Course Information:

Course Title: ECED 2340 Family Dynamics and Community Involvement
Credits: 3 hours
Class Hours: 3 hours

Course Description: A study of the role of the family, community and the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional growth of the child ages birth through eight. Topics include the benefits of, and strategies for, developing positive reciprocal relationships with families in an early childhood setting. Field experiences required. Prerequisite(s): ECED 2315 or department approval.

Instructor Information:

Name:
Email:
Office Phone:
Office Location:
Office Hours:

Required Textbook(s) & Other Materials:

Textbook(s): Home, School and Community Relations, 2016, 9th Edition (Carol Gestwicki), Cengage Publishers
Reference Materials: Center on Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning
http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/
The Tennessee Early Learning Developmental Standards

Once enrolled, all students should verify that they have the correct textbook and materials information by consulting the D2L/NS Online shell for the course. If you are registered with the Access Center and require an alternate format for the textbook and other course materials, please contact the Access Center at 615-353-3721, 615-353-3741, or accesscenter@nscc.edu.
Course Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse family and community characteristics. *(1b, 2a)*
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the benefits of reciprocal, positive relationships with families. *(2b, 4a)*
3. Develop, analyze, and evaluate a variety of appropriate strategies that promote communication, family involvement, and participation with diverse populations and communities. *(2c, SS3, SS5)*
4. Identify and access community resources to support families and children. *(6e, SS5)*
5. Analyze ethical dilemmas in relation to working with families based on the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct *(6b)*

NAEYC Initial Standards:

**Standard 1:** Promoting Child Development and Learning
- 1b. Knowing and understanding the multiple influences on early development and learning

**Standard 2:** Building Family and Community Relationships
- 2a. Knowing about and understanding diverse family and community characteristics
- 2b. Supporting and engaging families and communities through respectful, reciprocal relationships
- 2c. Involving families and communities in young children’s development and learning

**Standard 4:** Using Developmentally Effective Approaches
- 4a. Understanding positive relationships and supportive interactions as the foundation of their work with young children

**Standard 6:** Becoming a Professional
- 6b. Knowing about and upholding ethical standards and other early childhood professional guidelines
- 6e. Engaging in informed advocacy for young children and the early childhood profession

Supportive Skills:
1. Written and verbal communication skills
5. Skills in identifying and using professional resources

Course Competencies:
These objectives will be evaluated through student feedback on Course Evaluations.

- **Objective 4:** Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course
- **Objective 5:** Acquiring skills in working with others as a member of a team
- **Objective 10:** Developing a clearer understanding of and commitment to, personal values.
- **Objective 11:** Learning to *analyze* and *critically evaluate* ideas, arguments, and points of view

Topics to Be Covered:
- Parenting/Family Development
- Family, Culture, and Diversity
- Parent Involvement: Benefits and Techniques
- Parent-Teacher Conflicts
- Working with Families of Diverse Backgrounds & Families of Children with Disabilities
Fieldwork Experiences:
Students will be engaged in a minimum of 4 hours of field experiences in this course. Students will keep a time card for documentation of hours completed. These hours will include:
1. Diversity Explorations: experiencing new cultures, visiting stores, watching films, etc.
2. Family Resources - visiting community resources and agencies related to families.

Course Assessments:
The following performance assessments will be used to demonstrate students’ understanding, knowledge, and skills:
1. **Homework/Fieldwork:** complete all homework/fieldwork assignments as assigned by the instructor in class.
2. **Families Presentation:** research and give an oral presentation related to working with families with diverse backgrounds and special needs.
3. **Families Partnership Portfolio:** develop a portfolio of resources/strategies to support meeting the goals for families offered by NAEYC:
   1. Seek to understand the families’ goals for the child
   2. Communicate frequently with the family
   3. Facilitate the family’s involvement in the program
   4. Support family and parents in their parenting roles
4. **Children’s Book Reviews:** review children’s books related to family issues
5. **Midterm and Final Exam:** complete periodic exams

