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SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO

S . 2 . E R S E                      O U T L I N E

Course Title: RESEARCH: PAST AND PRESENT

Code No: PSY 300-3 and 400-3

Program: Infant/Toddler Care & Education

Semester: First and Second

Date: October 1984

Author: Juanita Wood-Arbus

New:                      Revision: /

APPROVED: )/jddJ                      Date: \$,y. J?? 'ty

Chairperson

INFANT/TODDLER CARE & EDUCATION PROGRAM

Course Description: a look at pertinent research findings from a historical perspective. As well, current theoretical and research literature will be examined. The student will be expected to review much of the literature independently and design a major research project to be carried out throughout the Second Semester. This project will be subject to approval by the instructor.

Course Goals:

To develop an understanding of:

1. Scientific methods of child study and research
2. Child study research concepts, designs and methods.
3. The Practical application of scientific research methodology to the study of child development, and behaviour.
4. How to interpret, use and apply research findings in order to enhance their understanding of child development and their overall effectiveness as educators.
5. Research proposal development, implementation and the writing of a major research project report.

Course Objectives: To be able to discuss and demonstrate, through oral and written responses, an understanding of:

1. The interpretation and application of scientific child study research.
2. The development and implementation of research proposals.
3. How to plan and conduct a research project, record and interpret observations and write a research project report.
4. Child study research concepts, design and methodology.
5. How the results of scientific child study research can be used to enhance their understanding of child development and behaviour.

Methodology: lectures, student seminar presentations/discussions, individual student/instructor consultation and guidance; research planning, implementation, and the writing of a research project report.

^•k Texts:

Ross Vasta: An Introduction to Research Methods  
Studying Children  
W.H. Freeman and Company, San Francisco; 1979.

Resource Text:

Gerald R. Levin: A Self-directing Guide to the Study of  
Child Psychology.  
Brooks/Cole Publishing Company; Toronto,  
Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1973.

Additional readings and/or student viewings of audio-visual materials may be assigned during the course. As well, guest speakers will be utilized as resource persons to the field of child psychology.

This course consists of two blocks, with each block four weeks long. There are 16 scheduled classroom hours and at least 16 hours of student independent study and research during which time the instructor will be available for guidance and consultation.

The topic areas and assigned readings for the 4 weekly sessions (at least 6 hours per week) are divided as follows:

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Week #1 (Oct. 29 to Nov. 2) - Review course outline, requirements and evaluation system.  
- review child study research concepts, designs and methodology  
- overview of (a) naturalistic field study,  
(b) developmental testing study and,  
(c) experimental-manipulative research approaches  
- research format, methodology and guidelines (a) problem,  
(b) method, (c) results, (d) discussion  
Assigned Readings: Text Levin, pages 39 to 57  
Text Vasta, Chapters 1 and 2

Week #2 (Nov. 5 to Nov. 9) - Research Methods Continued and Observation Projects.  
- types of research and basic research designs: (a) longitudinal  
(b) experimental (c) Time-series  
- guest speaker  
- organizing and retaining information and knowledge  
- using knowledge and information  
Assigned Readings: Text Levin, pages 14 to 34  
Text Vasta, Chapters 4, 5 and 6

Week #3 (Nov. 12 to Nov. 16) - Observation Projects and Exercises  
- guidelines for research proposal  
- library research (guest speaker - one hour) and exercises  
- techniques with Infants  
- observational methods

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Assigned Readings: Text Vasta, Chapter 9

Week #4 (Nov. 19 to Nov. 23) - Student class seminar presentations/  
discussions of their proposed research reports.  
- student research proposals  
- review guidelines for research study, second semester

Evaluation: Students will be responsible for regular attendance and  
class participation in all areas of the course, and for  
all readings. Also they will develop, implement and  
complete a written research project study (in two parts:  
proposal in first block and completion in second semes-  
ter, second block)

The Child Study research project report roust be typewritten and is due  
no later than two weeks before the date that final grades must be  
submitted by the instructor. Exact date will be discussed in class.

The final course grade will be determined as follows:

FIRST BLOCK

Class attendance & participation:	10%
Observation projects & exercises:	30%
Library projects and exercises:	30%
Student research proposal:	30%

SECOND BLOCK

Lab exercises:	10%
Research proposal seminar presentation:	15%
Child Study research project report:	75%

A grade of A, B, C, or R will be awarded at the end of each block.

A = 80 to 100

B = 70 to 79

C = 60 to 69

R = below 60% repeat

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Oct. 1984