Course Syllabus
CFS 294 Assessment of Young Children
Spring 2009

Instructor Information
Dr. Connie Jo Smith
College Heights Blvd #11037
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1037

Office: 402 Academic Complex
Office Phone: 270.745.2214
E-mail: connie.smith@wku.edu

Office Hours
Available by telephone, email, and for scheduled office appointments. Office hours vary, but typical office hours are: Mondays 8:30-11:30 Online, Tuesdays 9:00-11:00; Wednesdays 9:00-11:00; and Thursdays by appointments from 8:00-11:00. Email is the fastest way to reach me.

Course Description
Students develop a basic understanding of the assessment process, preliminary assessment skills, and learn how the results of assessment are linked to planning for guidance/instruction of young children. Roles of the family in the assessment process are emphasized. Practical experiences are provided in 30 hours of required fieldwork.

Prerequisites
Students must earn a C or above in each of the prerequisites.
CFS 191: Child Development
CFS 192: Working with Young Children and Families

Required Text
You can purchase through any source you desire. If you decide to order through Amazon, please consider linking to Amazon through the local WKU Child Care Resource and Referral web page at: http://www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku/ The link is at the bottom of that page and linking through CCR&R does not increase your costs but benefits the local child care providers.


Course Objectives
When the student has completed this course, they will be able to:

1. Identify historical and philosophical perspectives of assessment
2. Understand that knowledge of assessment is a process
3. Demonstrate a sensitivity to diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds
4. Reflect a family-centered philosophy in all aspects of assessment
5. Demonstrate developmentally appropriate assessment techniques particularly related to observation, child find, and screening
6. Read and explain assessment reports to families and colleagues
7. Explain the IFSP/IEP and transition process regarding the use of assessment
8. Understand and demonstrate professional behavior regarding child assessment.

Method of Instruction
This course will be conducted online and it will not meet in a classroom. Being self-motivated and able to work independently is important for success in this class.

1. Group discussion via online discussion board
2. Independent reading in textbooks and supplemental materials, including Internet sites requiring Adobe Reader, and PowerPoint presentations.
3. Group and individual written projects submitted in Microsoft Word.
4. Viewing of videos on Internet.
5. Thirty (30) clock hours of field experience in child assessment

Course Requirements
1. Regular use of a computer with Internet access and a web browser.
2. Familiarity with surfing the Internet, reading email and sending email.
3. An activated WKU Email account that is checked daily.
4. Access to Adobe Reader (See Course Information for directions on free download).
5. Ability to read PowerPoint Slides (See Course Information for directions on free download readers).
6. Ability to view videos on Internet.
7. Actively participate in class via online activities.
8. Submit designated written assignments in Microsoft WORD via Blackboard.
9. Complete online quizzes over assigned reading, videos, and assessments.
10. Complete child checklists
11. Write anecdotal notes as prescribed in class.
12. Complete online final exam.
13. Participate in 30 hours of assessment field experience.
14. Obtain any documentation required by facility for fieldwork.
15. Identify children meeting specific criteria and obtain parental permission to conduct assessment activities and interviews.
16. Provide own transportation to conduct fieldwork activities.
17. Maintain confidentiality of all information gathered about children and families through the field experience.
18. Maintain professionalism online by being respectful of comments by other students, never being rude, not using inappropriate language, or other such activity. Violation of this standard will lower your grade.

➢ It is the responsibility of the student to read all documents related to this course and follow the directions/guidance provided concerning assignments and exams.

Field Experience
This class involves 30 hours of fieldwork. The student identifies and selects adults to interview and children that meet specified criteria and makes arrangements for assessment activities to occur. Transportation is the responsibility of the student. Early care and education facilities may require a criminal background check, TB skin test, health screening, confidentiality agreements, orientation or other prerequisites to field work. Students are NOT required to provide any of the health and safety information to WKU for this course but must cooperate with any program for which they choose to do fieldwork. Failure to meet the facility prerequisites is not a valid reason for not completing the fieldwork during the semester. Failure to complete the fieldwork will result in a failing grade for the class. An incomplete grade will not be given for failure to complete fieldwork required for final project.

Special Instructional Materials
Students taking this class will need to have access to a DIAL 3 Screening Kit. The program has a small number of assessment instruments that can be checked out by local students. Students are encouraged to identify other locations where Kits may be checked out.

Grading Criteria and Information
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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home Page Assignment</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Board</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Quizzes</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Checklists, Report, &amp; Reflection</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anecdotal Notes, Report, &amp; Reflection</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Assessment &amp; Report</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Interview &amp; Report</td>
<td>50</td>
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Final 100 Points

Class Total: 600 points

Assignments are due on time. Online quizzes and tests cannot be made up. Late assignments will receive a reduction of 10 points per day, including weekends.

Grading Scale
540 - 600 points = A
480 - 539 points = B
420 - 479 points = C
360 - 419 points = D
359 points or below = F

Your individual grades are available to you on Blackboard. There will be percentages listed with the grades; however, you should disregard these percentages, as they will not include all assignments. Grades are posted when the assignments or exams are graded. Quizzes and exams taken online are automatically entered into the grade book. If you have any questions about your grade please contact me.

When final grades are submitted they will not be changed unless there was a computational error or other error on the part of the instructor.

Academic Honesty
All assignments and examinations must be the original work of the student. Proper credit must be given by use of quotation marks and references for any material the student does not personally create but wants to include. Copying any published or unpublished source is called plagiarism and will not be accepted in this course or at this university. Any work found to be plagiarized will result in immediate failure of this course. Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may be expelled, suspended, placed on probation or given a lesser sanction. See WKU Catalog, 2005-2007, p. 289 for additional information.

Student Disability Services
In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in Downing University Center, A-200. The phone number is 270 745 5004.

Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes or modify the course as deemed appropriate or necessary.