

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Course: ED 232 **INTRODUCTION TO MONTESSORI**

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Place: Kauai

Dates: January 26 & 27, February 9 & 10 and 23 & 24, March 9 & 10

Times: Fridays 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Textbooks

Montessori: A Modern Approach - Paula Polk Lillard
Dr. Montessori's Own Handbook - Maria Montessori

Rationale

Human development is based on a predictable unfolding which both acts and is acted upon by the environment. In order to serve the developmental needs of the child, we must understand how to provide what is needed for optimal growth, both in basic principles and in methodology. This course provides an overview of the Montessori Philosophy of Education which is based on a holistic approach to life and education.

Objectives

The students will:

Receive instruction regarding Montessori's philosophy as it relates to children three to six years of age.

Receive instruction on the role of the adult in the Montessori environment.

Study Montessori's concept of the *prepared environment*.

Receive instruction on how to create a **developmentally** appropriate learning activity related to a specific curriculum area.

Competencies

At the end of the course the student should:

- Understand the concept of a prepared environment.
- Know and be able to describe the six components of a Montessori environment.
- Be able to make a **chart** depicting Montessori's Planes of Development.
- Be able to write definitions for the basic terminology common to Montessori programs.
- Understand the importance of observation in the Montessori **environment**.
- Be able to create a learning activity according to Montessori principles which is developmentally appropriate and specific to a curriculum area.

*Methods of **Instruction***

- Lecture
- **Group Discussions**
- Writing Assignments
- Readings
- Demonstrations
- Observations
- Videos
- Final Exam

Rubric for Assignments

Criteria to obtain full points:

- Perfect attendance and on time for all class sessions
- Participation in all class discussions and activities
- Writing Assignments:
 - Due at the beginning of each class. Must be **organized**, type written and double-spaced with correct grammar, punctuation and spelling. (Reflections must be neatly written, analytical and concise)
- Observations completed on time and validated by the teacher in charge
- Student-made activities will be written up and demonstrated using the procedure for a *fundamental lesson*

Attendance Requirements

This class will be in session for a total of 40 hours. Students must attend 90% of scheduled class time, which allow a four-hour absence without affecting one's grade. Students are e responsible for all materials and assignments covered during any absence. If possible, notify the instructor of any anticipated absences. Additional work may be required.

Evaluation/Grading

Participation in class	20 points
Reflection Papers (5)	15 points
Observation Write-ups (2)	15 points
Planes of Development Chart	5 points
Student-Made Activity (1)	20 points
Final Exam	25 points

Total.....100 paints

90-100=A 80-89=B 70-79=C 60-69=D Below W=F

Assignments

Reading Assignments (to prepare for discussion and/or written reflection in class)

By February 9th Montessori: A Modern Approach - Chapters 1, 2, & 3
By February 23rd Montessori: A Modern Approach - Chapter 6 & Appendix and
 Hr. Montessori's Own Handbook - Introduction & pg. 29 - 49
By March 9th pr. Montessori's Own Handbook - pg. 50 - 189

Observations

Two observations in a Montessori 3-6 environment will be required.
Observations must be a minimum of one hour and verified by the teacher
in charge.

By February 9th - **First classroom observation write-up due**
By February 23rd - **Second classroom observation write-up due**

Reflection Papers

Students will be asked to write a *reflection* in class on a topic taken from the
lecture, video or assigned reading. A total of five reflection papers will be
assigned.

Planes of Development Chart

Students will illustrate Montessori's Planes of Development - due February 9th

Student-Made Activity

One student-made activity will be presented (using the fundamental lesson
procedure) during the last class session on March 9th. A write-up will also
be shared with class members. Students select an activity based on the curricular
areas discussed during the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

January 26 & 27	Introduction and Course Overview Meet Dr. Maria Montessori Montessori's Life and Vision Video - <i>Is Montessori for Me?</i> Montessori Terminology Montessori on Child Development Intrinsic Motivation Montessori's Planes of Development Video - <i>Planting the Seeds of Learning</i>
February 9 & 10	The Spiritual Preparation of the Montessori Teacher Video - <i>The Mutant Message</i> Values/Coat of Arms The Role of the Montessori Teacher The Role of Observation in the Prepared Environment Professionalism What makes a good preschool teacher? Montessori on Peace Components of the Prepared Environment The Fundamental Exercise The Fundamental Lesson
February 23 & 24	Rationale for Practical Life Grace & Courtesy Control of Movement Care of Self Care of the Environment Rationale for Sensorial Sequence of Exercises Rationale for Mathematics Sequence of Exercises Rationale for Language Arts Sequence of Exercises Rationale for History, Geography and Cultural Studies
March 9 & 10	Course Wrap-Up Student-made Activity Presentations Final Exam Course Evaluation