

**Grande Prairie Regional College
Early Learning and Child Care**

**CD2090
Child, Family and Community**

Semester: Fall 2007-2008
Credits: 3
Hours: 45
Dates: Sept. 5 – Dec. 14
Days: Fridays
Times: 9:00 – 11:50
Location: TBA
Instructor: Karen Kennedy
Phone: 539.2040
Office: H210
e-mail: kkennedy@gprc.ab.ca
Office Hours: posted or by appointment



*"Let us put our minds together,
and see what life we will make
for our children." —Tatanka
Iotanka (Sitting Bull) ***

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the diverse forms, functions, and needs of Canadian families. Students will learn about influences on families and children and the role of the early childhood professional in supporting children and their families.

PREREQUISITES:

Completion of first year or consent of the department.

TEXT:

Shimoni, R. & Baxter, J. (2005). Working with Families: perspectives for early childhood professionals. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Pearson

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED MATERIALS AND EXPENSES:

You will incur expenses for photocopying/printing. Access to the internet is essential. Blackboard will be used for all course documents.

TEACHING METHODS:

Lectures will incorporate A.V. materials, in-and out-of-class activities and assignments, and guest speakers

OBJECTIVES:

On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Describe the changes in family forms, functions, and roles over time
- Describe factors that influence families
- Discuss Bronfenbrenner’s ecological model of development
- Outline the stages of family development
- Describe contemporary parenting roles and expectations
- Discuss the influence of media and culture on families and children
- Describe the challenges facing culturally diverse families and children
- Describe the characteristics and challenges of diverse family forms, particularly adoptive families, grandparents raising grandchildren, gay and lesbian families, and step families
- Describe the impact of separation and divorce on adults and children
- Describe the impact of poverty on families and children
- Discuss factors associated with family violence
- Describe the impact of family violence on adults and children
- Describe the indicators of child abuse
- Outline the role of the early childhood professional in monitoring and reporting child abuse
- Describe the role of the early childhood professional in supporting children and their families
- Demonstrate effective strategies to meet the needs of families and their children in early childhood programs

.....

GRADING POLICY:

A final grade of D must be obtained to pass this course. Final grades will be based on Assignments – 90% and Attendance/Participation – 10%

Final grades will be based on the following 4-point system:

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalence	Percentage
A+	4.0	90-100
A	4.0	85-89
A-	3.7	80-84
B+	3.3	76-79
B	3.0	73-75
B-	2.7	70-72
C+	2.3	67-69
C	2.0	64-66
C-	1.7	60-63
D+	1.3	55-59
D	1.0	50-54
F	0.0	0-49

CLASS POLICIES:

- Regular attendance is essential for your success in this class.
- Absences will reduce your grade. Students who attend all classes and actively and constructively participate in class will be credited the maximum 10%. Absences from 10% and over of the scheduled classes will result in a grade of 0% for attendance/participation.
- Absences from any in-class assignment presentations will result in a grade of 0 for that assignment, unless you have discussed your need to be absent with me well in advance of the scheduled date.
- Group work is a significant part of the class times and your absence will affect your ability to contribute to group work as well as your understanding of the content.
- If it is necessary for you to miss a class, you will be responsible for ensuring that you are familiar with the content. Notes, readings and learning activities are posted on Blackboard.
- Assignments are due on the assigned due date. Late assignments will be penalized an initial 10% and 5% per day late (including weekends).
- Graded assignments will normally be returned within two weeks.
- Changes to this course outline will be discussed with you in class.

TOPICS:

The following topics will be covered in the course, although not necessarily in the following order.

1. The Changing Canadian Family
 - a. Defining "family"
 - b. Social, political, economic, technological influences
 - c. Views of children and childhood – historical and contemporary
 - d. Family functions
 - e. Bronfenbrenner's ecological model
 - f. Family development and parenting roles
2. Influences on Families and children
 - a. Media
 - b. Culture
 - c. Poverty/Homelessness
3. Diversity in Family Structure
 - a. Adoptive families
 - b. Grandparents raising grandchildren
 - c. Gay and Lesbian families
 - d. Separation and Divorce
 - e. Stepfamilies
4. Family Violence
 - a. Wife Abuse
 - b. Child Abuse
5. The role of the early childhood professional in supporting families and their children

CLASS SCHEDULE:

This schedule is **TENTATIVE** and may change based on your needs or mine. Changes to the schedule will be discussed with you in class. Blackboard for this course has all assignments posted, and information for portions of the course. Readings posted on Blackboard are **bold**.

Date	Topic	Readings/A.V	Assignments
Sept. 7	Defining “family” The function of families Influences on families Bronfenbrenner’s Ecological Approach	pp. 1-10 & 22-25 -Text “Childhood through the Ages”	
Sept. 14	Family Development Stages of Parenting Parenting Roles Work-Family Balance	pp. 40-58 Text	
Sept. 21	Media	<i>Killing us Softly</i> - video Media & Stereotypes Children & Advertising	
Sept. 28	Culture/ Immigrant and Refugee Families	<i>A Class Divided</i> - video Chapter 12 - Text	
Oct. 5	Poverty & Homelessness	Chapter 9 - Text Child Poverty & Homelessness Jaynelle: It’s Never Easy to Escape the Past -video	
Oct. 12			
Oct. 19	Separation and Divorce	Chapter 4 - Text	
Oct. 26	Divorce (Presentation Frances Amery)		
Nov. 2	Stepfamilies	Chapter 5 - Text Stepfamilies	
Nov. 9	Gay and Lesbian Families/Adoptive Families	pp. 13 - 14 - Text “Adoption and the Stages of Development”	
Nov. 16	Grandparents Raising Grandchildren		
Nov. 23	Family Violence	Chapter 11 - Text Family Violence Chapter 11 - Text	
Nov. 30			
Dec. 7	Child Abuse		
Dec. 14	Last Class ☺		

Check the Blackboard for this course, frequently, for notes, learning activities, resources and readings.



ASSIGNMENTS:

You will complete individual assignments and may contribute to group assignments. The assignment expectations will be discussed with you in class and an assignment package provided in the first full week of classes.

** Picture and quote copied with permission. This is the logo of Oyate, an aboriginal organization working to see that Native lives and literatures are portrayed honestly. The child is Sharon Williams, age 8, Nuu Chah Nulth First Nation. Photo taken in 1978 by Dorothy Haegart from Children of the First People, published by Tillicum Library. Oyate thanks Sharon Williams and Brian Lam for permission. Logo copyright 1993 by Oyate.