providers.

Course Materials & Resources:

Textbook Title: Who Am I in the Lives of Children, An Introduction to Early Childhood Education
Textbook Author(s): Feeney, Moravcik, and Nolte
Date of Publication: 11th Edition
Publisher: Pearson Education
ISBN Number: 9780134736853

Online Materials: Students must research and access information from credible sources via the web to provide support for written assignments. An Education Library Guide is provided along with Canvas Curriculum Builder online resources located within each course Module.

Delivery Method:

This is a web-based course. All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented in the Canvas course site and should periodically check for updates—at least every 48 hours.

Remember: This course is not one in which students may work at their own pace. Each week there are learning modules, assignments, online lectures, online discussions, and/or online exams with due dates. Refer to the schedule within this syllabus and within Canvas for more information.

AI Policy for this Course

Prohibited Use of AI

The use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited in all assignments, coursework, and throughout all stages of the work process, such as brainstorming, outlining, or drafting. This includes but is not limited to tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, and Grammarly's AI function. Use of AI tools will be treated as a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.

Student Expectations

Communication and feedback within the course will occur through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, Canvas Discussions, Microsoft Teams or Zoom, assignment feedback, and/or instructor office hours.

Additionally, as a student at Gulf Coast State College, you are expected to:

- **Adhere to Course Guidelines:** Follow the instructions within the course syllabus along with any additional instructions provided by the instructor. Be certain you understand the course objectives, grading criteria, and academic policies.
- **Maintain Regular Contact:** Keep in touch with your instructor via your GCSC email or other designated communication channels. Regular contact helps clarify doubts, share ideas, and foster a collaborative learning environment.
- **Active Participation:** Engage actively in the course and submit assignments on time. Your active participation is crucial for your academic success and contributes to a deeper learning experience.

As your instructor, my commitment to you is to:

- **Provide Timely Feedback:** I will review and provide feedback on your assignments and submissions promptly. My goal is to help you understand your strengths and areas for improvement.
- **Respond Via Canvas Inbox:** I will respond to your emails or messages within 24-48 hours unless otherwise noted. I understand the importance of clear and timely communication in addressing your questions and concerns.
- **Post Regular Announcements:** Announcements will be posted to keep you updated and help you manage your time. These reminders will include important dates, upcoming assignments, and any changes to the course schedule.
- **Maintain Weekly Office Hours:** I will maintain regular weekly office hours, but I can also be available by appointment. This is to ensure I'm available for any questions or concerns that may come up during the week.

Course Requirements:

Course Requirements: Students enrolled in this course will be required to:

- Read all of the textbook pages assigned with each Learning Module
- Contribute to the Discussion Board at least once per week
- Submit all required SLO Assignments, as due
- Review all materials/resources listed in the “Resources/Readings” section of the Weekly Assignment Schedule (included below)
- Review course announcements on Canvas weekly
- Review all assignment directions and scoring rubrics prior to completing assignments
- Utilize scoring rubrics to self-assess and revise assignments prior to submission in Canvas

Contact the instructor via email at once with any problems or issues.

Policies for Assignments and Grading:

Course evaluation will include multiple assignments/methods. The Canvas learning management system will be used to collect all course assignments. Scoring rubrics will be used to define criteria for mastery, provide feedback, and score/evaluate all assignments except for exams.

- Final grades are based on the average of all assignments within weighted grading categories.
- Weekly assignments and written assignments are due by Sunday at midnight.
- Submitted assignments are reviewed, feedback is provided if submitted by the deadline, and grades are posted each week.
- Work submitted more than TWO WEEKS after the due date will not be assessed, and a grade of F will be recorded.
- Scores and feedback will be provided for on-time Assignments.
- Scores/grades will be provided for all other assignments.
- The instructor may approve an assignment deadline extension due to emergencies. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor in these cases. Prior instructor approval is required.
- If a deadline extension has been approved, the student MUST notify the instructor by email when a late assignment has been submitted.

Written Feedback and Resubmissions Policy

- Students submitting on-time Assignments will receive written feedback from the instructor and the opportunity to resubmit work within one week of the original submission.
- This allows students to revise/modify work to attain a higher grade.
- Students failing to submit assignments by the published date forfeit the opportunity to receive feedback and resubmit.
- Only one resubmission is allowed per assignment unless otherwise agreed upon by the instructor.
- You MUST email the instructor to discuss resubmissions.

Course Schedule

Dates	Module	Module Assignments
17-23 August	1	Introductions - Due August Read Chapter One: The Teacher Chapter 1 Project - "If… Then" Values in Early Childhood Education Chapter 1 Early Childhood Journal Essay Quiz: Chapter One
24-30 Aug	2	Read Chapter Three: History of Early Childhood Chapter Three Project - Compare & Contrast Theorists - Visual Graph

		Quiz: Chapter Three
31 Aug - 6 Sept	3	Read Chapter Five: Observing and Assessing Young Children Chapter 5 Project- Authentic Assessments Chapter 5 - Early Childhood Journal Essay Chapter Five Quiz
7-13 Sept	4	Read Chapter Seven: Health, Safety & Well-Being Chapter 7 Project - Children's Wellness Book List Project Chapter 7 - Early Childhood Journal Essay Chapter Seven Quiz
14-20 Sept	5	Read Chapter Nine: Understanding & Supporting Play Chapter 9 Project - A New Teacher's Learning Plan Chapter Nine Quiz
21-27 Sept	6	Read Chapter 10: The Curriculum Chapter 10: The Curriculum Chapter 10 Quiz
28 Sept-4 Oct	7	Read Chapter 13: Partnership with Families Chapter 13 - Early Childhood Journal Essay Chapter 13 Quiz
October 7		Final

Grading

Grading Scale

All grades will be posted in the student grade book in Canvas and will be assigned according to the following scale:

A 90%-100%
B 80%-89%
C 70%-79%
D 60%-69%
F 59% and below

Calculation of Grades

Discussion Board	5%
Journal	25%
Quizzes	25%
Chapter Assignments	25%
Final	20%

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete in any course can only be assigned to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course. To receive an Incomplete, students must:

- Submit a written request to the instructor prior to the last face-to-face class meeting. For online courses, a written Incomplete request must be received no later than the week before the Final Exam period begins.
- Have completed no less than sixty percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted.

Important Note: The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if all remaining work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an "F."

General GCSC Course Policies

Accessibility Statement

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. Please visit GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource (SAR) webpage to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

GCSC Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.

You are expected to know the instructor's specific attendance policy as stated in the syllabus for each course. In the event of absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.)

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, your professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially responsible for the course and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

Withdrawal Policy

Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).
There are two kinds of withdrawals---student and administrative.

- **Student Withdrawal (W1)** - Students wishing to withdraw must complete the online Student Withdrawal Form before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the College catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.
- **Administrative Withdrawal (W2)** – A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy in which case the student will receive a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

Academic Integrity

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student's records.

Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:
"Cheating" includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

"Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects. It can also include overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructor's guidelines of AI material.

"Self-plagiarism" occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

"Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)" is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function.

Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

Classroom Recording

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member.

Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the GCSC Student Handbook.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of generative AI tools in academic work requires clear guidelines to maintain academic integrity. Please review the policy selected for this course regarding the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI features, and similar platforms for assignments, research, and other coursework.

See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status.

All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

Student Support Resources

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources provided at GCSC on the Student Services web page.

Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- Computer: Up-to-date web browser that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the system requirements for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.
- Internet Speed: Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- Office 365 software: Available for free download through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).
- If you need technical support, contact the ITS Help Desk, available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.