

WE '03

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU
Winter Term 2003

Course: ED 232 - INTRODUCTION TO MONTESSORI

Place: Hale o Keiki Montessori School, Kihei, Maui

Dates: Jan.17 & 18 * Jan. 31 & Feb. 5 * Feb. 21 & 22 * Mar. 7 & 8

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 (5) | 15 points |
| Observation Write-ups (2) | 20 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

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Assignments

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

- By January 31st *Maria Montessori* - Part I (The Early Struggle) pp. 19 - 103
The Montessori Controversy - pp. 1 - 48 (Chapters 1 - 4)
- By February 21st *Maria Montessori* - Part II (The Children's House) pp. 107 - 232
The Montessori Controversy - pp. 49 - 129 (Chapters 5 - 9)
- By March 7th *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 31st - First classroom observation write-up due
By February 21st - 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 five reflections will be assigned.

Planes of Development Chart

Students will illustrate Montessori's Planes of Development - due **February 1st**

Student-Made Activity

One student-made activity will be presented (using the fundamental lesson procedure) during the last Friday night class session on **March 7th**. A *write-up* will also be shared at that time with each class member. Students may select an activity based on the curriculum areas discussed during this course.

ED. 232 COURSE SCHEDULE

- January 17 & 18** Introductions and Course Overview
Meet Dr. Maria Montessori
Montessori's Life and Vision
Video - *Planting the Seeds of Learning*
Montessori Terminology
Montessori on Child Development
Intrinsic Motivation
Montessori's Planes of Development
Video - *A Time to Blossom*
- Jan. 31 & Feb. 1** The Role of the Montessori Teacher
The Spiritual Preparation of the Montessori Teacher
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?
Components of the Prepared Environment
The Fundamental Exercise
The Fundamental Lesson
- February 21 & 22** Overview of the Prepared Environment
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
- March 7 & 8** Course Wrap-Up
Student-made Activity Presentations
Final Exam
Course Evaluation