



CHLD 251: OBSERVATIONAL TECHNIQUES IN-PERSON COURSE SYLLABUS



Instructor: Dr. Lindsey Nenadal

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Office: Modoc 103

Class Meeting Day, Time, & Place: Tuesdays 2:00 – 3:50pm in Modoc 120, 2 hours of observation per week

Observations: 2 hours a week in ASCDL Magnolia Room

Student Hours: Mondays 11am – 1 pm online, Tuesdays 12pm – 2 pm in person, or by appointment

Course Description:

This course includes acquisition and application of basic observation skills regarding children's physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development.

Course Format:

CHLD 251 involves lecture and out-of-class observations. We will all meet together for 1 hour and 50 minutes once a week for lecture in our meeting location (see above). Additionally, you will complete two-hours of observations each week in the Observation Booth of the Associated Students Child Development Lab (ASCDL) preschool Magnolia classroom.

Successful completion of the requirements for this course will include individual and group assignments. Class attendance is mandatory, as time will be spent during class to assist in the group preparation. You will complete observations weekly and will also be expected to complete readings outside of class.

Prerequisites: CHLD 252 (may be taken concurrently).

How to Contact your Professor:

Please email me or attend student/office hours if you have any questions or problems in the course, would like to discuss any of the ideas raised through the course, or just to say hi!

PLEASE READ! ☺ I want my course to be as accessible to as many different people as possible. If there is any reason why the standard approach to college classrooms or coursework is difficult for you to accomplish, please come talk to me. This includes those of you with a learning or physical disability, those of you who have other emotional or psychological challenges, those of you who have had past experiences that make college attendance or class content anxiety producing, those of you whose parents did not go to college (and can't help you understand the system as well as other parents might), those of you who feel you can't actively participate, those of you who have more responsibility than the typical college student (such as dependent parents, children, or an especially heavy workload outside of school), and other situations I can't anticipate. The earlier you reach out to me, the more I can do to try to work with you to alleviate the unique disadvantages you might face.

How to Access Course Materials and Required Readings:

The syllabus, schedule, required readings, and major assignments are available on Blackboard, which you access through your Chico State Portal. Please download and/or print the [DRDP \(2015\): An Early Childhood Developmental Continuum, Preschool Essential View](#).

Grading:

There are **495 possible points** in this class. Grades will be assigned as follows based on completion of the course requirements outlined in the next section. You will receive a letter grade based on the points you have earned at the end of the course (e.g., 400 out of 495 points = 81%). Please note that a 60% constitutes a passing grade in this course. Access the CSUC Grading Policy (<http://www.csuchico.edu/prs/EMs/2010/10-018.shtml>).

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|--------|------|---------|-----|--------|------|
| | | 93-100% | = A | 90-92% | = A- |
| 87-89% | = B+ | 83-86% | = B | 80-82% | = B- |
| 77-79% | = C+ | 73-76% | = C | 70-72% | = C- |
| 67-69% | = D+ | 60-66% | = D | 0-59% | = F |

What Will Be Graded:

Class Participation (120 points, see breakdown of points below):

Attendance & Participation (15 classes x 8 points = 120 points)

You will receive 8 points per lecture for attendance, participation, and completion of your group activity. **If you are absent due to illness and want to make up points, it is your responsibility to:** 1) contact me ahead of time (email or Pronto), 2) review the lecture slides and answer the turn-and-talk questions on a blank piece of paper, 3) get a copy of the group work outside of my office (Modoc 103) and complete it, and 4) submit your turn-and-talk responses and made-up group work the next time you attend class.

Class Assignments (385 points, see breakdown of points below):

Reading Quizzes (3 x 25 points = 75 points)

Upon completion of a unit, you will take a quiz on the readings that focus on that unit's technique and developmental focus. The quizzes are to be taken independently and will be available on Blackboard.

Unit 1, 2, and 3 Final Observation Assignments (3 x 100 points = 300 points):

Upon completion of learning a new technique and developmental focus, you will complete a final observation assignment (3 throughout the semester). These will include a combination of group (rating your Target Child on the DRDP and providing evidence) and individual work (including submitting your observation notes).

Final Reflection (10 points)

A final in-class reflection will take place during finals week.

Total Possible Points = 495 points

Late and Missing Work:

As this course is dependent on group work and group discussions, it is not typical that late work will be accepted for credit; however, if an exception is made, late work will be penalized **10% per day late, up to a maximum of 50%** (after 5 days, late work will not be accepted).

