

**DOMINICAN
UNIVERSITY**
of CALIFORNIA
School of Liberal Arts and Education

Play-Based Learning

ECE 9799 3 Semester Credits/Units

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Course Syllabus

Course Overview:

Enhance the early childhood curriculum by creating play opportunities in the classroom. Explore options for embedding play in the classroom that are aligned with curriculum and supported by research. Implement checklists for observing and assessing play and acquire strategies to support students' academic and social emotional development. Participants develop a play-based activity based on research and reflect on the outcome in the early childhood classroom.

Course Learning Objectives:

- Examine and identify the value of play-based learning in early childhood education.
- Use rubrics and checklists to assess areas of play development in students.
- Design and implement classroom activities to encourage purposeful play in the classroom.

Course Relation to CCS or other Professional Standards

- **The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in the following propositions:**
 - Proposition 1: Teachers are committed to students and their learning
 - Proposition 2: Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach them
 - Proposition 3: Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning
 - Proposition 4: Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience
- **NAEYC Standards:**
 - Standard 1: Promoting child development and learning
 - Standard 3: Observing, documenting, and assessing to support young children and families
 - Standard 4: Using developmentally effective approaches
 - Standard 5: Using content knowledge to build meaningful curriculum

How to Submit Coursework

Each completed assignment in this course is submitted to the instructor for review. Follow directions at the end of each assignment on how to prepare and submit your assignments. Name each file submitted with your last name and assignment number (i.e. BrownAssignment3.) Make sure you place your full name, course number and assignment number at the top of each document page. You will receive feedback from your instructor within 5 days indicating successful completion of the assignment or the need for revision. Assignment grades will be averaged for the final course grade.

To submit assignments:

- Join Google Classroom with code: **odufhig**
- Upload and turn in assignments under the correct module #

Course Modules

Module #1 : Overview of play based learning		
Objective	Identify the importance of purposeful play in early childhood education. Identify ways to create a play-based learning environment.	
Activities and Needed Material	Reading Assignment: Chapters 1-3 of <u>Purposeful Play</u> by Mraz, Porcelli, and Tyler	
Assessment	Write a 3-paragraph essay after reviewing the reading addressing the following questions: ○ Why is play a necessity for children? ○ How can balanced play enhance children’s lives and education? ○ What are crucial components of a play-based learning environment?	

Module 2: Using Play for Socio-Emotional Growth		
Objective	Identify ways to teach empathy, collaboration, and a growth mindset through play.	
Activities and Needed Material	Reading Assignment: Chapters 4-6 of <u>Purposeful Play</u> by Mraz, Porcelli, and Tyler	
Assessment	Create a letter or handout to parents explaining the benefits of play for social emotional growth. Describe the strategies you will be using in the classroom to support and enhance social emotional development.	

Module 3: Using checklists to assess students' developmental needs in play	
Objective	Observe and assess students' developmental needs by using a checklist.
Activities and Needed Material	<p>Create an opportunity for students to play (could be outside, at developmental centers, or a learning through play opportunity).</p> <p>Choose a student to observe during the play opportunity, ideally you have concerns about the student's developmental needs or ability to play with others.</p> <p>Use the checklist provided in <u>Play: The Pathway from Theory to Practice</u> by Sandra Heidemann and Deborah Hewitt to observe and assess the student.</p> <p>Write a paragraph describing the developmental strengths and needs of the student.</p>
Assessment	Submit the completed checklist and paragraph.

Module 4: Create and reflect on a play opportunity	
Objective	<p>Implement a research-based play strategy.</p> <p>Reflect on effectiveness of the research based-play strategy used with students.</p>
Activities and Needed Material	<p>Reflect on the checklist from the previous module.</p> <p>Use the <u>Play: The Pathway from Theory to Practice</u> to determine a strategy to implement to develop a student's social, emotional, or cognitive skills through a play opportunity in an area of need identified through the checklist assessment.</p> <p>Implement the strategy with the student and observe student growth over a week.</p>
Assessment	<p>Write a 3-paragraph essay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain the strategy implemented with the student and your rationale ● Describe what you observed from the student after you implemented the new strategy. ● Describe what your next step with this student will be and why.

