**Syllabus**

**EEC 4712: Social Competence in Early Childhood**  
**Thursdays 9:35-12:35, Norman Hall 2327**  
**Fall 2017**

**Professor:** Jennifer Reeves, M.Ed; Adjunct Instructor  
School of Special Ed, School Psychology, & Early Childhood Studies  
**Office hrs:** By appointment  
**Room 1403 Norman Hall**  
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**Course Description**

“To operate effectively in the social world, children must learn to recognize, interpret, and respond to social situations. They must also make judgments about how to reconcile differences between their own needs and interests and the demands and expectations of the social environments in which they live. How well they do this is a measure of their social competence” (Kostelnik, Stein, Whiren, & Soderman, 1993).

Educating young children involves facilitating children’s learning and growth in all areas of development. This includes promoting children’s social and emotional growth. **The purpose of this course is to help students learn how to facilitate social-emotional development and learning in the context of a variety of early childhood programs.**

**Course Goals**

Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

1) Practices for guiding children’s behavior to promote responsibility and self-discipline  
2) Practices for promoting children’s ability to form friendships and interact effectively with peers  
3) Practices to promote children’s positive self-concept, self-esteem, and prosocial behavior  
4) Conflict resolution strategies and means of teaching children alternatives to aggressive behavior  
5) Practices for establishing and enhancing teacher-child relationships  
6) Appropriate organization of environment, daily routine, and materials to facilitate children’s positive behavior and attitudes, autonomy, self-control, and safety.
**Required Readings**

**Main text**


**Other Required Readings**


English Language Learners [http://www.pre-kpages.com/esl/](http://www.pre-kpages.com/esl/)


Kemple, K.M. (2004). *Let’s be friends: Peer competence and social inclusion in early childhood programs*. NY: Teachers College Press. (Purchase is optional, but recommended. I have a few loan copies that can be shared.)


Additional readings may be required at the professor's discretion.
Course Requirements

Your final course grade will be based on the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance, preparedness, and participation in class</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two exams (200 points each)</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Observation Journal</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBF Presentation &amp; Handout</td>
<td>50</td>
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Total: 1000 points


Course Requirement Descriptions

APP (Attendance, preparedness, and participation in class): 150 points

Class sessions will include discussion and small group activities. You are expected to attend and to participate, actively and knowledgeably, in every class session. There may be occasional homework assignments, which will be evaluated as part of your APP grade. The readings listed for a particular class are to be read in entirety prior to coming to class on that date. Your APP will also be assessed through direct observation of the quality of your class participation, and through in-class reflective writings. You are expected to behave in a professional and respectful manner at all times, toward both your classmates and your professor. Unprofessional and rude behavior will result in deduction of points, at the professor’s judgment and discretion (using your cellphone, rolling your eyes at the comments of others, and talking with your classmates while someone else has the floor are considered unprofessional behaviors). Please keep in mind that as a pre-service teacher, professional behavior is an important part of what qualifies you for recommendation to teach.

Two Exams: 400 points total

Two in-class exams are scheduled on 9/21 and 11/2. Exams will include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

Final Exam: 300 points

The final exam consists of two parts. Part I is a take-home essay application exam, and involves analysis of a case study. It will be distributed on 11/16 and will be due any time on or before 5:30 PM on Thursday 12/14 (in hard copy, please). Part II of the final will include multiple choice and short answer questions, is cumulative, and will be given on the officially scheduled exam date (Thursday, 12/14, 5:30-7:30pm).
Observation Journal: 100 points

Your completed observation journal is due in class on 11/16. In this journal, you will record and reflect upon children’s behavior and adult guidance practices you implement (or observe) in your practicum placement. Further information about the observation journal will be provided in class.

LBF Presentation: 50 points

You will work with an assigned partner on this assignment. You and your partner will be assigned responsibility for one or more strategies from the *Lets Be Friends* book (Kemple, 2004). On 11/30, you will briefly teach the class about the strategies assigned to you, and will engage the class in practicing how to use those strategies. Further details of this assignment will be provided in class.

Course Policies

Policy concerning accommodations for students with disabilities

The professor respects human diversity and provides equal opportunity and treatment regardless of race/ethnicity, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or age. Any individual needing specialized assistance due to a disability should inform the professor during the first week of class. Please bring your letter from the UF Dean of Student’s office with you when you come to discuss your needs. Every effort will be made to ensure that appropriate accommodations are made.

Policy concerning missed exams and late assignments

Exams can be made up only in cases of illness or true emergency. The professor reserves the right to administer an alternative form of the exam. All assignments are due on the date indicated, and are expected to be turned in on time. 20 points will be deducted for each day an assignment is late, regardless of reason. Late homework assignments will not be accepted. Failing to turn in a homework assignment on time results in a grade of zero for that assignment.

