

ECFS 200: Introduction to Early Childhood and Family Studies

Spring 2017 • University of Washington

Instructor: Mary Clevenger-Bright

Overview

This is a survey course that explores current practices, programs, and research in the field of early childhood and family studies from a bio-ecological perspective. The focus of the course is on understanding the biological child within family, community, cultural, political, and economic contexts, recognizing that development doesn't occur in isolation. This introductory course is suited to students wishing to integrate early childhood and family studies into their academic and professional careers. Each week students explore a different area of early childhood study including, child development, relationships and attachments, risk and resilience, mental and physical health, policy and advocacy, global diversity, quality teaching and learning, and early childhood education environments.

Role of Service-Learning in the Course

Students in this course are asked to engage the material, not only intellectually and analytically, but practically and personally. Through service learning, students will reflect on how, in their work with community partners, they see people's lives affected by both nature and nurture. Working in organizations that offer work with young children will give students a chance to apply first-hand all what we will learn on the course. Students who work with partners that serve people from a variety of backgrounds and cultures will gain perspectives on diversity and cultural-responsiveness, an important take-away in an increasingly multicultural world.

Assignments Related to Service-Learning

Throughout the quarter, there are various course related assignments which are outlined in the syllabus. The final assignment (and final presentation) is an in-depth reflection of each student's service learning experiences and how they connect their experience in the community to what was learnt in the classroom. Service learning based assignments account for one-third of the course grade.

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