**PRINCIPLES OF OBSERVATION**

**ED 7.710**

**Instructor:** Sue Doescher, Ph.D.

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**Office hours:** Tuesdays, 9-11am, Fridays, 12-1pm, or by appointment

1. **Course Description**

Students will learn a variety of observation techniques and use the information they have gathered to draw conclusions about children’s healthy growth and development and plan appropriate curriculum activities.

1. **Required Text**

Nilsen, B. A.  (2014). *Week by Week: Plans for Documenting Children’s Development*.  (6th Ed.).  Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

1. **Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of ED 7.710, the student will:

1. Utilize different techniques to observe children in an educational setting.
2. Plan appropriate responses, strategies and interactions with children based on individual needs.
3. Plan, implement and evaluate a developmentally appropriate activity based on observations of a child.
4. Use observation and assessment procedures to chart children’s growth, development, strengths, and areas of need.
5. Develop a comprehensive understanding of one child through the application of several observation methods.

1. **Course Requirements**

1. Observation Reports.  You will observe a child using different techniques and will complete 7 observation reports throughout the term.  Reports will be due on assigned days (see calendar for dates) and may be redone for additional points after receiving my feedback.  You will be evaluated on clarity, quality, application of child development, and professional presentation.  Late papers will have 10% of their points deducted unless you discuss the circumstances with me **ahead of time**.  (10 points/7 reports = 70 points)
2. Activity Plan.  You will develop a developmentally appropriate activity plan based on the child observations conducted throughout the term.  You will discuss the activity plan with me and the classroom teacher at least one week in advance of conducting the activity with the child.  You will conduct the activity and complete a self-evaluation of the activity.  The activity can be evaluated by the classroom teacher if possible.  (20 points)
3. Child Profile Report.  As a way of utilizing the observation techniques learned throughout the term, a child profile report will be developed on a child of your choice.  The final report will include the following information on that child:

* Child description
* Running record
* Anecdotes
* Checklist
* Frequency count
* Conversation observation
* Time sample
* Rating scales
* Activity plan and evaluations(s)
* Extras (permission form, photographs, drawings)

The child profile report will be **due** **by 5:00pm,** **Thursday**, **June 4th**. (80 points)

1. Discussions.  You will participate in discussions that demonstrate your understanding of the class material. Each week a discussion question will be posted and you will respond to the question and one other person’s response. Because discussion forums are based on the weekly observation techniques, the forums will be available for 1 week beyond the due date. Be sure to post before they are turned off. Points will be based on the quality of your participation.  More points will be given for thoughtful supported responses. (50 points)

1. **Point Evaluation**

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| --- | --- |
| Observation reports      | 70 points |
| Child Description |   5 points |
| Summary and Planning Form   & Activity Form | 20 points |
| Child Profile Report | 65 points |
| Evaluations | 10 points |
| Discussions | 50 points |
| **TOTAL** | **220 points** |
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| --- | --- |
| A = 90 - 100% | (198 – 220 points) |
| B = 80 – 89%                    | (176 - 197 points)   |
| C = 70 – 79%  | (154 – 175 points) |
| D = 60 – 69% | (132 – 153 points) |
| F = 59% or below | (131 or fewer points) |
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VI.**Calendar**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Topic** | **Assignment** |
| 1 | 3/30 | Introduction to Observation:  Getting Started | Introduction |
| 2 | 4/6 | Running Records | Ch. 4; Permission Request Form and Child Description due by 5pm |
| 3 | 4/13 | Anecdotal Records | Ch. 2; Running Record due by 5pm |
| 4 | 4/20 | Checklists | Ch. 3; Anecdotes due by 5pm |
| 5 | 4/27 | Frequency Counts | Ch. 5; Checklist due by 5pm |
| 6 | 5/4 | Conversations; Activity Planning | Ch. 6; Frequency Count due by 5pm |
| 7 | 5/11 | Time Samples | Ch. 7; Conversation Observation due; Summary & Planning Form due by 5pm |
| 8 | 5/18 | Rating Scales | Ch. 9; Time Samples due; Activity Plan due  by 5pm |
| 9 | 5/26 | Building a Portfolio; Parent Conferences | Ch. 14; Rating Scales due by 5pm |
| 10 | 6/4 | Child Profile Report | Due by 5pm; Activity Self Evaluation due in report |
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**The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the course schedule.**

***Note: Students who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know of, who need special arrangements in the event of an evacuation, or students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term. If additional assistance is required the student should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at ext. 4683*.**

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