

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU
EDUC 769 Nurturing the Spirit of the Child
Summer 2013

INSTRUCTOR: Jerry Richmond
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OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: The focus of this course is on creating learning environments which cultivate the spiritual nature of the young child, develop an awareness of our sacred connectedness to all life, stimulate a sense of awe and wonder which translates into a reverence for earth and all its creatures and encourage children to be peaceful within themselves, caring with others and responsibly respectful toward their environment. Incorporates culturally appropriate practice, environmental materials and hands-on science explorations, utilizing Hawaii as the model.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will be able to articulate a basic understanding of Montessori's cosmic philosophy and how to provide children with the "keys to the world" of their experience.
2. Students will gain an understanding of the importance and effectiveness of utilizing culturally relevant experiences when working with young children.
3. Students will gain experience in fostering the spiritual awareness found in children to explore reality, utilizing their thought processes, sensitivities and environmental responses.
4. Students will be able to utilize Dr. Montessori's message of peace in encouraging children to be peaceful within themselves, caring with others, and responsibly respectful towards their environment.
5. Students will be able to develop activities to nurture peaceful living skills in young children based on a realization of the inner goodness (love) within them.
6. Students will be able to implement a curriculum that helps children develop their innate spirituality, that cultivates their understanding of and respect for life, their own essence and the interrelatedness of all life on our Planet.
7. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the importance of educating for the future, developing ideas of careful stewardship of nature, a spiritual way of life.
8. Students will be able to recognize the creative energies of the child as the outward expression on the spirit and allow for creative expression with art, music, drama and literary forms.

TEXT: Nurturing the Spirit, Aline D. Wolf
Handouts

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance: Because this is an intensive course requiring participation and practice, students must attend 90% of the course in order to pass.

Assignments: 1) Active participation in all class activities (40%)
2) Research Paper on the philosophy of peace in education which supports creating peaceful environments for children education (30%)
3) A curriculum outline (designed for a specific location) which utilizes cultural and environmental experiences to promote living in harmony with the Earth and each other (30%)

NOTE: #2 & #3 may be combined in one scholarly paper.

Grading: as per percentages above: 91-100 = A
81-90 = B

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In the cases of alleged academic dishonesty (such as plagiarism, cheating,

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