EDEC 510 - Family Dynamics in Early Childhood Education

(Fall, 09, Monday, Wednesday, 8-9:15 am in Wardlaw 110)
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Kevin J. Swick, Professors - Early Childhood
Wardlaw 106, 777-5278, or cell phone 803-238-6082
Email: kswick@mailbox.sc.edu
Mailbox is in Wardlaw 107 and Mail Drop on Outside Wall of my Office

I. Description: (3) Seminar and practicum/service learning experiences addressing principles, practices, and content of family life curriculum as related to young children’s learning. Parent/family interview process used to support development of family involvement competence in students.

Course information: Course is for (3) semester hours credit and provides a foundation for using family life knowledge in relating to and involving young children and families in effective ways.

II. Goals / Learning Outcomes

1) Using self-reflection, the parent/family interview, observation and study of families, text readings, and class presentations, develop an understanding of the dynamics of family functioning within today's society. (Text, Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2)

2) Using class presentations, the parent/family interview, and text readings, develop an understanding of parenting within the contexts of family, school, community and work. (Text, chapter 4)

3) Using class presentations, the parent/family interview, self-reflection, text readings and service learning assignment, develop and enrich your understanding of family differences - inclusive of strengths and needs and strategies to promote family empowerment. (Text, chapter 3)

4) Using class presentations, the parent/family interview, service learning experiences, and text readings, develop an understanding of how to use parent education and family support strategies such as home visiting, group meetings, parent networking, mentoring programs, and community services. (Text, chapter 4)

5) Using all course resources/experiences, develop strategies for crafting strong family-school relations. (Text, chapter 5)

6) Using all course resources/experiences, develop an understanding of family-school and parent-teacher communication skills and processes. (Text, chapter 6)

7) Using all course resources/experiences, develop and enrich your understanding of assessment strategies for use in supporting family and school efforts to nurture children's learning and development. (Text, chapter 7)

8) Using all course resources/experiences, develop and enrich your understanding of relating to and supporting families of different cultures. (Text, chapter 3)
9) Using all course resources/experiences, **develop an understanding of ways to use technology to strengthen parent-teacher relationships.** (Text, chapter 8)

**III. Required readings:**


*Parent/family interview assignment packet (passed out at first class session)  
*Course handouts that go with designated chapters

**IV. Academic Course Requirements and Assessments**

1) **Mid Term** covers goals 1, 2, and 3 and 4.

2) **Parent/family interview** is a continuing assignment in the course. The assignment package is due by the final examination – see exact due dates in the assignment package.

3) **Service Learning Journal** - *The service-learning assignment is intended to help students develop parent, child, and family learning understandings. Thus, in your service-learning journal you must include reflections on your interactions with PARENTS, CHILDREN, AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS in relation to their development and growth.* Further, during your service-learning be sure to connect observations and experiences of parents, children, and family with your in-class discussion and with the course readings. Service-learning assignments will help you with your parent and family interview work, and wherever you can link the two assignments together please do so.

4) **Final exam** covers goals 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9

**V. Administrative Course Requirements**

Class Attendance: The University’s attendance policy is adhered to in this course.

Completion of Assignments: All assignment due dates are noted on the class schedule and please comply with these dates.

You must complete all course assignments to receive a grade in this course.
VI. Evaluating and Grading

Evaluation and Grading

Evaluation Rubric:

Mid-term= 35
Final= 30
Service Learning= 60
Parent / Family Interviews= 75
TOTAL POINTS 200

Grading Scheme:
A= 180 plus
B+= 170-179
B= 160-169
C+= 150-159
C= 140-149
D+= 130-139
D= 120-129
F= below 120

VII. Major Topics of the Course

*Understanding family dynamics
*Relating to Family Differences (Types, Cultural Factors, Stressors)
*How cultural factors influence family dynamics
*Parenting across cultures
*Key parenting goals and roles
*Parent education / family strengthening
*Parent support through technologies
*Parent and family strengthening
*Parent and family partnership building
*Involving communities
*Strategies for involving hard to reach families
*Resources for strengthening family-school-community partnerships
*Evaluating parent and family programs
*Using technology to develop partnerships

VIII. Modes of Instruction

*Lecture / demonstration
*Small group discussions
*Video demonstrations
*Service learning assignments
*Parent/family interview process
*Journaling
IX. Brief Bibliography


PARENT/FAMILY INTERVIEW: AN EMPOWERING EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE (EDEC 510)

Through this assignment you are expected to gain insights into parental and family views about parenting and family life while also acquiring skills for being supportive of families and nurturing strength in families. You will completed all steps in the assignment rubric - SEE the “Parent / Family Interview Packet” – Approximately 10 – 15 hours of interaction and planning time is spent in completing this assignment, not including the time you spend writing up your reports. Be sure to get your parent/family interview assignment packet.
EDEC 510 -- Service Learning Journal

A complete record of observation notes on all of your visits to your service learning site plus a comprehensive reflection/reaction to your experience is required for an A grade.

A summary of the service learning experience receives a C or B grade.

Select a service learning site from the following or you may choose a site you wish but have it approved by the instructor. 15 Hours of Service Learning is required.

The Nurturing Center (Carolyn Dorrell), 1332 Pickens St. (7714160) *Must do the volunteer training session.

Children's Garden (Harriet Atkinson), (333-0608)

USC Children's Center (Director), USC Campus on Blossom Street. (777-5733)

Or other approved service learning site!!!

NOTE: Be sure to have your service learning form signed and completed as attached.

Note: Your service learning journal should include an entry for each site visit that includes a summation of your experience that day at the site, and an elaborate reflection piece that talks about what you learned from the experience. These entries should be elaborate and detailed to receive optimal grade points. At the end of the experience you should write up a 3 page reflection essay on your overall experience.
EDEC 510 SERVICE LEARNING CONTRACT

NAME____________________________________________________

Arrangements have been made at the following program or school to carry out my
service learning work:

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

Student signature (turn in by Mid-January)

Give specific site (address, phone), supervisor, and specific
times etc you will be at the site.
EDEC 510 SERVICE LEARNING VERIFICATION FORM

Name__________________________________________________

Service Learning Program or School__________________________
________________________________________________________________

Dates/times Participated________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

I confirm that the above information is correct and accurate as completion of my service learning assignment.

_____________________________________ Date_________
Student signature

_____________________________________ Date_________
Supervisors signature