



**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO**  
**College of Education- Department of Teacher Education**

<b>Title of Course:</b> ECED 4357 CRN: 35949 Play and Learning in the Early Years	<b>Credits:</b> 3
<b>Semester:</b> Summer 2021	<b>Instructor Information:</b> Name: Dr. Jessica Slade PhD Office: EDUC 603 Office hours: emails will be answered within 24-48 hours Monday –Friday 9am-4pm MT. Email: <a href="mailto:jdgaines@utep.edu">jdgaines@utep.edu</a>
<b>Day/Time:</b> Online	

**Course Description:**

This course focuses on promoting and guiding children's play as a fundamental learning mechanism within culturally and linguistically diverse early elementary classrooms. It covers research and theories of play; strategies, materials, and activities that support and encourage play and creativity; and the role of play-based instructional approaches in fostering learning across all academic content areas. Students will design learning experiences that emphasize play, multi-sensory engagement and active, hands-on problem-solving to promote early learning and growth in all developmental domains.  
 Pre-Req: Junior or Senior Status

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

<b>COURSE SPECIFIC STANDARDS ECED 4357 students will be able to:</b>	<b>Measurements (means of assessment for student learning outcomes listed in first column)</b>
1. Evaluate the role of play in the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of young children.	Play History Paper; Jigsaw work; Play Activities; Final Project
2. Analyze biological and socio-cultural theories and related empirical research regarding play in the early years.	Jigsaw work;
3. Critically examine various approaches to play and its application in early childhood settings.	All ECED 4357 Assignments
4. Explain the role of play-based curriculum in promoting both developmentally appropriate and standards-based learning.	All ECED 4357 Assignments
5. Appraise the benefits of using play-centered assessments with children from diverse families and backgrounds.	Jigsaw work; Final Project
6. Design meaningful learning experiences for culturally and linguistically diverse learners that emphasize play, multi-sensory integration, and active problem solving to promote development in all domains (cognitive, language, social/emotional and physical).	Content Connection, Play Activities, Final Project
7. Articulate a definition of play and its function in classroom practice in his/her personal teaching philosophy.	Play History Paper; Final Project

### Texas Teacher Standards:

TEXAS TEACHING STANDARDS ECE 4357 students will be able to:	Measurements (means of assessment for student learning outcomes listed in first column)
1. 1.B.i. Teachers plan instruction that is developmentally appropriate, is standards driven, and motivates students to learn.	Play Activities; Final Project
1.E.i. Teachers set high expectations and create challenging learning experiences for students, encouraging them to apply disciplinary and cross-disciplinary knowledge to real-world problems.	Jigsaw work; Play Activities; Final Project
1.E.ii. Teachers provide opportunities for students to engage in individual and collaborative critical thinking and problem solving.	All ECED 4357 Assignments
2.B.i. Teachers connect learning, content, and expectations to students' prior knowledge, life experiences, and interests in meaningful contexts.	Play History Paper; Play Activities; Jigsaw work; Final Project, Content Connection
2.C.i. Teachers understand how learning occurs and how learners develop, construct meaning, and acquire knowledge and skills.	Jigsaw work;
3.B.i. Teachers organize curriculum to facilitate student understanding of the subject matter.	All ECED 4357 assignments
6.B. Teachers collaborate with their colleagues, are self-aware in their interpersonal interactions, and are open to constructive feedback from peers and administrators.	All ECED 4357 assignments

### Required Text & Readings:

You will need to bring your text book with you to every class.

1. Van Hoorn, J., Monighan-Nourot, P., Scales, B., & Rodriguez Alward, K. (2015). *Play at the Center of the Curriculum*, Sixth Edition. Boston: Pearson, ISBN 10: 0133461769
2. Other readings provided electronically on Blackboard

### Required Supplies

You will need the following supplies at some point during the semester:

- Recycled materials such as toilet paper tubes, cardboard, etc.
- tape and glue
- small ball such as a marble, or ping pong ball, or similar size
- multisensory materials (shaving cream, playdough, or other types of sensory materials)
- Corn Starch
- Paper for drawing (could be computer paper)
- Coloring tools (markers, crayons, or colored pencils)
- Other supplies as needed (may be recycled materials or purchased for less than \$5 at the dollar store)

**Standards of academic integrity:** Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of scholastic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are not attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit

such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP) and available in the Office of the Dean of Students, may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to failing grades on the work in question, to failing grades in the course, to suspension or dismissal among others.

