CHLD 353, Methods of Inquiry
Section 1-2, Spring 2015

Instructor: Dr. Shepherd
Office location: Modoc 103
Telephone: 530.898.4696 (do not leave voicemails)
E-Communication: Use Class Email in Blackboard Learn.
Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 11:00 – 11:50am, 2:00 – 3:00pm
Thursdays 2:00 – 3:00pm;
Class days and times: Mon and Wed 12:00pm – 1:50 pm
Classroom: Modoc 120 or Butte 207 (Computer Lab)
Prerequisites: ENGL 130; Math 110 or Math 111 for Liberal Studies majors; CHLD 250 or CD 252; and CD 251

Required Texts/Readings

Other required readings (or supplemental readings)
Available in the Learning Modules of BB Learn

Blackboard Learn
Copies of the course syllabus and Class Schedule may be found on the Course Content Page of BB Learn. You are responsible for regularly checking the online resources, which are accessed through the Chico State Portal at [http://portal.csuchico.edu](http://portal.csuchico.edu).

Class Announcements – Check Every Time you Log In
Check Daily and Every Time you Log In
Be sure to check the first link on the left “Notifications”. In here you'll see My Announcements (for all students). Class Email is email communication for specific students. To ensure that you are always prepared be sure that you print and follow the Class Schedule!!

The Class Schedule
contains a weekly schedule of topics that will be covered in class, required readings, and due dates for class activities, assignments, and exams. This schedule is subject
to change at the discretion of the professor. Updates or changes to the class schedule will be announced if needed.

**Course Description and Goals**

Students will increase their knowledge and application of critical thinking skills while learning the fundamentals of scientific methodology. This knowledge base includes quantitative and qualitative research methods, quantitative skills in measurement of theoretical constructs, statistical analysis, and interpretation of statistical results. These skills will be applied through reviewing and evaluating published research articles, individual writing assignments, practice worksheets, and exams. Competencies acquired in this course will be applied in subsequent child development classes.

**Student Learning Objectives and Course Learning Outcomes**

**Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:**

- demonstrate an understanding of, and ability to apply scientific methods of thinking (including logic and empirical reasoning) about children and families
- differentiate between their personal and subjective theories about children’s development and scientific theories of development rooted in empirical research
- understand ethical research practices in working with children and families and in disseminating research.
- demonstrate currency in information technology by locating scholarly works used in child development and effectively using software such as SPSS and Word
- demonstrate an understanding of the ethical use of technology
- compute basic descriptive and inferential statistics
- understand both qualitative and quantitative research designs
- evaluate research studies in terms of validity, reliability, and generalizability
- prepare a literate and coherent literature review, propose hypotheses, and appropriate methodology on a particular topic in the field of child development, report results and discuss implications of your research study using APA guidelines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Application and Practice: Class Activities</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Writing Assignments + Final Research Paper</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Statistical worksheets</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Exams (2 @ 75 points each)</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Research Paper Preparation Assignments</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
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**CHLD 353: Overview of Assignments, Exams, Final Research Paper**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Writing assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment One- (Individual)</td>
<td>35 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment Two: Two article summaries (Partner)</td>
<td>30 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment Three: Four article summaries (Partner)</td>
<td>55 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title Page, Topic Introduction, Study Rationale, Citation</td>
<td>25 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Purpose, 4 Hypotheses, 1 Research Q, References (Partner)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Paper:</strong></td>
<td>155 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract, Literature Review, Appendix (Partner)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method Section  (Partner)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results, Discussion (Partner)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner Ratings: Participation, Time Management, Quality</td>
<td>percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points for Writing Assignments and Research Paper</strong></td>
<td>300 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statistics Worksheets (35 points total)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics Worksheet 1 (5 points + SPSS 2 points)</td>
<td>7 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics Worksheet 2</td>
<td>7 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistic Worksheet 3</td>
<td>7 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistic Worksheet 4</td>
<td>7 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistic Worksheet 5</td>
<td>7 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Exams (150 points total)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>75 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>75 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research paper Preparation (30 points total)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Assignment One</td>
<td>5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft &amp; FB: Title, Introduction, References</td>
<td>5 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft FB: Method</td>
<td>5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft FB: Results and Tables</td>
<td>5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft FB: Discussion and Abstract</td>
<td>5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft FB: Review of full research paper</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>In-class Activities</strong></td>
<td>40 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td>~560 points</td>
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**Please Note:** Your enrollment in this class implies that you agree to these requirements. Do not ask for these requirements to change due to your personal circumstances; such requests are unfair to your fellow students and are contrary to University policies.

**Grading Policy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86-83</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Updated grades will be available through Blackboard Learn My Grades. Your current class percentage may change with each assignment or exam. If you have questions or concerns about your grades, please contact me.

The Child Development Program requires that a student must receive a C- or better in this course to continue in the major. Students who receive a C- or better in CHLD 353 are automatically certified as having satisfied the minimum graduation writing requirements of the Child Development major. Students who receive a grade lower than C- must repeat this course until they earn a grade of C- or better.

Please understand that assessments of writing and content are not scored separately. Competent understanding of content is only possible if one can communicate well in writing, and competent writing is only possible if one understands the content. Students are responsible for all material covered in class whether present or not. In order to earn a passing grade in this course, students’ cumulative points earned on all assignments must be equal to 70% (C-) or higher.

