

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**Early Childhood Education**

ECED 201.001 Introduction to Early Childhood Education for Diverse Learners  
3 Credits, Fall 2019  
8/26 – 12/18, Mondays & Wednesdays/ 1:30 – 2:45 pm  
Thompson Hall L028, Fairfax Campus

**Faculty**

Name: Deborah W. Stone, PhD  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Office Location: Thompson Hall 1200, Fairfax Campus  
Office Phone: 703-993-3844  
Email Address: [dstone10@gmu.edu](mailto:dstone10@gmu.edu)

**Prerequisites/Corequisites**

None

**University Catalog Course Description**

Explores major theories of learning in culturally, linguistically, ability, and socioeconomically diverse early childhood education contexts. Focuses on identifying developmentally effective approaches, instructional strategies, and tools to connect with children and families that positively influence young children's learning. Emphasizes anti-bias curriculum and considers advocacy pathways for early childhood educators. Note: Field Experience Required.

**Course Overview**

Not Applicable

**Course Delivery Method**

This course will be delivered using a lecture and discussion format.

**Learner Outcomes or Objectives**

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Describe the historical, philosophical, and sociological foundations underlying the role, development, and organization of public education in the United States.
2. Discuss the legal status of teachers and students, including federal and state laws and regulations; school as an organization/culture; contemporary issues and current trends in education, including technology in education; local, state, and federal governance of schools, including the roles of teachers and schools in communities; and Virginia's Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers.
3. Describe the major theories of development and learning and how they are reflected in early childhood education, birth through age 8, settings.
4. Discuss multiple influences on early development and learning (i.e., diverse cultural and linguistic contexts for development, children's close relationships with adults and peers, economic conditions of children and families, health status and disabilities, children's

individual developmental variations and learning styles, opportunities to play and learn, technology and the media, and family and community characteristics).

5. Identify anti-bias, culturally sensitive teaching and learning practices that promote children's engagement.
6. Reflect on developmentally effective approaches, instructional strategies, and tools to connect with children and families and positively influence each child's development and learning.
7. Evaluate how observed experiences are developmentally appropriate, meaningful, and challenging for all young children, including those with developmental delays or disabilities, address cultural and linguistic diversities, and lead to positive learning outcomes.
8. Analyze contemporary issues and current trends that might affect their work in the future and articulate the broader contexts and challenges within which early childhood professionals work.
9. Exhibit standards of professionalism, ethical standards, and personal integrity with children, families, and professionals in the field experience setting and in interactions with classmates, the instructor, the field experience coordinator, and others.
10. Use writing as an instructional and assessment tool to generate, gather, plan, organize, and to communicate for a variety of purposes; integrate correct written conventions (i.e., grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling); and format using current APA style.

**Professional Standards** – Virginia Professional Studies Competencies, Virginia Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement Competencies, Virginia Early/Primary Education PreK-3 EPK3 Endorsement Competencies, Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) Standards, Council of Exceptional Children (CEC) and Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Standards, and National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Standards

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

### **Virginia Professional Studies Competencies**

Foundations of Education and the Teaching Profession  
Supervised Clinical Experiences

### **Required Texts**

Morrison, G. (2018). *Early childhood education today* (14th ed.). New York: Pearson Education.  
Pelo, A. (2008). *Rethinking early childhood education*. Milwaukee, WI: Rethinking Schools.  
Other readings as assigned

### **Recommended Texts**

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 978143380562

## Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy).

Assignments	Due Date	Points
Attendance and Participation	Ongoing	25
Critical Reflections (five) Linked to Pelo Readings and Field Experience	Sept 16	6
	Sept 30	6
	Oct 15	6
	Oct 28	6
	Nov 11	6
Midterm	Oct 7	15
Field Experience Checklist	Nov 18	15
Final Exam	TBA	15
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

## Assignments and/or Examinations

### Field Experience (15 points)

This course requires a minimum of 10 hours (across at least five visits) field experience in an early childhood education environment (early intervention, home-based, school-based, or community-based settings) with diverse young children (infant, toddler, prekindergarten, kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade). To initiate this assignment, students will visit <https://cehd.gmu.edu/endorse/ferf> and complete the online “Field Experience Request Form.” On the form, they will be asked to indicate how their placement will be arranged. Observations and interactive experiences will be completed at a site designated by the ECE program at George Mason University, including, but not limited to, the George Mason Child Development Center and Main Street Child Development Center.

***Field Experience Documentation Checklist.*** As students complete their 10 field experience hours across five separate visits, students will provide documentation of their experience. This documentation will include a checklist (created and distributed by the course instructor) of ECE-related experiences and phenomena observed as well as written verification of hours from the mentoring teacher/ provider on site.

Throughout the Field Experience process with the instructor, field experience coordinator, classroom teacher, students, administrators, etc., students will exhibit standards of professionalism, ethical standards, and personal integrity. Students will refer to Blackboard for CEC, DEC, and NAEYC standards in early childhood education and early childhood special education.

