

ELCC 330

Ecology of the Family

3 credits, 45 hours lecture

This course provides an overview of the family in today's society and increases the students' understanding of family dynamics and diversity. The focus is on the ecology of the family with particular reference: poverty, affluence, violence, the women's movement and the child's rights. A collaborative approach to family- staff communication and involvement will be applied. 'A Practice of Relationships' from the Alberta Curriculum Framework will also be explored.

Prerequisite: ELCC Certificate or equivalent

NOTE: Not available to students with credit in ELCC 303 and ELCC 304.

Instructor

Veronica Doleman

CC 202A

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Office Hours

Tuesday 5:45pm – 6:15pm

Thursday 5:45pm – 6:15pm

Saturdays when there are face-to-face classes: 8:15am – 8:45am

No office hours available on October 3, 8, 10; email support will be available.

Delivery Method and/or Hours of Instruction:

This will be a blended course with approximately 75% online and 25% face-to-face, with the possibility of video-conference participation.

Saturday 9:00am – 12:00pm

September 14 and 28 October 19 and 26

Classroom: S110

Required Resources

Wilson, L. (2018). *Partnerships: Families and communities in Canadian early childhood education (5th ed.)*. Toronto, Canada: Nelson.

Makovichuk, L., Hewes, J., Lirette, P., & Thomas, N. (2014). *Flight: Alberta's early learning and care framework*. Retrieved from flightframework.ca

Makovichuk, L., Hewes, J., Lirette, P., & Thomas, N. (2014). *Play, participation, and possibilities: An early learning and child care curriculum framework for Alberta*. Retrieved from www.childcareframework.com

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student shall be able to:

- Describe the range of perspectives for understanding the family, including the family systems and ecological approaches.
- Define the nature, dynamics, and development of the modern family.
- Explain how to support the socialization role of the family.
- Discuss how to establish and support collaborative relationships between families and the early childhood program.
- Apply specific ways of enhancing family-staff communication to one's unique work situation.
- Summarize the influences on the family including government policies (local, provincial and national) and societal trends such as the women's movement.
- Develop sensitivity to support families facing challenges of families such as: separation and divorce, blending families, single and teenage parenting, special needs parenting, LGBTQ, poverty, death, violence and abuse.
- Utilize 'A Practice of Relationships' from the Alberta Curriculum framework to describe values for meaningful family relationships.

The class will proceed throughout the semester according to the needs, skills and interests of the group. Each group of people presents a unique blend of personalities and abilities. Accordingly, the course content will reflect the needs and nature of the group and the individuals within the group.

Evaluation: *detailed assignment instructions and rubrics will be handed out in class.*

Assignment	Value
<p>Parent Involvement Project:</p> <p>Using the texts, and online resources, design a questionnaire that will give you important information about the needs and interests of the families with whom you work. Distribute the questionnaire to a member of at least five families.</p> <p>Tabulate the results and develop two goals that would help meet the needs of families, and provide detailed strategies in which those objectives would be met.</p> <p>Prepare an information sheet for the family members outlining different ways they can be involved in the program.</p> <p>Develop a set of guidelines that could be used by family members when they are directly involved in the program.</p>	<p>15%</p>
<p>Planning a Meeting:</p> <p>Using the texts, and online resources, students will plan and prepare for a parent meeting. Students will be able to choose the scenario from a list posted on iLearn. Students will address the problem identified, while including all the components and qualities of a successful meeting.</p>	<p>10%</p>
<p>Parent Conference (In class):</p>	<p>25%</p>

Assignment	Value
<p>In class students will role play both the family members and the teacher in different common practice scenarios. Students will be graded on three aspects: their participation as a family member, their role as a 'teacher' and their reflection on the process.</p>	
<p>Family Challenges:</p> <p><i>The purpose:</i> This ongoing project has two purposes: to extend your learning and the evaluation of your learning.</p> <p>Your goal should be to use the assignment to really understand the key aspects of the current challenges which face families in care, and to demonstrate your understanding to your instructor.</p> <p><i>What you will do:</i> Focus on challenges which one or more families in your program are presently facing.</p> <p>Access and review a range of current sources.</p> <p>Prepare an organized informative handout for the class summarizing your findings. DO NOT forget to document your sources.</p> <p>You will be required to lead a class discussion on your project, which will be part of your grade.</p>	<p>30%</p>
<p>Online course activities</p> <p>Students will engage in various online tasks, including discussion forums, resource contributions and interactive activities.</p>	<p>20%</p>

The minimum passing grade for this course is a C- (60%), which is required for progression or transfer.

Grading System

Legend			
Percentage Scale	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale	Descriptor
94-100	A+	4.0	Excellent
	A	4.0	
90-93	A-	3.7	
86-89	B+	3.3	Good
80-85	B	3.0	
75-79	B-	2.7	
70-74	C+	2.3	Satisfactory
65-69	C	2.0	
60-64	C-	1.7	
56-59	D+	1.3	Poor
50-55	D	1.0	Minimum Pass
0-49	F	0.0	Failure

Proposed Schedule of Topics

1. Perspectives for understanding the family

2. Family systems
3. Ecological Model
4. Influences on the family including government policy and societal trends
5. Nature and dynamics of the family
6. The socialization process and supporting families through the process
7. Establishing supporting, collaborative relationships with families
8. Supporting families through challenges
9. Using practice of relationships from Play, Participation, and Possibilities.

Please Note:

Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change. **Please reference the ELCC 330 Course Schedule Document in the Course Orientation section of Moodle for proposed schedule and assessment key dates.**

Performance Requirements

Student Responsibilities

It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College credit calendar.

More specific details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a students' learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and / or notes that may be due.

Academic Misconduct

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating)
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- Substitution in an examination by another person
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on ilearn.keyano.ca. Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors. Your course work will not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

Specialized Supports

The Student Academic Support Services (SASS) department: Accessibility Services, Skill Centre and Wellness Services, work together to support student success at Keyano College.

Accessibility Services (CC167) supports student success through group and individualized instruction of learning, study and test taking strategies, and adaptive technologies. Students with documented disabilities, or who suspect a disability, can meet with the Learning Strategists to discuss accommodation of the learning barriers that they may be experiencing. Students who have accessed accommodations in the past are encouraged to visit our office at their earliest opportunity to discuss the availability of accommodations in their current courses. Individual appointments can be made by calling 780-791-8934

Skill Centre (CC119) provides a learning space where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff. Students visiting the centre have access to one-to-one or group tutoring, facilitated study groups, and assistance in academic writing. The Skill Centre's Peer Tutor program provides paid employment opportunities for students who have demonstrated academic success and want to share what they have learned. Tutoring is available free to any students registered at Keyano College on a drop in basis, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Additional evening hours are subject to tutor availability and are posted in the Skill Centre.

Wellness Services (CC260) offers a caring, inclusive, and respectful environment where students can access free group and individual support to meet academic and life challenges. Mental Health Coordinators offer a safe and confidential environment to seek help with personal concerns. The Mindfulness Room in CC260 is available as a quiet space for students to relax during regular office hours. Wellness Service welcomes students to participate in any of the group sessions offered throughout the academic year addressing such topics as Mindfulness and Test Anxiety. Individual appointments can be made by calling 780-791-8934.

Student Life Department (CC210) is a place for students to go when they don't know who else can answer their questions. The staff will help students navigate barriers to success and if they don't know the answer, they will find it out. Student success is directly affected by how connected a student feels to their college. The student life department is there to help students get connected

Please watch your Keyano email for workshop announcements from our Student Academic Support Services team.