INTERNATIONAL HELLENIC UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE

Courses offered in English for incoming students

Academic Year 2023-2024

WINTER SEMESTER COURSES		
	COURSES	**ECTS**
1	Introduction to Educational Studies	6
2	Health & Safety in Early Childhood	6
3	Introduction to Psychology	6
4	Test & Measurements in Early Childhood	6
5	Development of Mathematical concepts	6
6	Foreign language	6
7	Motor Play and Basic Skills	6
8	Children's Literature	6
9	Language Education & Literacy	6
10	Development and Implementation of Research Designs	6
11*	Practical training in Day Care Centers	12

** Practical training in Day Care Centers is implemented twice a week*

SPRING SEMESTER COURSES		
	COURSES	**ECTS**
1	Developmental Psychology	6
2	Special Issues of Infancy	6
3	Professional Ethics & Ethical Behavior	6
4	Environmental Communication in Education Sciences	6
5	Aesthetic & Art Education	6
6	RWS: Applications in Preschool Assessment	6
7	RWS: Applied Pedagogy	6
8	RWS: Applications in Social & Developmental Psychology	6
9	RWS: Applications in Children's Literature	6
10	RWS: Applications in Physical & Movement Education Activities	6
11*	Practical training in Day Care Centers	12

** Practical training in Day Care Centers is implemented twice a week*

CONTENT OF THE COURSES

WINTER SEMESTER COURSES

Introduction to Educational Studies ECTS 6

The course presents to students the fundamental concepts of educational sciences. Based on the ecological model of development by Bronfenbrenner that stresses that a person is a part of a complex system, the course presents children's development and the role of the family, preschool and society in it. Attention is given to the basic

characteristics of the educational process. Topics such as the preschool environment, the role of the educator supplement the introduction to the topic. Two sessions are dedicated to educational research methodology.

Health and Safety in Early Childhood ECTS: 6

The aim of the course is for students to acquire general knowledge regarding the health education and safety of infants and toddlers in the context of their role as educators of early childhood. The course includes theoretical knowledge and practical advice on accident prevention and treatment practices indoors (home and daycare centers) as well as outdoors (outdoor areas and playgrounds). This course will include reflective activities to enable students consolidate their learning. Lectures will also include case studies – many from real life – in order to provide practical examples to help them apply concepts to their own setting. Emphasis will be given to good communication and the effective use of communication tools. Finally, lectures will highlight latest 'current thinking' across a variety of different settings, to ensure relevance to a broad array of practitioners working across differing settings. Example of safety measures and first aid that apply to preschool and home settings for babies and children under the age of 4 will also be provided.

Introduction to Psychology ECTS 6

The aim of this course is to provide students with a general introduction to the study of psychology, including its historical development, major modern fields of research and application, perspectives and key issues. The first lectures will be devoted to giving a general background to the history and philosophy of psychology. We will then examine some approaches in more depth and consider the applications of theory and research to selected examples of human characteristics, development, and behaviour.

Tests and Measurements in Early Childhood ECTS 6

The aim of the course is to introduce students in the tests and measurement tools that are widely used in early childhood education.

The course is organized in three sections.

The first part of the course provides a) an overview of the scientific field of psychometry, b) develops theoretical issues concerning measurements, tests and their application in early childhood, c) the stages of a test development, d) definitions of the psychometric properties (reliability, validity, objectivity). Emphasis is given to ethica

lissues that arise during the process of measurements and test applications. Definitions are given and the terms are scientifically analyzed.

In the second part of the course the tests and measurement tools that are widely used in early childhood education are presented. The tools presented cover a wide range of areas of the child's development (e.g. cognitive, social, emotional, relationships, child's environment).Detailed examples are provided both theoretically and applied, so that students understand the object of measurement of specific tests, how to apply and present their results.

The third part of the course is dedicated to the presentation of small assignments by students. The works will concern the presentation of a widespread psychometric test, according to what was taught during the lectures.

Development of mathematical concepts ECTS 6

The content of the course is organized in the context of the pedagogical knowledge of the content of mathematical concepts, which is developed by the participating students, in order to be able to plan, organize and implement pedagogical activities for the development of mathematical concepts by children of early childhood. Specifically, the theoretical framework for the learning possibilities of developing mathematical concepts by children of early childhood and the specific content of mathematical concepts in all fields are developed. The aim is for the participants to know the basic characteristics of a mathematical activity and the appropriate teaching practices. Also, didactic suggestions are presented for all fields of mathematical concepts.

Foreign Language ECTS 6

The aim of the English Language course / Scientific Terminology is to familiarize students with the English educational terminology of their curriculum. Oral and written comprehension skills are cultivated while at the same time the creative and inductive thinking of the students is enhanced through the elaboration on scientific articles. Contact with authentic pedagogical texts helps students better understand the English terminology of their specialty, making them proficient users of the foreign language both during their undergraduate course of studies and in an Erasmus course framework.

