

ELIS 2601 - Development, Learning and the Arts

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 03, CRN 41869,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Crystal Ratican

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Public Instructor Information

Professor: Dr. Crystal L. Ratican

Professional Qualifications:

Ph. D., Early Childhood Education, Walden University

Master's, Reading and Literature, Walden University

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Course Description

2601. Development, Learning and the Arts. This course examines the theoretical foundations and application of developmental and post-developmental pedagogical approaches to whole child education and the arts in the P-2 classroom. Candidates will explore a variety of arts-based, play-based, relational, and interdisciplinary teaching strategies that respond to contemporary educational research in early childhood education. Field hours required. Prereq.: EDFN 1501. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Child Development: An Active Learning Approach	Levine, L. E., & Munsch, J.	

Levine, L. E., & Munsch, J. (2022). *Child Development: An Active Learning Approach*

(4th ed.). SAGE Publications.

National Association for the Education of Young Children. (2022). *Developmentally*

Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children from Birth

Through Age 8 (4th ed.). NAEYC.

Whole Child Education. <http://www.wholechildeeducation.org/>

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Levine Ch. 1—Issues and Themes in Child Development Levine Ch. 2—Theories of Development DAP Text Ch. 3 Appendix	Course Overview Module 1 Introduction to Child Development	Quiz 1



8/31	Levine Ch. 4—Nature Through Nurture DAP Text Ch. 2 – The Principles in Practice: Understanding Child Development and Learning in Context	Module 2 Nature/Nature Child Development in Context	Quiz 2 Assignment: Practical Application of Early Childhood Development Theory
9/7		Module 2 Nature/Nature Child Development in Context	
9/14	Levine Ch. 7—Cognitive Development Levine Ch. 8—Intelligence and Academic Achievement Levine Ch. 9—Language Development	Module 3 Cognitive and Language Development	Quiz 3 Assignment: Cognitive and Language Development
9/21		Module 3 Cognitive and Language Development	
9/28	https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-topic/arts-education https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Fine-Arts/Fine-Arts-Standards	Module 4 Development through the Arts	Quiz 4 Assignment: Development Through the Arts Lesson
10/5		Module 4 Development through the Arts	
10/12	Levine Ch. 10—Emotional Development and Attachment Levine Ch. 12—Social Development	Module 5 Social and Emotional Development	Quiz 5
10/19	DAP Text Ch. 3 – Context Matters: Reframing Teaching in Early Childhood Education DAP Text Ch. 6 – Creating a Caring, Equitable Community of Learners	Module 6 Creating a Caring, Equitable Community of Learners	Quiz 6 Assignment: Lesson to develop social/emotional skills
10/26	https://www.naeyc.org/resources/topics/special-education	Module 7 Welcoming Children with Special Needs	Quiz 7 Assignment: Screening Assessment
11/2	Whole Child Education website: wholechildevelopment.org Field Work (10 hours)	Module 8 The Whole Child Approach to Child Development	Quiz 8 Assignment: Field Journal Entries
11/9	Module 9 Introduction to Planning and Implementing Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum	Module 9 Introduction to Planning and Implementing Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum	Quiz 9 Assignment: DAP Critical Task Lesson Plans
11/16		Module 9 Introduction to Planning and Implementing Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum	
11/23	Levine Ch. 13 – Partnering With Families DAP Text Ch. 7 – Engaging in Reciprocal Partnerships with Families and Fostering Community Connections	Module 10 Partnering with Families	Assignment: Communication
11/30		Module 10 Partnering with Families	
12/7	Final Exam	Course Conclusion	Final Exam

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