

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2026

CD1330 (A2): Understanding Children's Play – 3 (3.75-0-0) 45 Hours for 12 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: Lindsay Campbell
OFFICE: H217
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

PHONE:
E-MAIL: lcampbell@nwpolytech.ca

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course provides an introduction to the central role of play in early learning and child care settings, with an emphasis on developmentally appropriate, culturally sensitive practices. This course focuses on a number of topics including the nature, value, and types of play, as well as important theories and issues regarding play. Students will also learn about the role of the practitioner in play, including the use of appropriate observation and documentation to understand and support children's development through play.

PREREQUISITE(S): None

COREQUISITE(S): None

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Makovichuk, L., Hewes, J., Lirette, P., & Thomas, N. (2014). *Flight: Alberta's early learning and care framework*. <https://www.flightframework.ca>

DELIVERY MODE(S):

Lecture in addition to interactive learning opportunities presented in class. Audio-visual materials and additional readings will supplement the textbook.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain how attitudes, perceptions, and theories of play have changed over time and how they have influenced practice in Early Learning and Child Care.
- Define play and identify examples of play and non-play experiences.
- Explain how play-based programs meet children's developmental needs.
- Classify children's play episodes, using the categories of play identified by Parten and Piaget.
- Use appropriate observation and documentation tools and techniques to understand and interpret children's play.
- Articulate the role of the practitioner in facilitating, supporting, and extending children's play.
- Discuss current issues regarding children's play.

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	15%
Test #2	15%
Assignment #1	25%
Assignment #2	25%
In Class Activity	10%
Participation & Attendance:	10%

GRADING CRITERIA:

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

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:

Monday and Wednesday 8:30am-9:50am A301

Class #	Date	Topic/Assignment/Test	Required Readings
1	September 2 nd	Course Introduction	
2	September 9 th	The Foundation & What is PLAY?	
3	September 14 th	Types of Play	
4	September 16 th	Child Led VS Teacher Led	
5	September 21 st	Outdoor Play	Outdoor Class
6	September 23 rd	Outdoor Play- Risky Play	Article- <i>Healthy childhood development through outdoor risky play: Navigating the balance with injury prevention</i>



7	September 28 th	Test #1	<i>Sign up for Loose Parts Assignment Groups</i>
Truth & Reconciliation Day- NO CLASS	September 30th		
8	October 5 th	Loose Parts	<i>Article- Loose Parts: Inspiring Play in Young Children</i>
9	October 7 th	Loose Parts	
Thanksgiving- NO CLASS	October 12th		
10	October 14 th	Loose Parts	Assignment #1 Due
11	October 19 th	An Introduction to Flight- Alberta's Curriculum Framework	Pages 4-30
12	October 21 st	The Role of the Educator- A Practice of Relationships	Pages 50-56
13	October 26 th	The Image of the Child	Pages 38-47
14	October 28 th	Responsive Environments	Page 64-69
15	November 2 nd	Responsive Environments	
16	November 4 th	Test #2	
Fall Break- No Classes	November 9th & 11th		
17	November 16 th	Curriculum Meaning Making	
18	November 18 th	Dispositions of Learning	Pages 58-62



19	November 23 rd	Holistic Play Based Goals	
20	November 25 th	Documentation- Noticing, Naming and Nurturing	
21	November 30 th	<i>Loose Parts Kit</i> <i>Observations</i>	*Class time will be moved from 10- 11:20am*
22	December 2 nd	Documentation	
23	December 7 th	Documentation	
24	December 9 th	Documentation Presentations	Assignment #2 Due

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

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.

Additional Information:

Test(s)

You must be present in CD 1330 to write the test(s). If an absent is marked during dates where there will be a test and no communication has been made, then a resulting mark of zero will be recorded. To maintain academic integrity, respect students who are writing, and to conduct professionalism the door will be shut and locked at the start of the test. If the student is not in the class by the time the door is shut, the student will not be writing the test and will receive a grade of 0. Ensure to arrive early on test days and sort out transportation to campus prior to test dates to ensure you arrive early or on time. No technological devices (i.e. smart watches, headphones, phones, tablets, laptops etc.) will be permitted when the test is taking place and must be placed on a table at the front of the classroom turned off. Students are only permitted to have a home water bottle or coffee cup, pens and pencils on their desk space when writing tests. Tests end 5 minutes before the end of the class to ensure tests are handed in on time and there is no delay for the



following class. Warnings will be provided to students. If a student is still writing after the end time is called 5 points will be deducted from the test.

Assignments:

Assignment details will be discussed in class and provided on MyClass. Assignments must be submitted in the Dropbox on MyClass. Assignments must be submitted as a PDF or Word file to be accessible to the instructor and follow the templates provided in MyClass.

ALL assignments MUST be completed and turned in to pass the course. It is the students' responsibility to review marking rubrics to understand how they will be evaluated.

Unless arrangements have been made with the instructor 48 hours 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 must express concerns or questions 48 hours before the due date by emailing the instructor. I am here to support your success. You may book office hours to review concerns or questions. Please note I do not pre-grade assignments.