Motor Play & Basic Skills ECTS 6

The primary purpose of the course is to help students understand the basic principles of development of motor and social skills of preschool children.

The basic principles of organizing and teaching motor games for children up to six years old are presented, and the way in which the developmental stage of the children determines the content of the activities, the organization of the group, and the verbal behavior of the teacher are discussed. The role of the teacher in the organization and implementation of the activities is described and the way in which the teacher helps children activate their creativity. The effect of motor play on the motor, mental and psychosocial development of preschool children is also presented. Students are also taught the effective application of motor play in the respective learning environment. A variety of motor games are used to achieve the motor, cognitive and emotional objectives of the lesson. The role of motor play in interdisciplinary teaching and in the development of the motor and social skills of children is emphasized.

Children's Literature ECTS 6

In the course, topics of theory and criticism of children's literature are researched. The basic concepts and terms related to Children's Literature are also examined. The aim of the course is for students to understand the field of children's literature, as an independent discipline and to become familiar with its modern interpretive approaches that allow the reader, adult or child, to read critically all types of this literary production.

After completing the courses, the students will be able to:

At the level of knowledge:

• to conceptually define the field of children's literature based on its special characteristics, in relation to adult literature

• understand the role of children's literature in the overall development of the child

• to know in depth theories of literature, so that they can apply them in texts for children

• to know the characteristics of all texts of children's literature as well as the modern approaches for illustrated books, picture books and modern games books.

B) At the skill level:

• to be able to locate and handle bibliographic sources, in matters of theory and critique of children's literature

• to get acquainted with the books of children's literature that have been published in Greece

• use conventional or digital libraries on topics related to children's literature

• to study, understand and critically analyze scientific articles related to children's literature

• write short presentations on the topics of the course

• detect elements related to the children's book (e.g. narrative techniques, narrative elements, adaptations, intertextuality)

Language Education & Literacy ECTS 6

The overall aim of this course is the development of students' reflexivity through the perspective of educational linguistics in relation to how language activities can be organized in learning contexts of early childhood.

Specifically, the course aims to help students learn:

1. How to organize language activities which presuppose the theorizing of:

a) language (e.g. how language will be described)

b) language use (e.g. the relationship between gender and language),

c) language learning (e.g. children's language abilities in different stages of their development)

d) pedagogy (e.g. which goals and methods will be selected and how their effectiveness will be assessed).

2. How to evaluate print and electronic recourses which might be used in language activities as well as how to produce original materials.

3. How to cope with multi- and intercultural issues which might arise in learning contexts of early childhood.

Development & Implementation of Research Designs ECTS 6

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

Fully understand the process of developing research designs

Fully understand the process of implementing research designs

Develop the ability to design and implement a research design

Practical training in Day Care Centers. ECTS 12 (Twice a week)

SPRING SEMESTER COURSES

Developmental Psychology ECTS 6

Developmental psychology is a multidisciplinary framework, with much attention being paid to the distinction between 'nature' and 'nurture' and the status genetic and environmental explanations for psychological development. The aim of this module is to underpin our understanding of the development of behaviour and cognition throughout the lifespan, with specific focus on childhood.

Special issues of infancy ECTS 6

The course aims to provide students with the necessary knowledge about the important role of nutrition and its connection to the physical and mental development of the child

Professional Ethics and Ethical Behaviour ECTS 6

The objective of this course is to explore the ethical rules and responsibilities governing the role of a professional early childhood educator. Furthermore, it aims at preparing students to handle potential problems that arise in their workplace by offering them the appropriate knowledge.

Environmental Communication in Education Sciences ECTS 6

The aim of the course is: Students understand the complexity of environmental issues, the basic dimensions of the ecological crisis and raise awareness concerning the solutions through the implementation of environmental actions and programs in Education Sciences.

Aesthetic & Art Education ECTS 6

Upon completion ofthedissertationthestudentwillbeableto:

Ingeneral

A) Recogniseanduse withacreativewaydifferentformsofaestheticartsthatcansupportchildren'screativedevelopmentANDB) toimplementcreativeactivitiesinthedailyprogrammeinabalancedwaywith the rest of the areas of children's development and expression.