Course and University Policies:

Cell Phones & Electronic Devices: At the beginning of class, please place any cell phones or electronic devices in silent mode. As we will be using electronically available items throughout the course, it is expected that students will have laptops, tablets, or cell phones available in order to participate. After the activities requiring Internet access have been completed, it will be expected that devices are placed out of sight. Additionally, students found to be engaging in off-task behavior (e.g., checking email, visiting non-related course websites, or doing work for other classes) will be given one warning. Additional violations of these policies will result in further consequences, which may include asking a student to leave class for the day.

Student Professional Behavior: Campus is a professional setting. Please treat it as such by following standards for professional and ethical behavior in the classroom and when communicating with fellow students and faculty. This includes engaging in mutual respect and cooperation, as well as following course policies. In this course we will also be responsible for protecting the confidentiality of children's information. It is essential that privacy is maintained, which includes not discussing child-related information in settings outside of the classroom (e.g., hallways). We will discuss professional behavior specific to this course during class. If you have any questions about what constitutes professional behavior, please feel free to ask.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to abide by the University policies for academic honesty and integrity. Academic integrity is defined as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility." It is the expectation that students 1) know and understand the University's definitions of and policies on cheating, plagiarism, and misuse of sources, 2) bear full responsibility for content and integrity of all academic work submitted, 3) uphold the academic standards of the University, including reporting suspected occurrences of cheating, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty to the professor. Copying another student's work of any kind, helping another student cheat, having unauthorized access to assignments constitutes violations, which bear serious consequences (this would include fabricating information about observations that did not actually occur). Additionally, plagiarism involves copying material or ideas and presenting that material as if it were your own, without appropriate citations or quotation marks. Misuse of sources involves inaccurately citing appropriate sources (including internet sources and papers that other students have written). Plagiarism or misuse of sources will result in a "0" for that work. Students who cheat on exams or assignments will earn a "0" for that work. These students will be reported to Judicial Affairs. Violation of these policies twice will result in an "F" for the course. If you have any questions regarding these policies/issues please see me or access the Student Judicial Affairs website at www.csuchico.edu/sjd.

Title IX Confidentiality and Mandatory Reporting: As a Chico State instructor, one of our responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for all students. We also have a mandatory reporting responsibility related to our roles as faculty. It is our goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. We will seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, we are required to share information regarding sexual harassment, which includes sexual misconduct, dating/domestic violence and stalking, with the University. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the Counseling and Wellness Center (530-898-6345) or Safe Place (530-898-3030). Information about campus reporting obligations and other Title IX related resources are available: <http://www.csuchico.edu/title-ix>.

Student Resources:

Disability Services: If you have a documented disability that may require reasonable accommodation, please contact Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) for coordination of your academic accommodations. They can be reached at (530) 898-5959. More information about ARC services can be accessed at www.csuchico.edu/arc.

ESL Support Services: The ESL Support Services provide free tutoring for all non-native English speakers and heritage learners. Tutors can provide assistance with any aspect of the writing process from brainstorming topics, outlining papers, editing drafts, answering grammar questions, and working with sources and citations. Tutors also provide help with oral presentations, digital documents, and reading and listening skills. The services aren't exclusively for international students. Instead, anyone who identifies as a non-native English speaker is welcome to utilize this free campus resource. More information can be found at the [ESL Support Services website](#).

Learning Support Services: The mission of the Learning Supports Services is to provide services that will assist students to become independent learners. It prepares and supports students in their college course work by offering a variety of programs and resources to meet student needs. It also facilitates the academic transition and retention of students from high schools and community colleges by providing study strategy information, content subject tutoring, and supplemental instruction. Please visit <https://www.csuchico.edu/keep-learning/support-services.shtml> for more information. You can also visit the Keep Learning website for more resources: <https://www.csuchico.edu/keep-learning/index.shtml>

Counseling Center: College can be stressful. Free counseling services through the campus Counseling Center are available to help with personal problems that might be interfering with your academics, work, or overall wellbeing. If you are or you notice a friend is struggling, please access this great resource. The Center is located in the Student Services Center, Room 430 and the phone number is (530) 898-6345. You may also find additional information regarding their services as well as links and resources addressing a variety of issues on the website: www.csuchico.edu/counseling.