Extensions will be granted on an instructor's discretion. Valid reasons for asking for an extension include technological failure (may be used 1 time during the course), extreme illness or injury (doctors note will be required to verify at students' expense within 48 hours of notification), family or individual emergency or crisis. Extensions will not be granted due to poor time management, work schedule conflicts, or granted the due date of the Assignment.

AI & Turnitin

- Completing assignments is a critical part of learning and essential to the development of your professional practice as an educator. Therefore, in this course, all learners will pledge to use AI tools in ethical and appropriate ways.
 - For example, it would not be ethical or appropriate to use Generative Artificial Intelligence applications such as ChatGPT to write a draft of an assignment and submit it as your own work.
 - In comparison, it would be ethical and appropriate for you to use AI tools such as Spell Check or Grammarly to identify spelling and grammar errors in your own work so you can correct them before submission.
 - The use of Generative Artificial Applications such as ChatGPT without proper citation will be considered plagiarism and treated as such using Northwestern Polytechnic's Academic Misconduct Procedures. Assignments found to have been created using AI/bots will not be graded and no resubmissions will be accepted. Additional penalties may also be applied to your participation grade.
 - If you require additional clarity on the use of AI in this course, please reach out to your instructor. Assignments suspected or found to be created by AI will receive a mark of 0 with no opportunity to resubmit.

Additional Information



- **Names/Pronouns:** At the start of the course, my list of students' names is based on the register. If you would prefer to be called something else, please let me know, and I will adjust my list accordingly, and use your preferred name from that point on. You should feel free to use your preferred given name on all essays and submitted assignments. (If your preferred surname varies from the name under which you are registered, I may need occasional reminders.) If you want to tell me your pronouns, you should feel free to do so. I will respect your pronouns. All students are expected to respect their classmates' preferred names and pronouns.
- **Communication:** Please keep communication lines open. Ask questions, email me, seek me out and let me know if you are struggling with class content or deadlines. I am more than willing to help you in your learning so you can soak up all that there is to learn. However, I cannot help you if I do not know you need help. Communication is key!
- **Crisis Management:** I'm not a monster, but I'm not psychic, either. If something goes wrong in your life, I won't automatically know. If you let me know, I will work with you to help you keep up/catch up on the course. You are human and crises happen to us all. I will happily work with you to ensure they don't derail your academic career.
- **Grades:** How you do on assignments and in class has no bearing on how I view you as a person. Although marking can often be subjective, I do my utmost to grade the quality of the work based on the rubrics that are included. You are separate from your work, and we are entitled to bad days. Please understand that I am more interested in your learning/growth than your grades, as you should be too.
- **Students will be allowed to make one re-submission during the duration of the course. Re-submissions can only be completed for only assignments. There is only one resubmission. The resubmission is in place to help you apply feedback directly and increase your grade in the course. Students must notify the instructor via email when a re-submission is made so the instructor knows the student has resubmitted. In the email, the student must include the course number, the student's full name, the assignment details, and date of re-submission. Resubmissions are to be made individually, not as a group.**

USING PROCTORU:

This course uses ProctorU Live for online exams. To utilize this service, you are required to complete the following steps:

- Create a ProctorU account by clicking the ProctorU link in the course.
- Download and install the Guardian Web Browser, Google Chrome, and the ProctorU extension.
- Schedule each exam at least 3 days (72 hours) in advance. If you miss this deadline, you cannot take the exam.
- Pay for the proctoring service. The fees are exclusively your responsibility and in no event shall be the responsibility of Northwestern Polytechnic.

For more detailed instructions [click here](#), and for video instructions [click here](#).



Before each exam, you must complete a room scan with your web camera, during which you will show your surroundings to a live proctor.

The invigilator will ask to view (but not collect or store) your student identification to verify your identity and will remotely access your computer to unlock the exam. When monitoring your actions via video streaming, the invigilator may possibly record your actions if they suspect academic integrity behavioural issues. You will be verbally notified if/when recording begins.

The collection of and access to the personal information listed above is permitted under subsection 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, RSA 2000, c F-25, which states,

“No personal information may be collected by or for a public body unless that information relates directly to and is necessary for an operating program or activity of the public body.” In addition, subsection 39(4) states, “A public body may use personal information only to the extent necessary to enable the public body to carry out its purpose in a reasonable manner.”

Records Retention: Any video records of you created by ProctorU will be kept by ProctorU for a maximum of 7 days in order to make a decision about any possible academic integrity infraction, after which time it shall be permanently deleted. All other personal information collected and stored by ProctorU within your profile account will be permanently deleted if the account has not been used after one year.

Consent to Store Personal Information Outside Canada

ProctorU is an American company. An agreement is in place between ProctorU and Northwestern Polytechnic by which ProctorU will take reasonable steps to protect your personal information from unauthorized access and disclosure. Information about how ProctorU protects your privacy can be found in their [Privacy Policy](#).

By using the ProctorU service via Northwestern Polytechnic, you consent to the storage of and access to your personal information outside of Canada.

This consent is in effect from the day you register with ProctorU and expires one year after completion of your exam.

Additional privacy and liability information regarding the use of ProctorU is available on the NWP website.