Learning outcomes for:

~ knowledge*:*

- To know and use creatively the different forms of art
- Toknowdifferentcurriculaforchildren'saestheticdevelopment

- Tobeabletodemonstrateknowledgeofcurrenttrendsofteachingcreativeartsandtousethisknowledgewithsmallchildreninan appliedway

~ *skills:*

- Tobeabletousecreativedifferentmaterialsandtechniques (e.g., colour, paper, recyclablematerial, naturalresources)
- Tobeabletoorganizeartisticeventsbyconsideringa) theageofthechildren b) the available art resources and c) by answering three questions: Why? (Theaimofanactivity) How? (Themethodofanactivity) andWithwhatmaterial? (Theresourcesneededforan activity)
- Tobeabletodesignandorganizeartisticeventsbyconsideringthefourpillarsonwhichthesearedevelopedinearly childhood a) graphs, drawing, b) plastic compositions, c) image readingsand d) getting to know and acquaint oneself with a work of art.
- To be able to create portfolios with children's work

~*Attitudes:*

- Tobesensitiveinmattersofyoungchildren'screativedevelopmentandtoexpandhis/herownaestheticchoices
- Todevelopapositiveattitudethat aims to organize high-qualitypreschoolenvironmentsforyoung children and to pursue their operation with a creative flair.

RWS: Applications in Social and Developmental Psychology ECTS 6

The purpose of the seminar is to familiarize students with the design and implementation of research in the field of social-developmental psychology using quantitative and / or qualitative methodology and to familiarise them with the writing of a scientific paper. The aim is to formulate a research plan for the study of a specific topic as individual and / or group work.

RWS: Applications in Preschool Assessment ECTS 6

Το σεμινάριο αυτό έχει βασικό στόχο την εξοικείωση των φοιτητών/τριων με διαδικασίες αξιολόγησης μέσω της πιλοτικής εφαρμογής στην πράξη αξιολογήσεων του περιβάλλοντος της προσχολικής τάξης, του μαθητή,/της μαθήτριας του/της εκπαιδευτικού, της εκπαιδευτικής πράξης κλπ.

RWS: Applied Pedagogy ECTS 6

The course presents to students the basic concepts of designing and implementing

intervention programs in early childhood. Based on the Theory of Change, the course presents the need of learning how to design intervention programs and the role they can play in children's learning and development. Through a series of research examples students will be taught how to design intervention programs by taking into account the causal links between factors, the theoretical framework, the assumptions, research evidence and children's needs. They will be taught how to understand the role of evaluation of such intervention programs, this will allow revisiting topics of educational research methodology.

RWS: Children's Literature ECTS 6

The object of the seminar Applications of children's literature is the Literary Education in early childhood and specifically the utilization of children's literature as a teaching tool in Preschool Education. The main educational process will be based on the transition from the theory of literature to the didactic practice. The course studies the effect of literary theories on the formation of preschool education programs, while at the same time specific didactic interventions are presented and analyzed, in the light of modern research data. After studying the modern theoretical data related to literary education, the students attempt to formulate didactic interventions (eg didactic approach to a fairy tale, picture book, etc.). Upon successful completion of the course the students will be able:

A. Knowledge

• to know the current trends in the field of literary education and didactics

• to know the literary genres offered for teaching in preschool education

• evaluate the educational material

B. Skills

• to identify and evaluate the bibliography concerning the teaching of children's literature

• become familiar with children's literature books and formulate original and innovative teaching proposals

• create educational material

C) Abilities

• to identify the influence of literary theories on contemporary trends in literary

education

• take responsibility for organizing learning interventions with a focus on creativity

• evaluate children's reading history and differentiate teaching

• Collaborate with their fellow students on innovative teaching proposals relevant to current social issues

• evaluate didactic proposals

• to redact short research papers

RWS: Physical Activity & Movement Education ECTS 6

The main goal of this seminar is to familiarize students with physical activity and movement education applied research for early young children, through the pilot implementation of activities and protocols of physical activity and movement education.

The seminar includes the following phases :

(a) Presentation and analysis of concepts related physical activity and movement education

(b) Analysis, discussion and presentation of physical activity and movement education programs by groups of students

(c) Pilot organization and implementation of programs in practice. The seminar is completed with the evaluation of the programs and the feedback to the students about the possibilities of programs' use

Upon completion of the course, students are expected :

• To plan a physical activity and movement education program for early young children

• To implement physical activity and movement education programs for early young children, following innovative teaching and methodological approaches

• To interpret, analyze and discuss the results of these programs' implementation

Practical training in Day Care Centers. ECTS 12 (Twice a week)

Holidays

During the Winter and Spring semesters there are no classes or exams:

A. Winter semester

National "OXI" holiday 28th of October 2022

Anniversary of Athens Polytechnic Uprising 17th of November 2022

Christmas holidays 24th of Decenber 2022 to 6th of January 2023

B. Spring semester

Clean (Ash) Monday 27th of February 2023

National holiday 25th of March 2023

Easter holiday 8th of April to 24st of April 2023

Holly Spirit holiday 5th of June 2023

C. Local holidays

26th of October 2022- Religious holiday of Saint Dimitrios, Patron Saint of Thessaloniki