

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2026

CD 2400 (A2): Outdoor Play and Nature-Based Learning 2 (3.75-0-0) 30 Hours for 8 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:

Kirsten Wiebe

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OFFICE: H218

E-MAIL:

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OFFICE HOURS:

Appointments
available upon
request

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: In this course, students will develop the skills and knowledge needed to plan, facilitate, and evaluate dynamic outdoor play experiences for young children. Building on foundational child development and play theories, the curriculum emphasizes balancing opportunities for risk-taking with the maintenance of a safe and supportive environment. Students will explore strategies for fostering inclusive, nature-based play spaces, develop a repertoire of outdoor activities and games adaptable to all seasons, and promote curiosity, independence, and environmental stewardship. Through reflective learning and collaborative activities, participants will gain the confidence and competence to create engaging outdoor experiences that support children's overall growth and well-being.

PREREQUISITE(S): Successful completion of all first-year courses or by consent of department.

COREQUISITE(S): None

REQUIRED MATERIALS: Appropriate outdoor clothing

DELIVERY MODE(S): In-person - classes will consist of lectures, group-work and discussions.

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

- Design, facilitate, and evaluate dynamic outdoor play experiences grounded in child development principles and play theories.
- Balance opportunities for risk-taking with a safe, supportive environment that meets the diverse needs of young children.
- Develop and apply a repertoire of outdoor activities and games suitable for all seasons to foster curiosity, independence, and environmental stewardship.
- Employ inclusive strategies to create welcoming, nature-based play spaces that respect cultural, linguistic, and individual differences.
- Engage in reflective and collaborative practices to continuously improve professional approaches and enhance overall well-being for children in outdoor settings.

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:

Journals: 60%

Outdoor Experience: 25%

Resource File: 15%

The completion of all assignments is mandatory to pass this course

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:

Week	Topic
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Week 1	Outdoor Play and Nature Based Learning
Week 2	Forest School
Week 3	Outdoor Preschool
Week 4	Schema Play Outdoors
Week 5	Loose Parts Outdoors
Week 6	Outdoor Games
Week 7	Weather
Week 8	Experiences

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Northwestern Polytechnic expects students' conduct to be in accordance with basic rights and responsibilities. Please refer to the NWP calendar regarding rights and 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 at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

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