

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO
College of Education
Human Development and Family Studies

HDFS 231.002: Practicum Across the Lifespan
Fall 2008

Instructor: Jennifer Reisig, B.S.

Email: WebCampus or reisig@unr.nevada.edu

Mailbox: SFB Room 212 (HDFS Office)

Office: SFB Room 203

Office Phone #: (775) 784-7008

Office Hours: By Appointment

<p>ACCORDING TO STATE LICENSING LAWS, ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PRACTICUM MUST HAVE A COPY OF CURRENT TB TEST RESULTS ON FILE WITH THE CFRC BEFORE BEGINNING WORK IN THE CENTER.</p>

Course Description: In this course students will observe and work in a child and family research center setting with children and their families. Advance approval is required to enroll in more than one credit. Prerequisite or co-requisite: HDFS 201.

Course Objectives:

1. Gain practical experience working with young children and their families in a Child and Family Research Center setting
2. Observe and experience a realistic, high quality setting in early childhood education
3. Gain professional skills in working with young children and their families
4. Gain insight into the development of young children and connect such insights with information from HDFS classes

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance:

- Students will spend their time, each week, directly on site, interacting with children and families. Students will be working under the supervision of center personnel. Number of hours in the classroom is determined by how many credits the student is registered for:

2 credits: 5 hours per week

3 credits: 7 hours per week

- The center is open 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Students will use a timecard to record

their hours. A classroom head teacher or other supervisor must verify the practicum hours by initialing the time card for each day the practicum student completes hours.

- Attendance in your assigned classroom, during the scheduled time, is *required*. If, for any reason, you cannot be there, notify the head teacher and practicum instructor immediately (phone numbers included).
- Make-up Hours: Any missed hours must be made up on your own time. Please record all make-up hours on your time sheet.
- If you miss more than three days of practicum (and do not make up the hours) you will be withdrawn from the class. This includes “excused” absences! *NO EXCEPTIONS!!!* This class requires practical experience in a classroom, which you cannot get if you do not attend class.
- *CELL PHONE USE IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE CLASSROOMS!* The use of cell phones (including text messaging) is distracting to the students and teachers and distracts you from your work in the classroom. Please silence your phones while in the center.

2. Videos:

- Students must view three videos and submit a reflection on WebCampus. Videos are on reserve in the Knowledge Center on the first floor at @One, and may be viewed there during library hours. The videos are as follows:
 1. *Getting in Tune: Creating Nurturing Relationships with Infants and Toddlers*
 2. *Flexible, Fearful, or Feisty: The Different Temperaments of Infants and Toddlers*
 3. *Painting a Positive Picture: Proactive Behavior Management*
- Specific instructions pertaining to each video assignment can be found on WebCampus.

3. Classroom Observations:

- Students will complete classroom observations for each of the following topics: (1) teacher-child relationships, (2) child temperaments, (3) proactive behavior management.
- Specific instructions pertaining to each Observation assignment, including a rubric showing point breakdown, can be found on WebCampus.

4. WebCampus Discussions:

- Students will be expected to participate in Discussions on WebCampus. Different discussion topics will be provided throughout the semester. Students are

expected to post at least 12 discussions posts (in form of a question or answer). The Discussion board is also designed to keep you in contact with other students if you have questions. Take advantage of it!

5. Meetings:

- Students will meet with the instructor during the student's scheduled practicum time at mid-point in the semester. If you need to meet with me at any other point in the semester, please let me know and we can arrange for a meeting.

6. Practicum Student Evaluations:

- The instructor and/or head teacher will observe the student's performance and document his or her progress using the "Practicum Student Evaluation" form. Evaluations will be completed by mid-semester and at the end of each semester. Your head teachers will go over these with you and I will address them as well during our mid-point meeting. Any room for improvement will be addressed so you can correct any problems for the final evaluation. An electronic copy of the evaluation can be found on WebCampus.

7. Project:

- Students will select and complete a project according to the children's interests, or based on a suggestion from the head teacher. Prior approval must be given from the instructor and the head teacher(s) before beginning any project! All projects, including a 3-5 page typed paper describing your project and the evaluation of how effective your project was is **due by Monday, December 8th at 5:00pm!** More information regarding this project can be found on WebCampus.

Late Assignment Policy: Late assignments will be accepted up to one week after the due date; however, they will be deducted at 10% per day, no exceptions. If you are having trouble getting an assignment done, please speak to me before the due date.

American with Disabilities Act: Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me or contact the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building, Suite 101), as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating and Plagiarism, as defined in subsection C of the University of Nevada, Reno Student judicial code, will not be tolerated in this course. Suspected cases will be administered in accordance with the policies set forth by the Student Judicial Affairs.

WebCampus Responsibility: As a student, it is your responsibility to become familiar with your computer's configuration and use of WebCampus. Please take some time to explore our WebCampus webpage to find any potential conflicts with your computer. It is not the instructor's responsibility to help students configure their computers to WebCampus. If you need assistance, please contact the Computing Help Desk in the Knowledge Center (second floor) at 682-5000.

Student Learning Outcomes: The HDFS department is engaged in ongoing assessment of how effectively our undergraduate and graduate programs are preparing students for their professional careers. Mastery of five student-learning outcomes will be assessed when you graduate from the program. HDFS 231 contributes to the fifth student learning outcomes for the HDFS undergraduate program in the following ways:

5. Demonstrate the ability to apply field-related knowledge, theory, and practices in a professional setting.

This standard is introduced in this course as students spend a certain number of hours in a childcare setting each week. They are able to observe classroom teachers' practices and are assessed for their understanding of principles through write-ups, discussions, and evaluations.

Message from the Instructor: Welcome to HDFS 231! This class is truly different than most of your college classes, so enjoy the break from lectures and textbooks! Whether you have worked with children before, or if this is your first experience, the staff at the CFRC, and myself want this to be an educational and enjoyable time for you. Working with children can be challenging, but is also incredibly rewarding. Many practicum students are surprised by the deep relationships they form with each child.

Working in your classroom each week makes you a regular and influencing part of each child's life. Please take this responsibility seriously, but don't be afraid to let loose and have fun! If you have any problems, questions, or concerns about your practicum experience please contact me immediately and we will discuss the situation. Remember, all information about children and families is confidential. The center staff and I want to help you have the best practicum experience possible!

~Jen

Grading & Evaluation:

A rubric can be found on WebCampus with detailed information on requirements and point breakdowns for all assignments.

Attendance & Participation

260 points total

Discussions on WebCampus (12)

60 points

Center Attendance

200 points

For 2 credits: 14 weeks @ 5 hours a week = 70 hours

For 3 credits: 14 weeks @ 7 hours a week = 98 hours

All hours must be completed and students must earn a 3 or higher on each item of their final Practicum Evaluation. There will be 5 points deducted for each score below a 3.

Videos Assignments

90 points total

Video #1 Assignment

30 points

Video #2 Assignment

30 points

Video #3 Assignment

30 points

Classroom Observations

170 points total

Relationship Observation

50 points

Temperament Observation

70 points

Proactive Behavior Observation

50 points

Individual Project and Paper

80 points total

TOTAL POINTS FOR CLASS

600 POINTS TOTAL

Grades are calculated by using a **point system, not a percentage system:**

600 – 571 = A

570 – 541 = B

540 – 511 = C

500 – 471 = D

470 and below = F