Module 5: Plan for play-based learning opportunities in the early childhood classroom based on current thematic units	
Objective	Examine the themes or units in the curriculum that you use in your classroom. Create a plan for play-based learning based on the themes/units.
Activities and Needed Material	Examine the themes or units in the curriculum that you use. Create a long-range plan for incorporating play based learning activities and centers based on your themes and units (should include at least two activities/centers per month and incorporate literacy, math, social studies, and science skills)
Assessment	Submit your long-range plan.

Module 6: Create a play-based learning center/activity	
Objective	Develop and implement a play-based learning center/activity Provide rationale for including play-based activity/center within your students' learning.
Activities and Needed Material	Reflect on your long-range plans and select an activity to develop and implement with a class of students. Develop and implement the center/activity with a group or class of students. Write a 2-paragraph essay about your experience. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why did you select the activity? ● What is your rationale for implementing this activity with this group of students? ● Reflection: Was the activity/center successful in meeting learning objectives for students? How could this be improved for future learning?
Assessment	Submit pictures of the center/activity and your 2-paragraph essay.

Module 7: Reflection	
Objective	Identify the importance of play in the early childhood education class. Identify ways to implement purposeful play in order to enhance student development and learning. Reflect on your experiences with play-based learning strategies.
Activities and Needed Material	Write a 2-page essay reflecting on the impact these tools will have in the classroom: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why are these strategies important and relevant for your classroom? ● What do you feel would be the most impactful for your classroom? ● How can you use these strategies in your classroom to reflect a safe, caring, and supportive environment for all students? ● What will you do differently now to enhance student learning through play? ● Be sure to cite sources both in text and APA
Assessment	Submit your essay

Course Assessment Rubric:

	EXCELLENT	ACCEPTABLE	NOT ACCEPTABLE
	Meets or Exceeds Course Objectives: A to A-	Majority of work meets course objectives: B+ to B-	Needs Considerable Improvement:Resubmit Work Suggested: C or below
Module 1	Essay reflects in-depth understanding of the importance of purposeful play. Essay responses show evidence of new knowledge evidenced by thoughtful, detailed and accurate assignment responses. Essay includes at least 3 paragraphs that are organized and clearly articulated. Essay is original and free of spelling and/or grammatical errors.	Essay reflects an understanding of the importance of purposeful play. Essay responses show evidence of new knowledge evidenced by accurate assignment responses. Essay includes at least 3 paragraphs that are organized and clearly articulated. Essay is original and has few spelling and/or grammatical errors.	Essay does not reflect understanding of the importance of purposeful play. Essay responses do not show evidence of new knowledge evidenced by accurate assignment responses. Essay does not include at least 3 paragraphs that are organized or clearly articulated. Essay is not original and has many spelling and/or grammatical errors.

