

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK**



MASTER SYLLABUS

ECHD 285 – Issues and Policies in Early Care & Education

Created By: Maureen P. Maiocco, Ed.D.
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**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & LIBERAL ARTS
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT - EARLY CHILDHOOD
2006
Fall 2021**

A. **TITLE:** Issues and Policies in Early Care & Education

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** ECHD 285

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3 lecture hours per week for 15 weeks

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** Yes

E. **GER CATEGORY:** None

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall

G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this course, students will draw from academic, life, and coursework to explore current issues and policies in the field of early education and care. Social issues impacting the well-being of children, families, and the community will be explored. Students will research issues and investigate approaches to resolving some of these challenges.

H. **PRE-REQUISITES:**

ENGL 101; ECHD 101 or SOCI 101 or PSYC 101 or permission of instructor

CO-REQUISITES: NONE

I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

PLO 5 Identify and apply ways to advocate on behalf of children and families within the context of the personal and professional experience the student brings to the course as a result of their study, teacher preparation, and preservice professional goals.		
SLO	PLO	ISLO
a. Identify social and political barriers children and families encounter, and the cumulative effect of risk factors on short and long-term outcomes for young children.	5	4 Social Responsibility [GL]
b. Use resources (print, database, media, online) that provide current and accurate information on issues related to the well-being of children, families, early care and education.	5	4 [ER]
c. Examine issues involving children, families and educators through research and analysis.	5	4 [ER]
d. Identify ways to advocate on behalf of children and families within the context of both personal and professional experiences.	5	4 [T]

J. **APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:** Yes

Research

K. TEXTS:

Galinsky, E. (2010). *Mind in the making*. New York, NY: Harper Collins
Hayden, T.L. (1980). *One child*. New York, NY: Avon Books

L. REFERENCES

Paciorek, K. M. (2010-2018). *Annual Editions: Early Childhood Education*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill

Video Documentaries [options]:

Teaching Tolerance (2011). *Starting Small: Understanding differences*. Southern Poverty Law Center [documentary]

Teaching Tolerance (2011). *Bullying: A documentary*. Southern Poverty Law Center

Coles, R. (1995). *Listening to children*. Duke University: PBS Home Video [documentary]

Shapiro, A. (1999). *The children are watching*. The USAA Ed. Foundation: PBS [documentary]

Why Early Childhood Education Matters (2009). I am Your Child Campaign. [documentary]

Video: (1995). *Indictment: The McMartin trial*. New York, NY: HBO Home Video

M. EQUIPMENT: University Supplied Equipment

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:

Class participation, discussion, various course relevant assignments, reflective writing assignments based on class discussions, class presentations, presentations and readings; research paper, exams, quizzes

P. DETAILED TOPICAL OUTLINE:

I. The Context in Which Children Live

- a. The ecology of the child
- b. Subsets and relationships within the ecology
- c. Family systems theory
- d. The significance of the “community”
- e. Attitudes, beliefs, and values as forces for change

II. The Basic Needs of Children

- a. Ongoing nurturing relationships
- b. Physical protection, health, safety, regulation
- c. Respect for individual differences
- d. Richard Lavoie: How Difficult Can This Be? Workshop
- e. Developmentally appropriate experiences
- f. Expectations, structure, limit-setting
- g. Stable supportive communities
- h. Cultural relevance

III. Exploring Controversial Issues in Early Childhood Education

- a. Maternal Employment
- b. Children and Computers
- c. Time-Out and Discipline
- d. Television Viewing and Violence
- e. Spanking and Paddling
- f. Parent Participation in Schools
- g. Kindergarten Screening and Age
- h. Full Day vs. Part Day Kindergarten
- i. Class Size
- j. Grade Retention
- k. Multi-Age Classrooms

IV. Concerns in Early Care & Education

- a. Curriculum shove down & expectations
- b. Childcare needs, options, cost & quality
- c. Liability & risk
- d. Case Studies: The McMartin & Amirault Child Care Trials
- e. Children & families at risk
- f. No Child Left Behind
- g. Advocacy & professional responsibility

V. Challenges Families and Children Face in Today's Society

- a. The changing face of American society
- b. Documentary: The Children Are Watching
- c. Stressors on families
- d. Stressors on children
- e. Documentary: Listening to Children
- f. Implications on teachers

VI. Shaping a Better Future for Children

- a. Policies and initiatives
- b. Resources and support for children and families
- c. Early Childhood Educators: Respect, Support & Compensation
- d. How can we have an impact as individuals?
- e. Defining our moral and ethical responsibility