### Critical Reflections (30 points, 6 points each x 5 reflections)

Students will submit five critical reflections (at 6 points each) that integrate their knowledge from the Pelo text with their field experiences. Specifically, students will select a chapter from the Pelo text that links with course content delivered during the previous two to three weeks (see

course schedule for these readings). For example, for the first critical reflection, students will consider readings weeks 1 through 3. Reflections must be two, double-spaced pages in length using 12-point Times New Roman font, be thoughtful and relevant, and include original and/or critical thought connecting Pelo with their field experiences.

The point of each reflection is NOT for students to simply provide a summary of the readings and/or their field experiences; rather, students are to connect to their field experiences and think critically about what is being read/discussed/learned in class, particularly in relation to the Pelo readings. Students will select approximately two concepts (illustrated by a direct quote, paraphrasing, image, or a key term) from a Pelo reading that they can apply to or see reflected in their field experiences. Students should then provide critical reflection on the meanings they are deriving from the connection between Pelo and their field experiences, especially as they relate to their intended profession in the ECE field.

### **Exams (30 points, 15 points each)**

Midterm: There will be an in-class, multiple-choice midterm that covers class lectures, discussions, readings, etc. Exam will be in class and closed book.

Final: The final exam will be multiple choice and will cover class lectures, discussions, readings, etc. Exam will be in class and closed book.

### **● Other Requirements**

#### **Attendance and Participation (25 points)**

Because active participation and engagement are imperative for optimal learning, preparation for and participation in in-class and online activities will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Students attend class, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class period.
- Students use laptops and personal devices for instructional purposes only.
- Students complete readings and prepare for class activities prior to class as evidenced by their ability to discuss and write about the concepts presented and examined in the texts as well as participate fully in related activities.
- Students are actively involved in in-class and online learning experiences as evidenced by (a) participating in all activities, (b) engaging in small- and large-group discussions, (c) completing written work related to the activities, and (d) supporting the participation and learning of classmates.
- Students show evidence of critical reflective thinking through in-class and online discussions, activities, and written reflections.
- Students display professional dispositions at all times while interacting with the instructor and other students.
- Students complete participation activities across the semester that complement the scheduled course topic. Instructors will periodically collect artifacts from the activities. Students in attendance and who actively engage in the learning experience will receive credit for their efforts. Graded participation activities are not announced and are implemented at the discretion of the instructor.

## Written Assignments

All formal written assignments will be evaluated for content and presentation. The American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition (APA) style will be followed for all written work. All written work unless otherwise noted must be completed on a word processor and should be proofread carefully. (Use spell check!) If students are not confident of their own ability to catch errors, they should have another person proofread their work. When in doubt, they should check the APA manual. Portions of the APA manual appear at the Style Manuals link on the Mason library website at <http://infoguides.gmu.edu/content.php?pid=39979>. Students may consult the Writing Center for additional writing support.

Students will do the following:

1. Present ideas in a clear, concise, and organized manner. (Avoid wordiness and redundancy.)
2. Develop points coherently, definitively, and thoroughly.
3. Refer to appropriate authorities, studies, and examples to document where appropriate. (Avoid meaningless generalizations, unwarranted assumptions, and unsupported opinions.)
4. Use correct capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar.
5. Type the paper with double spacing, indented paragraphs, 1-inch margins all around, and 12-point Times New Roman font.

## • Grading

A+ = 98 – 100   A = 93 – 97   A- = 90 – 92   B+ = 87 – 89   B = 83 – 86   B- = 80 – 82  
C+ = 77 – 79   C = 73 – 76   C- = 70 – 72   D = 60 – 69   F = < 60

Incomplete (IN): This grade may be given to students who are passing a course but who may be unable to complete scheduled coursework for a cause beyond reasonable control.

All CEHD undergraduate students are held to the university grading policies as described in the Academic Policies section of the current catalog, which can be accessed at <http://catalog.gmu.edu>. Those students seeking Virginia initial teaching licensure must earn a B- or better in all licensure coursework.

## Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>.