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Approximate Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diversity Explorations (5 points each)</td>
<td>10 explorations (5 points each)</td>
<td>50 points</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s Book Review</td>
<td>(1 book review and presentation)</td>
<td>30 points</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Families Project Presentation</td>
<td>1 presentation</td>
<td>60 points</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Families Partnership Portfolio</td>
<td>1 portfolio</td>
<td>60 points</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>1 midterm exam</td>
<td>50 points</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>1 final exam</td>
<td>75 points</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>325 points</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Grading Policy:
A grade of C or above must be earned in all early childhood courses prior to graduating with an AST PreK-3, AAS, or Technical Certificate in ECED. If you are majoring in the AAS and/or Technical Certificate programs must receive a C or above in this class in order to meet prerequisite requirements for subsequent classes.
Late Work Policy & Make-up Procedures for Missed Assignments and Work:
Students are encouraged to turn in all assignments on time. In the event that you miss a due date, you may turn in the assignment late, up to one week beyond the due date, but no later. Ten percent (10%) of the points for an assignment will be deducted on late work. No assignments will be accepted more than one week late and no assignment will be accepted beyond the last class meeting. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure the instructor receives the assignment if it is turned in late. See example below:

EXAMPLE: An assignment worth 100 points is due Feb. 10th. The next class meeting is Feb. 17th, a week later. If not turned in on Feb. 10th, then it is considered late and will have 10% (10 points) deducted from total score. You have up until Feb. 17th to turn in the assignment, but no later. As for grading, if you turned in late and earned 90, 10 points will be deducted and your final score will be 80.

Attendance Policy
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and laboratories. Absences in a course may affect a student’s final grade. The student is responsible for all assigned work in the course regardless of excused or unexcused absences. Tardiness may also affect a student’s final grade.

- Each student is expected to be on time, attend all scheduled classes, and stay for the entire class session. It is not acceptable to walk in and out of class, unless there is an emergency.
- An absence is defined as non-attendance for any reason, including illness or emergency.

Absences Allowed:
- Regular Fall & Spring Semester Once a Week Classes: No more than 3 absences.
- Summer 10 week term or Practicum Courses: No more than 2 absences
- Twice a Week Classes: No more than 5 absences
- Any student who has more than allowed absences above will receive a grade of “FA” for the term. An FA computes the same as an F in your grade point average. Coming to class late (after the instructor has taken attendance) and/or leaving early (before the instructor dismisses the class) counts as a tardy. Three (3) tardies count as one (1) absence. Any student arriving more than 30 minutes after class has started or leaving more than 30 minutes before class is dismissed will be considered absent for the entire class.
- Any student who is absent is responsible for the content of the class missed and any assignments given. The student is encouraged to get notes and information missed from another student in the class or contact the instructor.
- In-class assignments cannot be made up.
- The instructor’s grade book serves as the official record for grades and attendance.

In online courses, attendance is signaled by logging on to the D2L/NS Online shell, participating as prompted (e.g., responding to an instructor’s email, posting to a discussion board) and/or completing and submitting assignments. Campus closures do not affect attendance and assignment completion in online courses.

Grading Scale:

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<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Point Spread</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% - 100%</td>
<td>292 -325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 – 89%</td>
<td>260-291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 – 79%</td>
<td>227-259</td>
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FA
According to NSCC policy, if a student fails a course, but has not officially withdrawn from the course, and her/his last date of attendance is before the last date to withdraw (use date appropriate to your section), the student will receive a grade of FA (i.e., “Failure for Attendance Reasons”).

FN
An FN is awarded to students who never attended class.

Experiences with Children
Learning about early childhood requires you to interact and engage with young children throughout the coursework in the early childhood program at NSCC. Some assignments in this course may require you to engage in activities with young children from age’s birth through age 8. (See specific instructions on assignments.) You may be able to complete these experiences with children in informal settings such as family or relatives homes, but it is preferable, if possible, to do these experiences in an early childhood program such as a child care center or family child care home. These experiences require the student to be in the "teacher" role; thus, it is not acceptable to do these with your own children. Let the instructor know if you need help or clarification.

