

Los Angeles City College
Child Development Department

CD 34-Observing and Recording Children's Behavior
Spring 2010

Instructor: Dr. Vazquez

Class Meeting: W 6:50-10:00 pm

Class location: CD 215

Email: vazquele@lavc.edu

Office Hrs: 30 minutes before class

Required Text:

Nicolson, S., & Shipstead, S. G., (2002), 3rd Edition. Through the Looking Glass: Observations in the Early Childhood Classroom. Merrill Prentice Hall.

Course Description:

Prerequisite: Child Development 1 or equivalent and English 28. Verification of annual Mantoux test or chest x-ray is required. Students observe, record and interpret children's behavior in a variety of settings using appropriate observational methods. Students will apply this information to adapt the environment, curriculum, and teaching strategies to meet the individual needs of children within an early childhood program.

Includes opportunity for observation in the field.

Student Learning Outcomes:

It is expected that students will:

- 1) conduct observations in an early childhood setting, document their findings in writing and make appropriate recommendations/follow-through plans.
- 2) develop an understanding of the purpose of observing young children,
- 3) develop skills in using specific methods of observation that include running records, narrative descriptions, event and time samplings and case studies,
- 4) develop an understanding of children's behaviors in group settings through observation.
- 5) comprehend ethical issues involved in professional contact with young children and their families.

Class Policies:

1. Respect differences of opinion and style.
2. No electronic equipment of any kind is allowed in class.
*Cell phones must be on vibrate, not in sight and may not be answered in class.
3. Assignments **will not** be accepted after the due date. There are no extensions on any assignment

Class Participation:

I care about your learning, getting a good grade, and having a positive experience!!! Your class participation is very valuable and always appreciated. You should be prepared to discuss various concepts and ideas from the text, assigned readings, presentations, films, and personal experiences. Students are required to cover all assigned reading before class so as to be able to fully participate.

Recommendations for Successful Academic Achievement:

- Attend each class session.
- Turn your assignments in on time. --No absence excuses a student from turning in assignments. Trade names and phone numbers with 2 other students in case you miss a class and need lecture notes and to find out about any assignments due.
- Complete your assigned readings prior to the lecture
- Form a study group. Help each other. -You are not competing in class!

Grade Evaluation:

☻ **Assignments:** Throughout the semester, several observation activities will be assigned. Class sessions will require you to discuss your opinions, form small groups for discussion, or simply answer questions. Makeup assignments will not be allowed. If you arrive late for class or if you miss a class period, the day's activity cannot be made up. If you leave early, you will not receive credit either. Extra Credit is NOT available.

☻ The **final exam** will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions. The final exam is **mandatory** and will be given during finals week only.

Statement of reasonable accommodation:

The instructor will provide reasonable accommodation to any student with a disability who is registered with the Office of Students with Disabilities and who needs and requests accommodation.

Student Conduct:

The Child Development Department assumes that all students will conduct themselves in accordance with Los Angeles City College policies and regulations. Inappropriate conduct (such as PLAGIARISM) is subject to discipline (see student conduct: rights and responsibilities, and student discipline, LACC General Catalog). Academic honesty is expected of all students in accordance with LACC policy. There are established college reporting procedures if a student is suspected of committing an academically dishonest act.

Please make sure that you are familiar with LACC's Academic Honesty Policy

Course Assignment Schedule

Class Session	Reading Homework Due	Projects/Exams	Weekly Topics
February 10			Course Introduction & Syllabus Review Ch. 1 - The Educated Observer
February 17	Ch. 2	choose an observation site!!!	On the road to sound observations
February 24	Ch. 3 & 4	Name of Site -10	Dev. during the preschool years Dev. during the primary grade years
March 3	Ch. 5		Running Records
March 10	Ch. 6	Running Records-10	Anecdotal Records
March 17	Ch. 7 & 13	Anecdotal-10	Checklists & Designing Observational Instruments
March 24	Ch. 8	Checklists-20	Rating Scales
March 31	Spring Break	*****	No Class
April 7		MIDTERM -50	Chapters 1- 8 & 13
April 14	Ch. 9	Rating Scale -10	Using ABC Narrative Event Sampling
April 21	Ch. 11	Event Sampling-10	Observing Children & Teachers at work using Tally Event Sampling
April 28	Ch. 12	Tally Event Sampling-10	Time Sampling
May 5	Ch. 14	Time Sampling-10	Selecting methods to observe, plan & enrich the environment
May 12	Ch. 10	Environment rating scale- 10	Classroom portfolios & parent conferences
May 19		Portfolios/Presentations	Portfolio Presentations-
May 26		Portfolios/Presentations-50	Portfolio Presentations-Celebration
June 2	Ch. 8-14	FINAL - 50	6:00 – 9:00 pm

***Please note the instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus.

GRADE RECORD

NAME _____

Exams/scantrons will be returned to the instructor after the student has seen the grade. Use this sheet to record and track your progress throughout the semester. Instructor will collect this grade record the week before finals.

Name of Site	_____
Classroom Activity- 1	_____
Classroom Activity- 2	_____
Classroom Activity- 3	_____
Classroom Activity- 4	_____
Classroom Activity- 5	_____
Midterm	_____
Observations:	
Running Records	_____
Anecdotal	_____
Checklist 1	_____
Checklist 2	_____
Rating Scale	_____
Event Sampling	_____
Tally Event Sampling	_____
Time Sampling	_____
Environment rating scale	_____
Portfolio/Presentation	_____
Final	_____
Total semester points	_____

Grading Procedures: Grades are based on a numeric score and assigned as follows:

<u>Numeric Score</u>		<u>Letter Grade</u>
270- 300	(90-100%)	A
240-269	(80-89%)	B
210-230	(70-79%)	C
180-209	(60-69%)	D
0 – 179	(0-59%)	F