Information about Food and Emergency Housing Resources Available to Students: CSU Chico recognizes food and housing insecurity as a concern for many people. Students who have difficulty securing adequate food or housing have long- and short-term resources available at Chico State. Students are encouraged to contact the Center for Healthy Communities (<http://www.csuchico.edu/chc/calfresh-outreach/>) or 530-898-5323 for assistance in applying for CalFresh benefits for long term assistance with food access. For emergency food supplies, CalFresh application help, and emergency housing information, students are encouraged to visit the Hungry Wildcat Food Pantry (<https://www.csuchico.edu/sa/units/hungry-wildcat-food-pantry/index.shtml>).

Child Development 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 practical field experience. Specifically, the program centers on the foundations of child development (prenatal through adolescence), assessing children and environments (developmental needs, behavioral guidance, home, school, community); analyzing developmental contexts (including gender, ethnicity, social class, family, peers, culture); applying critical thinking skills in personal and professional settings; and influencing character and behavior.

Child Development Vision Statement:

Students in the Department of Child Development understand the development and environments that affect children and families. Students apply this knowledge, personally, and professionally, in a variety of settings, including human services and education. Faculty facilitate students' professional development by fostering collaborative learning environments that integrate high-quality teaching, mentoring, promoting scholarly activities, guiding relevant practical experiences, and modeling leadership. Graduates of the program are knowledgeable and reflective professionals with field experience, who recognize and value the uniqueness and diversity of children and families within and across multiple contexts.

Course Objectives & Contribution to the Child Development Major/Minor:

For Child Development majors and minors, the objectives of this course correspond to the following Student Learning Objectives (SLO's) as outlined by the Department of Child Development:

1. Critical Thinking in Child Development

Critical thinking is a habit of mind, characterized by the comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion. Students will use higher order thinking to evaluate information regarding child development.

2. Written Communication in Child Development

Written communication is the development and expression of ideas through iterative experiences which may include mixing texts, data, and images across the curriculum. Students will effectively articulate the scientific foundations of human development using professional style guidelines.

3. Oral Communication in Child Development

Oral communication is the ability to effectively share purposeful information designed to increase knowledge, to foster understanding, or to promote change in the listeners' attitudes, beliefs, or behaviors. Students will prepare and orally present information regarding children's development in professional contexts.

4. Information Literacy in Child Development

Information literacy includes the ability to know when there is a need for information, and to be able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively and responsibly use and share that information with appropriate audiences. Students will evaluate and disseminate information across contexts regarding the diversity that exists within human development.

5. Quantitative Literacy in Child Development

Quantitative literacy is a "habit of mind," competency, and comfort in working with data in order to reason and solve problems, and the ability to communicate information using words, tables, graphs, and equations. Students will analyze data as critical consumers of information regarding child development.

6. Professionalism in Child Development

Professionalism includes a multitude of behaviors that communicate respect, cultural humility, competence, and ethical behaviors. Students will demonstrate appropriate professional behavior in professional contexts.

Within the context of a high-quality program for young children, students in CHLD 251 will:

1. Learn the various types of observation techniques used to observe and factually describe children's behavior, both qualitatively and quantitatively (SLO 1, 5).
2. Broaden and reinforce the understanding of general principles, concepts, and theories of children's development and behavior through firsthand study and observation (SLO 1, 34).
3. Apply knowledge of children's development through extensive written interpretations and discussions of observed behavior (SLO 1, 2, 3).
4. Demonstrate increasingly refined observation skills through written observations and interpretations (SLO 1, 2, 5).
5. Develop an appreciation of growth and development within individual children (SLO 1).

Acknowledgement of Mechoopda Tribe:

We are meeting on the traditional lands of the Mechoopda people. Without them, we would not have access to this campus or our education.

Reminder:

All students are required to complete their COVID-19 Vaccination Self-Certification by 8/15/2022. For additional information regarding this requirement please visit <https://www.csuchico.edu/coronavirus/vaccine-certification-student.shtml>.

Chico State may at any time require the use of an approved face covering which covers the nose and mouth in all indoor campus spaces and in order to participate in this course when in person. When face coverings are optional, they are always welcome on campus. You will be notified if face coverings are required.

Policies and requirements regarding COVID-19 are subject to change pursuant to campus, local, state and/or federal guidelines. Please note that dishonesty relating to the vaccination policy and/or your failure to comply with any COVID-19 related safety policy or mandate may result in disciplinary action against you through the office of Student Conduct, Rights and Responsibilities, which can include suspension or expulsion from the California State University system.

It is very important for students to contact the COVID-19 hotline if they become symptomatic, believe they have been exposed, or have tested positive for COVID-19. The hotline is (530) 898-2222 or covidhotline@csuchico.edu.