Module 2	<p>Newsletter/Parent handout reflects in-depth understanding of the benefits of play for socio-emotional growth. Assignment describes at least 3 strategies that will be used in the classroom to promote socio-emotional growth through play. Assignment is organized and clearly articulated. Assignment is original and free of spelling and/or grammatical errors.</p>	<p>Newsletter/Parent handout reflects an understanding of the benefits of play for socio-emotional growth. Assignment describes at least 3 strategies that will be used in the classroom to promote socio-emotional growth through play. Assignment is organized and clearly articulated. Assignment is original and has few spelling and/or grammatical errors.</p>	<p>Newsletter/Parent handout does not reflect an understanding of the benefits of play for socio-emotional growth. Assignment does not describe at least 3 strategies that will be used in the classroom to promote socio-emotional growth through play. Assignment is not organized or clearly articulated. Assignment is not original and has many spelling and/or grammatical errors.</p>
Module 3	<p>Checklist provided in <u>Play: The Pathway from Theory to Practice</u> was submitted. Paragraph reflects in-depth understanding of developmental strengths and needs of the student observed. Paragraph responses include specific evidence from observation checklist. Paragraph is organized and clearly articulated. Paragraph is original and free of spelling and/or grammatical errors.</p>	<p>Checklist provided in <u>Play: The Pathway from Theory to Practice</u> was submitted. Paragraph reflects an understanding of developmental strengths and needs of the student observed. Paragraph responses include evidence from observation checklist. Paragraph is organized and clearly articulated. Paragraph is original and has few spelling and/or grammatical errors.</p>	<p>Checklist provided in <u>Play: The Pathway from Theory to Practice</u> was not submitted. Paragraph does not reflect an in-depth understanding of developmental strengths and needs of the student observed. Paragraph responses do not include evidence from observation checklist. Paragraph is not organized or clearly articulated. Paragraph is not original and has may spelling and/or grammatical errors.</p>
Module 4	<p>Essay reflects in-depth understanding of play-based learning. Essay responses show evidence of new knowledge evidenced by thoughtful, reflective, detailed and accurate assignment responses. Essay includes at least 3 paragraphs that are organized and clearly articulated. Essay is original and free of spelling and/or grammatical errors.</p>	<p>Essay reflects an understanding of play-based learning. Essay responses show evidence of new knowledge evidenced by accurate assignment responses. Essay includes at least 3 paragraphs that are organized and clearly articulated. Essay is original and has few spelling and/or grammatical errors.</p>	<p>Essay does not reflect understanding of play-based learning. Essay responses do not show evidence of new knowledge evidenced by accurate assignment responses. Essay does not include at least 3 paragraphs that are organized or clearly articulated. Essay is not original and has many spelling and/or grammatical errors.</p>

Module 5	Long-range plan includes at least 2 play-based activities per month, for the entire school year. Long-range plan includes play-based activities implemented across all subject areas (literacy, math, science, and social studies). Long-range plans are organized and clearly articulated. Assignment is original and free of spelling and/or grammatical errors.	Long-range plan includes at least 1 play-based activity per month for the entire school year. Long-range plan includes play-based activities implemented across most subject areas (literacy, math, science, and social studies). Long-range plans are organized and clearly articulated. Assignment is original and has few spelling and/or grammatical errors.	Long-range plan does not include at least 1 play-based activity per month, for the entire school year. Long-range plan does not include play-based activities implemented across most subject areas (literacy, math, science, and social studies). Long-range plans are not organized and clearly articulated. Assignment is not original and has many spelling and/or grammatical errors.
Module 6	Pictures of center/play-based activity were submitted. Essay reflects in-depth understanding of play-based learning strategies. Essay responses show evidence of new knowledge evidenced by thoughtful, reflective, detailed and accurate assignment responses. Essay includes at least 2 paragraphs that are organized and clearly articulated. Essay is original and free of spelling and/or grammatical errors.	Pictures of center/play-based activity were submitted. Essay reflects an understanding of play-based learning strategies. Essay responses show evidence of new knowledge evidenced by accurate assignment responses. Essay includes at least 2 paragraphs that are organized and clearly articulated. Essay is original and has few spelling and/or grammatical errors.	Pictures of center/play-based activity were not submitted. Essay does not reflect understanding of play-based learning strategies. Essay responses do not show evidence of new knowledge evidenced by accurate assignment responses. Essay does not include at least 2 paragraphs that are organized or clearly articulated. Essay is not original and has many spelling and/or grammatical errors.
Module 7	Essay reflects in-depth understanding of the course objectives. Essay responses show evidence of new knowledge evidenced by thoughtful, reflective, detailed and accurate assignment responses. Essay includes at least 2 pages (double-spaced) that are organized and clearly articulated. Essay is original and free of spelling and/or grammatical errors. Sources were cited both in text / APA.	Essay reflects an understanding of the course objectives. Essay responses show evidence of new knowledge evidenced by accurate assignment responses. Essay includes at least 2 pages (double-spaced) that are organized and clearly articulated. Essay is original and has few spelling and/or grammatical errors. Sources were cited both in text and APA.	Essay does not reflect understanding of the course objectives. Essay responses do not show evidence of new knowledge evidenced by accurate assignment responses. Essay does not include at least 2 pages (double-spaced) that are organized or clearly articulated. Essay is not original and has many spelling and/or grammatical errors. Sources were not cited both in text and APA.