



Flex Course Syllabus

[Chaminade University Honolulu](https://chaminade.edu/honolulu)

3140 Waialae Avenue - Honolulu, HI 96816

Course Overview

Course Number: ED 432A

Course Title: Culturally Appropriate Practices and Montessori Methods

Department Name: Education

Term: Fall Semester 2026 (8/17/2026 - 12/11/2026)

Course Credits: 3

Class Meeting Days: Asynchronous, at your own pace

Class Meeting Hours: Asynchronous, at your own pace

Course Website Address (Canvas): <https://chaminade.instructure.com/>

Instructor Name: Yan Yan Imamura, M.Ed., M.A.T.

Email: yanyan.imamura@chaminade.edu

Phone: 808-739-8563

Office Location: Brogan 118

Regular & Substantive Interaction (RSI):

Office hours: Wednesdays 3:00-4:00 pm HST

Grading and providing content-specific feedback (via Canvas SpeedGrader): Students can expect grades and feedback from me within 5 business days following an assignment submission

University Course Catalog Description

This course examines the development of order, concentration, coordination, and independence in children ages two and a half to six. It includes appropriate models, practical living activities, and a relationship to other content areas. Montessori practical life lessons are presented and practiced. Art lessons are included in this course. This is a required course for the Montessori Credential.

Course Overview

This course covers the following topics:

1. Practical Life Overview
2. Grace and Courtesy
3. Control of Gross Motor Movement
4. Control of Fine Motor Movement
5. Care of Self
6. Food and Nutrition
7. Care of Environment
8. Culturally Responsive

9. Art and Creative Expression

Marianist Values

This class represents one component of your education at Chaminade University of Honolulu. An education in the Marianist Tradition is marked by five principles and you should take every opportunity possible to reflect upon the role of these characteristics in your education and development:

1. Education for formation in faith
2. Provide an integral, quality education
3. Educate in family spirit
4. Educate for service, justice and peace
5. Educate for adaptation and change

Native Hawaiian Values

Education is an integral value in both Marianist and Native Hawaiian culture. Both recognize the transformative effect of a well-rounded, value-centered education on society, particularly in seeking justice for the marginalized, the forgotten, and the oppressed, always with an eye toward God (Ke Akua). This is reflected in the 'Ōlelo No'eau (Hawaiian proverbs) and Marianist core beliefs:

1. Educate for Formation in Faith (Mana) E ola au i ke akua ('Ōlelo No'eau 364) May I live by God
2. Provide an Integral, Quality Education (Na'auao) Lawe i ka ma'alea a kū'ono'ono ('Ōlelo No'eau 1957) Acquire skill and make it deep
3. Educate in Family Spirit ('Ohana) 'Ike aku, 'ike mai, kōkua aku kōkua mai; pela iho la ka nohana 'ohana ('Ōlelo No'eau 1200) Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped; such is a family relationship
4. Educate for Service, Justice and Peace (Aloha) Ka lama kū o ka no'eau ('Ōlelo No'eau 1430) Education is the standing torch of wisdom
5. Educate for Adaptation and Change (Aina) 'A'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi ('Ōlelo No'eau 203) All knowledge is not taught in the same school

Learning Outcomes

	By the end of our course, students will be able to:
CLO 1	Synthesize knowledge of learner development, learner differences, and diverse students to optimize learning for young children in practical life and art curricula. (Rationale)
CLO 2	Evaluate central concepts, tools of inquiry, and scope and sequence of practical life and art curricula for young children. (Rationale & Activity)
CLO 3	Use various forms of assessments to determine, select, and implement effective instructional strategies for young children in practical life and art curricula. (Rationale)
CLO 4	Describe how integral and quality education stems from active interaction through a community of learners. (Reflective Discussions)

Alignment of Learning Outcomes

	CLO 1	CLO 2	CLO 3	CLO 4
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Marianist Values			5	2
Program Learning Outcomes	1	2	3	

Course Prerequisites

You should have taken the ED466 Montessori Philosophy course prior to taking this course unless a special arrangement has been made with your advisor.

Required Learning Materials

Montessori, M. (2014a). *Dr. Montessori's own handbook*. Wilder Publications. (Original work published in 1914) [ebook].

You can [click here](#) to purchase this book on Amazon.

Montessori, M. (2014b). *The Montessori method (2nd ed.)*. The House of Childhood, Inc. (Original work published in 1912) [ebook].

You can [click here](#) to purchase this book on Amazon.

Grading Scale

Letter grades are given in all courses except those conducted on a credit/no credit basis. Grades are calculated from the student's daily work, class participation, quizzes, tests, term papers, reports and the final examination. They are interpreted as follows:

- A** Outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative
- B** Superior work done in a consistent and intellectual manner
- C** Average grade indicating a competent grasp of subject matter
- D** Inferior work of the lowest passing grade, not satisfactory for fulfillment of prerequisite course work
- F** Failed to grasp the minimum subject matter; no credit given

Course Policies

Late Work Policy

This course is utilizing a Flex model, meaning there is a firm deadline for the Milestone #1 assignment, which is due by 11:59 pm on the 14th day of the semester. If this assignment is late, you may be dropped from the class. All other assignments—with the exception of any assignments that your instructor notes as having a firm deadline—can be turned in at your convenience. Please refer to Self-Service to confirm when your course section ends, as all assignments are due before then.