## Class Schedule

Date	Topics	Assignments & Readings Due
<b>Week 1</b> Mon Aug 26	Introduction and Review of the Syllabus/Course	Morrison, Chapter 1  <a href="#">CEC Code of Ethics</a>
Wed Aug 28	The Early Childhood Education Profession: Ethical Standards, Standards of Professionalism, and Personal Integrity  You and Early Childhood Education What is Critical Reflection?	<a href="#">NAEYC Ethical Principles and Practice Standards</a>
<b>Week 2</b> Mon Sept 2	Labor Day – No class meeting	
Wed Sept 4	Contemporary Issues and Current Trends in Early Childhood Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine federal and state laws and regulations and the legal status of teachers and students</li> <li>• Examine the local, state, and federal governance of schools</li> </ul>	Morrison, Chapter 2  Pelo, Introduction (ix-xvi)
<b>Week 3</b> Mon Sept 9	Understanding Children’s Culture	Morrison, Chapters 15, 16  Pelo, Choose one chapter from Part 1
Wed Sept 11 (ONLINE)	Understanding Children with Diverse Needs	
<b>Week 4</b> Mon Sept 16	Historical, Philosophical, and Sociological Foundations in Public Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role, development, and organization of public education</li> </ul>	Morrison, Chapter 4  Pelo, Choose another chapter from Part 1
Wed Sept 18	Early Childhood Education – The Past and the Present	<b>Due to Bb (Sept 16) – Critical Reflection #1</b>
<b>Week 5</b> Mon Sept 23	Theories of Development and Learning	Morrison, Chapter 5  Pelo, Part 2:2 “What About Play?”
Wed Sept 25	Theories of Development and Learning continued	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Assignments &amp; Readings Due</b>
<b>Week 6</b> Mon Sept 30	School as an Organization and Culture	Morrison, Chapter 6 Pelo, Choose one chapter from Part 4
Wed Oct 2	Early Childhood Programs	<b>Due to Bb (Sept 30) – Critical Reflection #2</b>
<b>Week 7</b> Mon Oct 7	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	See Bb for additional readings
Wed Oct 9	Anti-Bias and Culturally Sensitive Teaching and Learning Practices	
<b>Week 8</b> Mon Oct 14 (ONLINE)	Child Care	Morrison, Chapters 7, 8 Pelo, Choose one chapter from Part 7
Wed Oct 16	Federal and State Programs	<b>Due to Bb (Oct 15) – Critical Reflection #3</b>
<b>Week 9</b> Mon Oct 21	Infants and Toddlers The Preschool Years	Morrison Chapters 9, 10 Pelo, Choose another chapter from Part 2
Wed Oct 23	Influences on Development and Learning	
<b>Week 10</b> Mon Oct 28	Kindergarten Primary	Morrison, Chapters 11, 12 Pelo, Choose one chapter from Part 3
Wed Oct 30	Influences on Development and Learning	
<b>Week 11</b> Mon Nov 4	Observation and Assessment for Teaching and Learning	Morrison, Chapter 3 Pelo, Choose another chapter from Part 3
Wed Nov 6 (ONLINE)	Observation and Assessment for Teaching and Learning cont.	
<b>Week 12</b> Mon Nov 11	Guiding and Connecting Children	Morrison, Chapter 14 Pelo, Choose one chapter from Part 5
Wed Nov 13	Developmentally Effective Approaches	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Assignments &amp; Readings Due</b>
<b>Week 13</b> Mon Nov 18	Connecting Parents, Families, and Community	Morrison, Chapter 17  Pelo, Choose one chapter from Part 6
Wed Nov 20 (ONLINE)	Introduction to Virginia's Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers	<a href="http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/performance_evaluation/guidelines_ups_eval_criteria_teachers.pdf">http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/performance_evaluation/guidelines_ups_eval_criteria_teachers.pdf</a>  <b>Due to Bb (Nov 18) – Field Experience Checklist</b>
<b>Week 14</b> Mon Nov 25	Technology and Young Children	Morrison, Chapter 13  Pelo, Review one resource (a book, website, or music album) listed in Part 8
Wed Nov 27	Thanksgiving Break – No class meeting	
<b>Week 15</b> Mon Dec 2	Review of Early Childhood Education	See Bb for additional readings  <b>Due to Bb (Dec 4) –Attendance Rubric</b>
Wed Dec 4	Review of Early Childhood Education	
Dec 9-10	Reading Days – No class meeting	
<b>TBA</b>	Exam Period	<b>Final Exam</b>

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

### **Core Values Commitment**

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

### **GMU Policies and Resources for Students**

#### *Policies*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students **solely** through their Mason email account.



- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

*Campus Resources*

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to [tk20help@gmu.edu](mailto:tk20help@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursesupport.gmu.edu/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>.

**For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website: <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/>.**

## Scoring Guide for Critical Reflections 6 points each

Each critical reflection includes the following:

- /1 Appropriate formatting (two-page, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font)
- /2 Discussed two concepts from the Pelo (2008) text explored during the previous 2- to 3-week period (approximately 1 page)
- /3 Connected the two concepts (noted above) to the field experience through a thoughtful (at least 1 page)

The point of each reflection is NOT for students to simply provide a summary of the readings and/or their field experiences; rather, students are to connect to their field experiences and think critically about what is being read/discussed/ learned in class, particularly in relation to the Pelo readings. Students will select approximately two concepts (illustrated by a direct quote, paraphrasing, image, or a key term) from a Pelo reading that they can apply to or see reflected in their field experiences. Students should then provide critical reflection on the meanings they are deriving from the connection between Pelo and their field experiences, especially as they relate to their intended profession in the ECE field.