

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Course: ED 232: INTRODUCTION TO MONTESSORI

Instructor: Marie Rieck

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Place: St. Joseph's Montessori-Based Preschool, Hilo, Hawaii

Dates: January 4 & 5 and 25 & 26, February 15 & 16 and March 8 & 9

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

COURSE SYLLABUS

Textbooks

Maria Montessori: A Biography - Rita Kramer

The Montessori Controversy - John Chattin-McNichols

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 must be 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*

Ed. 232 - Syllabus

Attendance Requirements

This class will be in session for a total of 40 hours. It is necessary for each student to make an attendance commitment to all four weekends that comprise this 3 credit course. If illness or an emergency situation arises, please note that a student may only miss 10% of the scheduled class time (equivalent to a four hour absence) without affecting one's grade. Students are responsible for all materials and assignments covered during any absence. Please 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 points

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

INTRODUCTION TO MONTESSORI - ED. 232

Assignments

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

- By January 25th *Maria Montessori* - Part I (The Early Struggle) pp. 19 - 103
The Montessori Controversy - pp. 1 - 48 (Chapters 1 - 4)
- By February 15th *Maria Montessori* - Part II (The Children's House) pp. 107 - 232
The Montessori Controversy - pp. 49 - 129 (Chapters 5 - 9)
- By March 8th *Maria Montessori* - Part III (The Method and the Movement)
pp. 235 - 367
The Montessori Controversy - pp. 150 - 213 (Chapters 11 - 15)

Observations

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

- By January 25th - First classroom observation write-up due
By February 15th - 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, discussion or assigned reading. A total of five reflection papers will
be assigned.

Planes of Development Cart

Students will illustrate Montessori's Planes of Development - due **January 25th**

Student-Made Activity

One student-made activity will be presented (using the fundamental lesson
procedure) during the last class session on March 8th. A write-up will also
be shared with all class members. Students select an activity based on the curricular
areas discussed during the course.

ED 232 COURSE SCHEDULE

January 4 & 5	Introductions and Course Overview Meet Dr. Maria Montessori Montessori's Life and Vision Video - <i>Planting the Seeds of Learning</i> Montessori Terminology Montessori on Child Development Intrinsic Motivation Montessori's Planes of Development Video - <i>A Time to Blossom</i>
January 25 & 26	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 15 & 16	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 5 & 9	Course Wrap-Up Student-made Activity Presentations Final Exam Course Evaluation