



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2026

CD1011 (A2): Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare – 2 (2-0-0) 30 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	LESLEY BRAZIER	PHONE:	780-539-2727
OFFICE:	H216	E-MAIL:	LBrazier@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Email instructor to set an appointment.		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course offers a broad overview of the field of early learning and childcare. Students will investigate historical factors that have shaped early childhood theory and practice and will examine a variety of program models and their goals. The roles and responsibilities of the early childhood educator and determinants of quality early childhood programs are also discussed. This course also introduces students to some of the agencies and resources that support the professional growth of early childhood educators.

PREREQUISITE(S):

- None

COREQUISITE(S):

- None

- Bertrand, J. (2022). *Becoming and Being an Early Childhood Professional* (2nd edition). Centage.
 - Although the instructor feels that all the material in the textbook is important and interesting, limited class time may prevent discussion of all the material covered in the text. You are responsible for learning textbook material that is not discussed in class.
- Binder with loose leaf

DELIVERY MODE(S):

- On-campus (face-to-face) courses are delivered on campus, and students are expected to attend in-person.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Identify historical influences on current early childhood theory and practice.
- Explain the need and benefits of affordable, accessible, high-quality childcare and early education programs in Canada.
- Outline the defining characteristics of various childcare and early education programs existing in Canada today and the challenges and rewards of working in each.; for example, play school, family day care, out-of-school care, preschool etc.
- Describe a variety of contemporary program models, their goals, and philosophies; for example, Montessori, Reggio Emilia, High Scope, Aboriginal Head Start, Forest Preschools etc.
- Identify the characteristics of high-quality early childhood programs, including the attributes required of the early childhood educator.
- Demonstrate understanding of ethics and professionalism in Early Learning and Child Care.
- Demonstrate an awareness of key agencies and resources available to early learning and childcare professionals in Canada to support their professional growth in the field.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS:

- Test #1 20%
- Test #2 20%
- Assignment #1 20%
- Assignment #2 25%
- In-Class Assignments 15%

Unless arrangements have been made with the instructor prior to the due date, late assignments will be docked 10% per day. If the assignment is not received within 5 days of the due date, a grade of 0% will be given.

Students will receive a mark of 0% if they miss a test/exam and have not notified the instructor in advance. If students must miss a test/exam due to extenuating circumstances, they should contact the instructor before the test deadline (as soon as possible) via email. They may be asked to provide documentation to justify their absence.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Grading Chart for courses with Alpha Grading:

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59

B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

- The course schedule/tentative timeline can be found on the course page.

Important Dates:

- Fall Orientation is Tuesday, September 1st, 2026
- First Day of Classes are Wednesday, September 2nd, 2026
- Labour Day is Monday, September 7th, 2026 (No classes)
- Last day to add/drop course, pay Fall fees, and opt out of student health/dental plan is Monday, September 14th, 2026
- National Day of Truth and Reconciliation is Wednesday, September 30th, 2026 (No classes).
- Thanksgiving is Monday, October 12th, 2026 (No classes)
- Fall Break is from Monday, November 11th, 2026– Friday, November 13th, 2026 (No classes this week)
- Last day to withdraw from classes is Friday, November 27th, 2026.
- Last day of classes is Wednesday, December 9th, 2026.
- Final exam week will take place from Saturday, December 12th– Saturday, December 19th, 2026. Students are advised to avoid making travel plans until final exam dates and locations have been set by the Registrar's Office mid-semester.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Refer to the NWP's Policy on [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).
- NWP's Department of Education offers an adult education environment. Therefore, students are expected to attend all classes and show respect for their instructor and fellow classmates. Students are expected to participate fully in achieving their educational goals.
- Students are expected to arrive to classes on time and to stay for the duration of the classes. As an instructor, I will begin and end classes on time as well as schedule breaks as needed. Habitually arriving late or leaving early is considered disrespectful of your instructor and fellow classmates' time.
- Students are expected to check the D2L/My-Class learning management system and NWP email every 1-2 days, excluding weekends. This will ensure that students stay informed concerning course updates, readings, and

announcements. It is the responsibility of the student, not the instructor, to print off readings and assignments from the course page as necessary.

- Students are expected to demonstrate academic integrity in their work. This means that students should be completing their weekly readings and submitting work that has been authentically produced or created by themselves.
- Students are expected to adhere to American Psychological Association (APA) 7th edition format and citation style for assignments. This means that students must include in-text citations and references if external sources of information are consulted and used in the production of their work.
- Generally, students should not be using Artificial Intelligence in the production of their test/exam responses, discussion posts, written work, and presentations. If the instructor has concerns regarding plagiarism, cheating, or inappropriate use of Artificial Intelligence in students' work, such instances will be treated seriously and in adherence to NWP's policies and procedures regarding academic misconducts.
- Unless arrangements have been made with the instructor prior to the due date, late assignments will be docked 10% per day. If the assignment is not received within 5 days of the due date, a grade of 0% will be given. Extensions will not be granted by the instructor on the days that assignments/tests are due.
- Students will receive a mark of 0% if they miss a test/exam and have not notified the instructor in advance. If students must miss a test/exam, they should contact the instructor before the test deadline (as soon as possible) via email. They may be asked to provide documentation to justify their absence.
- Please communicate with me via email for booking office appointments, excusable absences, and other communication or requests. Email is the fastest and most efficient way to get a hold of me. I will respond to email communication within 24-48 hours.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.