Southeast Missouri State University
Course Syllabus

Department of Human Environmental Studies  Course No. CF 215

Title of Course Observation: Perception and Process  New  Spring 2012

I. Catalogue Description and Credit Hours of Course
Introduction to the process of observation of children. Investigation of perception, observational strategies, anti-bias documentation, and anti-bias interpretation techniques. (3)

II. Prerequisite(s)
None

III. Objectives of the Course
A. Define role of sensory perception in observation.
B. Define process, types, and techniques of observation.
C. Outline Theory of Knowledge principles in relation to perception.
D. Identify personal biases and assumptions.
E. Apply a variety of documentation techniques to observational records.
F. Demonstrate competency in non-participant and participant observation.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes
A. The student will define the role of sensory perception in observation.
B. The student will define process, types, and techniques of observation.
C. The student will outline Theory of Knowledge principles in relation to perception.

V. Expectations of Students
A. Satisfactory completion of observations and reporting
B. Active participation in peer discussions, reviews, and activities
C. Satisfactory completion of course assignments and examinations

VI. Course Outline  45 Hours
A. Role of Sensory Perception in Observation  6
   1. Visual
   2. Auditory
   3. Tactile
   4. Kinesthetic
   5. Olfactory
   6. Sensorial interpretation

B. Observation: A Process  4
   1. Non- participant observation
   2. Participant observation
   3. The setting
4. Objectivity
5. Subjectivity

C. Theory of Knowledge
   1. History
   2. Principles
      a. Knowers and exploration
      b. Ways of knowing
      c. Knowledge and inquiry

D. Ethics
   1. NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct and Statement of Commitment
   2. Legal and culturally responsive ethical practice

E. Influence of Bias on Perceptions
   1. Expectations
   2. Assumptions
   3. Beliefs

F. Development and Formation of Prejudice
   1. Individuation and social identity
   2. Stereotypes
   3. Entitlement and oppression
   4. Effects of prejudice

G. Observation in the Field
   1. Increasing observational acuity
   2. Purposes
   3. Strategies, tools, and validity
   4. Documentation techniques
   5. Collection and organization of artifacts and data
   6. Interpretation of methodology and data
   7. Communication of findings

H. Adult-Child Relationships and Interactions that Influence Observation
   1. Parent
   2. Family
   3. Teacher
   4. Mentor

I. Personal and Professional Development
   1. Reflection
   2. Journaling
   3. Disposition to nurture curiosity
   4. Observation skill improvement

VII. Textbooks

VIII. **Basis for Student Evaluation**  
Observations and Reporting 50%  
Peer Discussions, Reviews, and Activities 25%  
Assignments and Exams 25%

Grading Scale  
100%—90% A  
89%—80% B  
79%—70% C  
69%—60% D  
59%—below F

The weights of evaluation criteria may vary at the discretion of the course instructor.

IX. **Academic Policy Statement**  
Students will be expected to abide by the University Policy for Academic Honesty regarding plagiarism and academic honesty. Refer to [http://www6.semo.edu/judaffairs/code.html](http://www6.semo.edu/judaffairs/code.html)

X. **Student with Disabilities Statement**  
If a student has a special need addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires materials in an alternative format, please notify the instructor at the beginning of the course. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate special needs. Refer to [http://www.semo.edu/ds](http://www.semo.edu/ds)