Grades of "Incomplete"

In cases of illness or family emergency, students may request an Incomplete grade. At the instructor's discretion, the student may be asked to make up the class by completing the required work in the time frame specified in the Incomplete contract agreed upon between the student and the instructor. If the student does not fulfill the terms defined in the contract by the deadline, the alternate grade indicated in the contract will be recorded as the final grade.

Writing Policy

All written assignments should:

1. correctly use the grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure of Standard Written English;
2. develop ideas, themes, and main points coherently and concisely;
3. adopt modes and styles appropriate to their purpose and audience;
4. be clear, complete, and effective;
5. carefully analyze and synthesize material and ideas borrowed from sources. In addition, the sources of the borrowed material should be correctly acknowledged to avoid plagiarism;
6. use APA style formatting.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools must support learning and uphold academic integrity. While technology can assist with editing and idea development, all submitted work must reflect the student's original thinking, analysis, and writing.

Permitted Use

Students may use AI tools in the following limited ways:

- **Grammar and mechanics support:** Tools such as Grammarly may be used to improve spelling, punctuation, grammar, and sentence clarity. These tools should not alter the meaning, structure, or content of the work.
- **Brainstorming and idea generation:** Tools such as ChatGPT may be used to generate topic ideas, clarify concepts, or support preliminary planning and outlining.

AI may be used as a learning support tool, not as a writing tool.

Prohibited Use

Students may not use generative AI tools to:

- Write full or partial drafts of assignments, reflections, discussions, or papers
- Rewrite or paraphrase AI-generated content and submit it as their own work
- Generate analysis, arguments, or conclusions in place of the student's own thinking
- Create citations or references without independently verifying accuracy

Submitting AI-generated writing as original work constitutes academic dishonesty.

Turnitin and Originality Review

All written assignments will be submitted through Turnitin with AI detection enabled.

- **Assignments with an AI score of 70% or higher** may result in the student being contacted to provide evidence of originality (e.g., drafts, outlines, notes, or writing process documentation).
- **Assignments indicating a 100% AI-generated score** will receive a zero for the assignment pending instructor review. At the instructor's discretion, the student may be granted one opportunity to resubmit a fully original version.

Repeated or intentional misuse of AI may result in additional academic consequences consistent with university policies.

Students are responsible for maintaining drafts and documentation of their writing process and for seeking clarification from the instructor if they are unsure about appropriate AI use.

Instructor and Student Communication

Questions for this course can be emailed to the instructor at yanyan.imamura@chaminade.edu. Online, in-person and phone conferences can be arranged. Response time will take place up to 48 hours.

Email Guidelines:

- Use your Chaminade email account.
- Always include a subject line.
- Remember without facial expressions some comments may be taken the wrong way. Be careful in wording your emails. Use of emoticons might be helpful in some cases.
- Use standard fonts.
- Special formatting such as centering, audio messages, tables, html, etc. should be avoided unless necessary to complete an assignment or other communication.

Community of Practice Communication Guidelines:

- Do not make insulting or inflammatory statements. Be respectful of others' ideas.
- Be patient and read the comments of others thoroughly before posting your remarks.
- Be positive and constructive.
- Consider how your posts help to further the discussion and/or meet course learning outcomes.

Additional Services

Disability Access

If you need individual accommodations to meet course outcomes because of a documented disability, please speak with me to discuss your needs as soon as possible so that we can ensure your full participation in class and fair assessment of your work. Students with special needs who meet criteria for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions must provide written documentation of the need for accommodations from Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning by the end of week three of the class, in order for instructors to plan accordingly. If a student would like to determine if they meet the criteria for accommodations, they should contact the Kōkua 'Ike Coordinator at (808) 739-8305 for further information (ada@chaminade.edu).

Canvas Technical Assistance:

- Search for help on specific topics or get tips in [Canvas Students](#)
- [Live chat with Canvas Support for students](#)
- Canvas Support Hotline for students: +1-833-209-6111
- Watch this [video to get you started](#)
- [Online tutorials](#): click on "Students" role to access tutorials
- Contact the Chaminade Client Services - Tech Support for technical issues: cstechsupport@chaminade.edu or call (808) 735-4855

Tutoring and Writing Services

Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students. Tutoring and writing help is available on campus at Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning in a variety of subjects (including, but are not limited to: biology, chemistry, math, nursing, English, etc.) from trained Peer and Professional Tutors. Please check [Kōkua 'Ike's website](#) for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via TutorMe. Tutor Me can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply click Account – Notifications – TutorMe. For more information, please contact Kōkua 'Ike at tutoring@chaminade.edu or 808-739-8305.