Attention Policy

The instructor will be respectful of and attentive to student’s contributions to the class. She will not use her cell phone, check e-mail, read the newspaper, log into Instagram, check Facebook, or Tweet during class. She will not do work related to her other responsibilities during this class. She will not giggle, chat or snore when you are presenting or when you otherwise “have the floor”. In exchange for these common courtesies, the instructor expects that you will afford the same level of courtesy to her and to your fellow students.
Attendance Policy

The Unified Early Childhood Education Program (UEC) is designed to prepare students for the teaching profession. As such, it supports and guides students to acquire habits and skills that will facilitate their successful entry into the field of education. The attendance policy adopted for this course supports these goals. **Students are expected to attend and participate in all class meetings.**

- Students are expected to attend every class session. If you have one absence, it will not affect your attendance/participation grade. Each subsequent absence, however, will result in lowering your attendance/participation grade **20 points, REGARDLESS OF REASON** for the absence.
- Students are expected to arrive on time & remain for the entire class period.
- Active, thoughtful and prepared participation in activities & discussions is expected.
- There will be **NO** make-ups for missed in-class or homework assignments.
- Students are responsible for all information presented in the course, regardless of an absence. **It is not the responsibility of the instructor to provide the student with information or materials distributed in class on a day they were absent** (even if it is your one and only absence!) You may request to obtain these from a class member.

Final Course Grades

**To pass this course, all assignments must be completed and turned in.** Regardless of your numeric grade average, you cannot pass the course if you do not complete the exams, final, journal, and LBF project. Grades below C- require repetition of the course, as per Florida Department of Education requirements. This course is only offered once per year, in the Fall semester.

Honesty policy

The University’s policy on academic honesty and plagiarism will be in effect for all tests and assignments. As a result of completing registration at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement:

“I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”
ESOL Standards and Performance Indicators

The following ESOL Standards and Performance Indicators are addressed in the content of this course as part of the infused ESOL program in the Unified Early Childhood Program (PROTEACH).

Domain 1: Culture (Cross-Cultural Communications)

Standard 1: Culture as a factor in ELLs' Learning

Teachers will know and apply understanding of theories related to the effect of culture in language learning and school achievement for ELLs from diverse backgrounds. Teachers will identify and understand the nature and role of culture, cultural groups, and individual cultural identities.

Performance Indicator 1.1a Understand and apply knowledge about cultural values and beliefs in the context of teaching and learning of ELLs, from diverse backgrounds and at varying English proficiency levels.

Domain 3: Methods of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Standard 2: Standards-based ESL and content instruction

Teachers will know, manage, and implement a variety of teaching strategies and techniques for developing and integrating ELL's English listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. The teacher will support ELLs' access to the core curriculum by teaching language through academic content.

Performance Indicators: 3.2b: Develop ELLs' L2 listening skills for a variety of academic and social purposes. 3.2c: Develop ELLs' L2 speaking skills for a variety of academic and social purposes.

Domain 4: ESOL Curriculum and Materials Development

Standard 1: Planning for standards-based instruction of ELLs

Teachers will know, understand, and apply concepts, research, best practices, and evidence-based strategies to plan classroom instruction in a supportive learning environment for ELLs. The teacher will plan for multilevel classrooms with learners from diverse backgrounds using a standards-based ESOL curriculum.

Performance Indicator 4.1b: Create supportive, accepting, student-centered classroom environments

ESOL Standards Table

1.1a : Course Objectives # 3 & 5 / Readings: Kostelnik text chapters 3 & 4 / Activities: Small and large group class discussions / Assessment: Observation Journal, Exams


4.1b : Course Objectives # 5 & 6 / Readings: Kostelnik text Chapter 3, 9 and Kemple text chapter 3 / Activities: Small and large group discussion, classroom map activity / Assessment: Exams, Observation Journal
Course Calendar

8/24  Intro to course

8/31  Personal experiences, expectations, and perspectives

**READ:** Ch. 1 & 2 and Kemple (2016a)

9/7   Promoting relationships and self-esteem through positive communication

**READ:** Kostelnik Ch. 3 & 4, Ford (2010), ELL strategies URL.

9/14  Responding to emotions and building resilience

**READ:** Kostelnik Ch 5 & 6

9/21  **EXAM 1**

9/28  Contexts for socio-emotional learning and development

**READ:** Kostelnik Ch 7 & 9

10/5  Contexts for socio-emotional learning and development

10/12 Fostering self-regulation in children: Communicating expectations and rules

**READ:** Kostelnik Ch 10

10/19 Fostering self-regulation in children: The role of consequences

**READ:** Kostelnik Ch 11

10/26 Preventing and responding to aggression

**READ:** Kostelnik Ch 12 & 13

11/2  **EXAM 2**

**Course Calendar (continued)**
11/09  Fostering healthy attitudes about sexuality and diversity

READ: Kostelnik Ch. 14, Kemple et al (2016b) and Peixota Da Silva

11/16  Strategies to support peer relationships

READ: Kostelnik Ch. 8

DUE: Observation Journals

DISTRIBUTED: Part I (Essay) of Final Exam

11/23  No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday

11/30  Strategies to support peer relationships

DUE: LBF presentations and papers

12/14 (Thursday)  FINAL EXAM 5:30-7:30pm

DUE: Take Home Essay due at 5:30 PM (hard copy)