Certain mandatory courses in the major will be denied while this requirement is being met. Entrance to CD 392, 440, 492 and CD 495 requires that a student have a C- or better in the following course clusters: [251, 353] and [250/252, 251, 352, 353, and PSY 355].

**Classroom Protocol**

You are expected to be considerate of others at all times by being on time and seated when class begins; remaining in your seat until class is dismissed (except in the event of an emergency); and refraining from talking or causing distractions when others are speaking.

**Cell phones, texting, and laptop classroom rules**

- Turn off your cell phones or set them on silent mode when you come to class.
- Text messaging will not be tolerated in class; any student found to be sending or checking text messages during class will be invited (publicly) to make a choice either to cease the texting or leave the classroom.
- DO NOT use your laptop in class unless obtaining specific permission from the instructor and then laptops can only be used for activities directly related to this class.
All assignments are due by noon on their due dates. Assignments turned in after 12pm will accrue late points or earn no points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How Late?</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 24 hours</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-48 hours</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49 hours +</td>
<td>No Credit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The Writing Assignments and the Final Research Paper will be accepted after the due date, but will be penalized 10% per day late, up to a maximum of 20%. Weekend days are counted. **No papers will not be accepted for credit more than 2 days after the due date.**

2. LATE or absent in-class activities, drafts of the writing assignments, and sections of the research report, peer feedback for another student’s research paper, and statistic worksheets **will earn no points and will not be accepted.**

3. The Library Assignment can be turned in late for feedback only, no points will be earned.

4. Students will bring required materials to class every time.

5. Students repeating CHLD 353 **must choose a different topic for their research paper and complete related assignments** (i.e., the Library Assignment and Writing Assignments) **using the new topic.**

6. Students should seek assistance for specific questions regarding their papers, but the professor will NOT proof read or edit whole sections of paper drafts prior to their due date.

7. **Your work must be original and independently written.**

7. Make-up for midterm will be allowed if students can provide a documented, legitimate reason for being unable to take the midterm on the scheduled day. Arrangements must be made in advance of the exam date, **not afterwards.**

7. No extra-credit assignments are provided for this course.

8. **24-Hour Question and Answer Deadline**
I will respond to questions about assignments and exams up until 24 hours before their due date. If students email questions with less than 24 hours notice, they probably won’t get a response in time. Plan accordingly, plan ahead, and don’t leave questions or concerns about assignments until the night before.
Incompletes
To receive an Incomplete, a student must have a “serious and compelling reason” to account for their inability to finish coursework. The University requires that a student who seeks a grade of incomplete must be passing the course at the time of the request.

Dropping and Adding
You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. found http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/. You should be aware of the new deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Software requirements
- All electronically submitted assignments must be in Microsoft Word or Power Point. The University supports Microsoft Word 2007. University computers are unable to read documents created in any other program. Late points will be deducted for assignments sent in file formats the instructor cannot open. If your computer does not support this format, then you can submit in Rich Text Format (file extension is .rtf). Do not submit documents in .wps or .pages. These formats are not supported by the University and submissions in these formats will not be graded. These submissions will receive “0” points.
- Download free copy of Adobe reader for required electronic readings from www.adobe.com
- If you experience computer problems contact the Student Computing help desk: (530) 898-Help. You can email me through class email, but they are probably better able to address technical issues you may be having.

IT Support Services
Computer labs for student use are located on the first and fourth floor of the Merriam Library, Room 116 and 450, Tehama Hall Room 131, and the Bell Memorial Union (BMU) basement. You can get help using your computer from IT Support Services; contact them through their website, http://www.csuchico.edu/its. Additional labs may be available to students in your department or college.

University Policies and Campus Resources

Academic integrity
All written work is to be individually produced unless otherwise noted in the assignment.

Plagiarism occurs when a [student] deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source.” (EM04-36)

Misuse of sources is defined as “carelessly or inadequately citing ideas and words borrowed from another source. [. . .] Ethical writers make every effort to
acknowledge sources fully and appropriately in accordance with the contexts and genres of their writing. (EM04-36)

When there is evidence that a student has committed plagiarism, misused sources of information, copied the work of others, allowed others to copy their work, cheated on an exam, altered class material or scores, or has inappropriate possession of exams, or sensitive material, the incident will be investigated by Student Judicial Affairs. The consequences for academic dishonesty are severe.

**Accessibility Resource Center (ARC)**
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Please also contact ARC as they are the designated department responsible for approving and coordinating reasonable accommodations and services for students with disabilities. ARC will help you understand your rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide you further assistance with requesting and arranging accommodations. The ARC website is [http://www.csuchico.edu/arc](http://www.csuchico.edu/arc)

**Child Development Program Mission statement**
Within the context of the broader University commitment to higher education, the Department of Child Development offers opportunities for students to engage in the purposeful acquisition and integration of child development theory, research, and practice. Specifically, the areas of investigation are the Foundations of Child Development, Child and Environmental Assessment and Study, Developmental Context, Professionalism, and Critical Thinking.

**The Vision of the Department of Child Development**
Students in the Department of Child Development will gain an understanding of the development of children and families and how to apply this knowledge in a variety of human service and educational settings. Faculty will facilitate students’ professional development through teaching, leadership, promoting scholarly activities, and guiding relevant practical experiences. Graduates of the program will be knowledgeable and reflective professionals who recognize and value the uniqueness and diversity of children and families within and across multiple ecological contexts.