

**CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU**  
**Castle Outreach/Waimea**  
**Spring Term 2003**

**Course: ED 232<sup>01</sup> - INTRODUCTION TO MONTESSORI**

**Place:** Montessori Learning Center of Hawaii/Waimea Community Montessori  
65-1297 Opelo Rd., Kamuela, Hawaii

**Dates:** April 11 & 12, May 9 & 10, May 23 & 24 and June 6 & 7

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

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### **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 that is based on a holistic approach to life and education.

#### ***Objectives***

The students will:

- Become familiar with Dr. Maria Montessori's life.
- Receive instruction regarding Montessori's philosophy as it relates to children 3 to 6 years of age.
- Receive instruction on the *role of the teacher* in the Montessori environment.
- Study Dr. Maria 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 this 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
  - In class *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*

## ***Attendance Requirements***

This class will be in session for a total of 40 hours. It is necessary for each student to make a commitment to attend 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% (equivalent to 4 hours of class time) 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	15 points
Reflection Papers (4)	12 points
Observation Write-ups (2)	20 points
Planes of Development Chart	3 points
Student-Made Activity (1)	20 points
Final Exam	30 points

**Total.....100 points**

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

## ED. 232 COURSE SCHEDULE

**April 11 & 12**

Introductions and Course Overview  
Meet Dr. Maria Montessori...  
Montessori's Life and Vision/Timeline  
Video - *Planting the Seeds of Learning*  
Montessori Terminology  
Montessori on Child Development  
Intrinsic Motivation  
Montessori's Planes of Development  
Video - *A Time to Blossom*

**May 9 & 10**

The Role of the Montessori Teacher  
The Spiritual Preparation of the Montessori Teacher  
Exploring Values/Coat of Arms  
Video - *The Mutant Message*  
Montessori on *Peace*  
Professionalism  
The Role of Observation in the Prepared Environment  
What makes a good preschool teacher?  
The Fundamental Exercise  
The Fundamental Lesson  
The Three-Period Lesson

**May 23 & 24**

Overview of the Prepared Environment  
Components of the Prepared Environment  
Spiral of Montessori Curriculum  
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  
Rationale for Language Arts  
Rationale for History  
Rationale for Geography and Cultural Studies

**June 6 & 7**

Course Wrap-Up  
Student-made Activity Presentations  
Final Exam  
Course Evaluation



## INTRODUCTION TO MONTESSORI - ED. 232

### Assignments

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

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| By May 9 <sup>th</sup>  | <i>Maria Montessori</i> - Part I (The Early Struggle) pp. 19 - 103<br><i>The Montessori Controversy</i> - pp. 1 - 48 (Chapters 1 - 4)                |
| By May 23 <sup>rd</sup> | <i>Maria Montessori</i> - Part II (The Children's House) pp. 107 - 232<br><i>The Montessori Controversy</i> - pp. 49 - 129 (Chapters 5 - 9)          |
| By June 6 <sup>th</sup> | <i>Maria Montessori</i> - Part III (The Method and the Movement) pp. 235-367<br><i>The Montessori Controversy</i> - 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 May 9<sup>th</sup> - First *classroom observation* write-up due  
By May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Second *classroom observation* write-up due

### Reflection Papers

Students will be asked to write a *reflection* paper on a topic taken from a lecture, video, discussion or assigned reading. A total of four reflections will be assigned.

### Planes of Development Chart

Students will illustrate Montessori's Planes of Development - due **May 9<sup>th</sup>**.

### Student-Made Activity

One student-made activity (using the *fundamental lesson* procedure) will be presented on the last Friday night class, **June 6<sup>th</sup>**. A *write-up* for your activity will also be shared with each class member at the time of your presentation. Students may select an activity from any curriculum area discussed during this course.