**Students with Disabilities statement:** If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) located in Union E Room 106. Students who have been designated as having a disability must reactivate their standing with CASS on a yearly basis. Failure to report to this office will place a student on the inactive list and nullify benefits received. If you have a condition which may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or which may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of CASS. You may call 915-747-5148 for general information about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

**Evaluation & Coursework Requirements of Students:**

<u>Coursework Requirements</u>		<u>How Grades are Determined</u>	
Syllabus Quiz (pass or fail)	P/F	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Earned Points</b>
Jigsaw	210 Points	A	90 -100
Content Connection	60 Points	B	80- 89
Play	420 Points	C	70- 79
Play History Paper	100 Points	D	60- 69
Final Project	210 Points	F	Below 60
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000 Points</b>		

**Syllabus Quiz**

You will take the syllabus quiz the first week of class. You can take it as many times needed but you will need to pass this quiz to continue in the class in good standing.

**Jigsaw Assignments**

You will a total of 14 jigsaw assignments worth 15 points each (15 x 14 = 210). Each chapter has a jigsaw assignment to accompany it. Week 1 you will be assigned a letter, and you will only need to answer the questions/prompts for that letter. You will submit these in the discussion board by Friday, 11:59pm MT each week. You will also respond by Sunday, 11:59pm MT. You will also be put into groups beginning week 2. Specific directions and rubrics are found on BlackBoard.

**Content Connection**

Content Connection assignments will focus on aligning the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) to classroom practices and activities. You will have a total of 5 Content Connection assignments worth 12 points each (5 x 12 = 60). Specific directions and rubrics are found on BlackBoard.

**Play Assignments**

You will have a total of 14 activities worth 40 points each (30 x 14 = 420). Unless otherwise noted, these assignments will be in the discussion board. Specific directions and rubrics are found on BlackBoard.

**Play History Paper**

The Play History Paper will act as your midterm for this course. It will be due in Week 4, but you can begin working on this at any time. Specific directions and rubrics are found on BlackBoard.

**Final Project**

You will not have a Final exam for this course, instead you will be required to complete a practical based project. This project will be due Week 8. Specific directions and rubrics are found on BlackBoard.

**Class Schedule:** Please note that the schedule below is subject to change.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Tasks to Complete</b>	<b>Points</b>
Week 1 (6/7-6/13)	Welcome to Playful learning	PLAY: Are we what we play?	30
		QUIZ: Syllabus	P/F
	Are we built to play?	JIGSAW: Chapter 2	15
Week 2 (6/14-6/20)	The Literature	PLAY: Personal Play History	30
		JIGSAW: Chapter 3	15
	What does play and learning look like?	PLAY: Observing Children in Play	30
		JIGSAW: Chapter 1	15
Week 3 (6/21-6/27)	Physical Space	PLAY: Mead Mandala	30
		JIGSAW: Chapter 4	15
	The Teacher's Role	PLAY: Physical Space	30
		JIGSAW: Chapter 5	15
Week 4 (6/28-7/4)	Assessment	PLAY: Types of play	30
		JIGSAW: Chapter 6	15
	Play and Socialization	JIGSAW: Chapter 11	15
		PLAY: The Stop Light	30
Week 5 (7/5-7/11)	Does play belong in "real" teaching?	Play History Paper (Midterm)	100
		JIGSAW: Chapter 14	15
	The Arts	PLAY: Teacher's Role	30
		JIGSAW: Chapter 10	15
Week 6 (7/12-7/18)	Mathematics	PLAY: 6 Objects	30
		Content Connection	8
		JIGSAW: Chapter 7	15
	Language and Literacy	PLAY: Ramps and Pathways	30
		Content Connection	8
		JIGSAW: Chapter 8	15
Week 7 (7/19-7/25)	Science	PLAY: Multisensory Literacy	30
		Content Connection	8
		JIGSAW: Chapter 9	15
	Outdoor Play	PLAY: Oobleck	30
		Content Connection	8
		JIGSAW: Chapter 12	15
Week 8 (7/26-8/1)	Toys and Technology	PLAY: Outdoor Play	30
		Content Connection	8
		JIGSAW: Chapter 13	15
	Final Project	Course Evaluation	25 EC
Week 8 (7/26-8/1)	Toys and Technology	PLAY: Toys	30
		Final Project Part 1: Learner Profile	75
	Final Project	Final Project Part 2: Complete Day	135