Photographs for Assignments
Some assignments may require you to take photographs of your work or project as part of the assignment instructions. You will need access to a camera of some type in order to meet this expectation. Even though you are asked to document your work through photos, you are NOT required to take photos of children themselves. Many families do not wish their children to be photographed. You must have written permission from families to photograph children.

Technology Statement
Nashville State's classes are considered to be web-enhanced. Faculty have an expectation that students will use a computer and the Internet to complete assignments, engage in online discussions, and access various course materials through D2L/NS Online course shells. Computers are available for student use at each campus during campus open hours.

D2L/NS Online and myNSCC
It is students’ responsibility to check D2L/NS Online course shells for all enrolled courses and myNSCC, including student email, on a regular basis. These are the official communication channels between the college and students, who are responsible for the information communicated through those channels. D2L/NS Online contains specific course information and myNSCC contains information important for other purposes.

ADA Compliance Statement
Nashville State complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you require accommodations for any courses in which you are enrolled, contact the Access Center at 615.353.3741 or 615.353.3721, or e-mail accesscenter@nscc.edu. If you are registered with the Access Center and require an alternate format for the textbook and other course materials, please contact the Access Center.

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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 69%</td>
<td>195- 226</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>Below 195</td>
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Classroom Misconduct
Nashville State Community College has a zero-tolerance policy for disruptive conduct in the classroom. Students whose behavior disrupts the classroom will be subject to disciplinary measures. Please review the Nashville State Student Code of Conduct policy. Please be aware that children are not allowed in class or to be left unattended on campus.

Academic Misconduct
Any form of academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarizing, or other academic misconduct is prohibited. Students are responsible for understanding and abiding by the Academic Misconduct Policy in the Nashville State Student Code of Conduct. In addition to other possible disciplinary measures that may be applied through regular college procedures as a result of academic dishonesty, the instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a “zero” for the exercise, paper, or examination, or to assign an “F” for the course. Students may appeal through the appropriate college grade appeal procedures.

Academic Early Alert System
Nashville State Community College uses an Early Alert System to let students know of a faculty member’s concern in one or more of these academic areas: lack of attendance, lack of classroom participation, late or missing assignments, and/or poor performance on assignments/tests. *Please note that Early Alerts do not affect a student’s academic standing. If you receive an Early Alert email, please see your instructor and your academic advisor as soon as possible.

RAVE Emergency Alert System
Emergency events can happen at any time and Nashville State Community College wants to be able notify students if and when they occur. For this reason, all students have been enrolled in the free RAVE alert system. If you have not already done so, please log in at https://www.getrave.com/login/nscc to confirm and update your contact information and notification preferences. It is critical that your information be correct so that you will receive any emergency notifications. Your RAVE Username is your NSCC email address. If you've never received an email from RAVE with your password, or if you need to reset your password, select “Forgot your password?” and a new password will be emailed to you. Should the RAVE system indicate “user not found”, select Register and create your own RAVE account.

Inclement Weather & Campus Closings
Nashville State will use the RAVE alert system to send a text message to students, staff, and faculty about adjusted hours of operation and/or closings at individual campuses. All students should check the Nashville State web site home page at www.nscc.edu for announcements on campus closures, which may vary from campus to campus. Campus closures will also be announced on local television stations. Students should use their own best judgment in determining whether to report to campus during inclement weather when classes are not cancelled.

Even when campuses are closed, students are still responsible for completing all assigned work. When classes are cancelled, faculty will post online assignments and any additional instructions in the D2L/NS Online course shell. Check D2L/NS Online for a message from your instructor regarding your online assignment requirements. Faculty have discretion over adjusting deadlines or due date for assignments, but students are responsible for completing all assigned work by the due date established by the instructor.
Class Cancellation Policy
If the class is cancelled, the instructor will notify all students by posting in the D2L/NS Online course, e-mailing through D2L/NS Online, and/or by posting a sign on the classroom door. In the event of class cancellation, students must access D2L/NS Online to complete classwork and the assignment that will be posted in the course D2L site.