Chaminade University Policies

Student Conduct Policy

Campus life is a unique situation requiring the full cooperation of each individual. For many, Chaminade is not only a school, but a home and a place of work as well. That makes it a community environment in which the actions of one student may directly affect other students. Therefore, each person must exercise a high degree of responsibility. Any community must have standards of conduct and rules by which it operates. At Chaminade, these standards are outlined so as to reflect both the Catholic, Marianist values of the institution and to honor and respect students as responsible adults. All alleged violations of the community standards are handled through an established student conduct process, outlined in the Student Handbook, and operated within the guidelines set to honor both students' rights and campus values.

Students should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the ideals of the University. This includes knowing and respecting the intent of rules, regulations, and/or policies presented in the Student Handbook, and realizing that students are subject to the University's jurisdiction from the time of their admission until their enrollment has been formally terminated. Please refer to the Student Handbook for more details. A copy of the Student Handbook is available on the Chaminade website under Student Life.

For further information, [please refer to the Chaminade Catalog](#).

Title IX Compliance

Chaminade University of Honolulu recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. Sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse will NOT be tolerated at CUH. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, we encourage you to report this matter promptly. As a faculty member, I am interested in promoting a safe and healthy environment, and should I learn of any sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, I must report the matter to the Title IX coordinator. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources by visiting Campus Ministry, the Dean of Students Office, the Counseling Center, or the Office of Compliance and Personnel Services.

Attendance Policy

Flex students are expected to asynchronously attend and submit course work in classes they are registered in. Student should notify their instructors when illness or other extenuating circumstances prevents them from attending class and make arrangements to complete missed assignments. Notification may be done by emailing the instructor's Chaminade email address, calling the instructor's campus extension, or by leaving a message with the instructor's division office. It is the instructor's prerogative to modify deadlines of course requirements accordingly. Any student who stops attending a course without officially withdrawing may receive a failing grade.

Students with disabilities who have obtained accommodations from the Chaminade University of Honolulu ADA Coordinator may be considered for an exception when the accommodation does not materially alter the attainment of the learning outcomes.

Federal regulations require continued attendance for continuing payment of financial aid. When illness or personal reasons necessitate continued absence, the student should communicate first with the instructor to review the options. Anyone who stops attending a course without official withdrawal may receive a failing grade or be withdrawn by the instructor at the instructor's discretion.

Credit Hour Policy

The unit of semester credit is defined as university-level credit that is awarded for the completion of coursework. One credit hour reflects the amount of work represented in the intended learning outcomes and verified by

evidence of student achievement for those learning outcomes. Each credit hour earned at Chaminade University should result in 45 hours of engagement.

The minimum 45 hours of engagement per credit hour can be satisfied in fully online, internship, or other specialized courses through several means, including (a) regular online instruction or interaction with the faculty member and fellow students and (b) academic engagement through extensive reading, research, online discussion, online quizzes or exams; instruction, collaborative group work, internships, laboratory work, practica, studio work, and preparation of papers, presentations, or other forms of assessment. This policy is in accordance with federal regulations and regional accrediting agencies.

How This Course Meets the Credit Hour Policy

This three-credit course requires 135 clock hours of student engagement per the official CUH Credit Hour Policy. Students enrolled in this course are expected to spend about 17 hours of instruction, 54 hours completing the readings & videos, 44 hours completing assignments, and 20 hours completing the Key Assignments, which are replacement assignments for the midterm/final exam.

Suggested Course Schedule

Module #	Assignment Title	Days after enrollment due date
Milestones	Milestone #1	14
	Milestone #2	49
Module 1	Syllabus Review	7
	Student Introduction	7
	Communities of Practice #1	7
	Introduction to Marianist Education	7
Module 2	Practical Life Materials Practice #1	14
	Practical Life Rationale Draft #1	14
Module 3	Practical Life Materials Practice #2	21
	Practical Life Rationale Draft #2	21
Module 4	Practical Life Lesson Plan #1	28
	Practical Life Materials Practice #3	28
	Practical Life Rationale Draft #3	28
Module 5	Practical Life Materials Practice #4	35
	Practical Life Rationale Draft #4	35
Module 6	Communities of Practice #2	42
	Practical Life Field Trip Reflection	42
Module 7	Practical Life Lesson Plan #2	49
	Practical Life Materials Practice #5	49
	Practical Life Rationale Draft #5	49
Module 8	Communities of Practice #3	56
	Practical Life Rationale	56
Module 9	Art Materials Practice	63
	Art Rationale	63
	End of Course Reflection	63

Acknowledgement Statement

(Please cut and paste and upload to the Syllabus Review Assignment in Canvas)

Course:

Term:

Printed Name:

Signature:

[Note: a signature is not required if submitting through Canvas]

By returning this, I agree that I have completely read this syllabus and understand and agree to the course requirements. I also agree to the academic honesty statement and understand that plagiarism or cheating will result in an "F" grade for the assignment or course, or dismissal from the program.

Please indicate any special needs or circumstances that may have some impact on your work in this class, and for which you may require special accommodations, including but not limited to physical or mental disabilities, inability to log in for online courses, arrive in class on time, the need to leave class early, and/or observance of religious holidays.