

SUNY ORANGE

Education Department
Liberal Arts Division
Observation & Assessment of Young Children
EDU 201

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|--------------------|--|---|---|
| COURSE #: | EDU 201 | COURSE TITLE: | Observation & Assessment of Young Children |
| INSTRUCTOR: | Dr. Marigrace Walker (<i>she, her, hers</i>) | SEMESTER: | Fall 2025 |
| PHONE | 845.341.4367 | OFFICE | Bio-Tech 250 |
| EMAIL: | marigracewalker@sunyorange.edu | OFFICE HOURS: These are in-person, but I am happy to meet on Zoom upon request. | Monday 10:30-11:30 Wednesday 10:30-12:30 Thursday 11:00-12:00 Friday: Zoom appointments 9:30-10:30. https://sunyorange.zoom.us/j/8714009854 |

COURSE FORMAT

The format for this course is M = Middletown / Hybrid. This means there will be a combination of in-person meeting time during the scheduled days and times for this course, and work completed independently through Brightspace.

In-Person Meetings: We will meet on the Middletown campus every Wednesday from 1:00 to 2:50 PM. These sessions will include lectures, hands-on activities, group work, and project discussions.

Online Component: Each week, students will also complete asynchronous work through Brightspace. This may include readings, reflections, short written assignments, project preparation, quizzes, and video analysis. Students are expected to check Brightspace regularly and complete all assignments by the posted deadlines.

Field Observations: In addition to class meetings and online work, students are required to complete 12 on-site observations in early childhood settings. Each observation will last 2 hours, resulting in a total of 24 hours of observation across the semester. Observation forms and instructions will be provided, and all documentation will be submitted online.

Remote Guidelines

As this course includes an asynchronous online component, students are expected to follow these guidelines to ensure success:

- **Technology:** Students should have reliable internet access and a computer or device that supports Brightspace. If challenges arise, students must notify the instructor immediately. Support for students without access to reliable technology is available through the College Library and SUNY Orange Technical Services (see College-Wide Policies and Resources section of this syllabus).

- **Attendance and Participation:** Participation in asynchronous Brightspace activities is required and counts toward course completion. Students are expected to check Brightspace regularly, complete all posted work by the deadlines, and actively engage in assignments.
- **Communication:** Students should use professional and respectful communication in all emails and Brightspace submissions.
- **General Online Behavior:** Students should treat all online spaces as professional academic environments. Respectful behavior is expected at all times.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces developmentally appropriate and effective methods for observing, documenting, assessing, and communicating about children's development and learning. The importance of using assessment results to guide teacher decision-making will be stressed. Additionally, assessment of early childhood programs for developmentally appropriate practice will be introduced. Students will implement learned assessment methods outside the college classroom during field work experiences. Twenty-four (24) hours of field work are required. A grade of C or better is required to continue and graduate in the A.A.S. program. A grade of B- or better is required for SUNY New Paltz School of Education.

3 credits 2 lectures per week 12 on-site observations, 2 hours each Prerequisites: EDU 101, PSY 101

RELATIONSHIP TO PROGRAMS

This course may be applicable to several programs. Consult your advisor and refer to the SUNY Orange catalog (<https://sunyorange.edu/catalog/>) that contains additional information relating to this course and to your program to ensure that this course is applicable to your chosen program of study.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Explain the goals, benefits, and responsible uses of appropriate assessment.
2. Observe and document children's development by using a variety of appropriate assessment tools and approaches.
3. Demonstrate understanding of child development in the use of assessment.
4. Describe appropriate assessment partnerships with families and with professional colleagues.
5. Identify developmentally appropriate teaching/learning approaches based on assessment results.
6. Evaluate developmentally appropriate practice and environments based on a program assessment.

EDU 201

CHRONOLOGY OF STUDY

Fall 2025

| | Date | Class Topics | Assignments Due |
|---|-------------|--|---|
| 1 | 8/27 | Introductions/Ch. 1 Getting Started/Field Placement | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Folder/Weekly Quiz |
| 2 | 9/3 | Ch. 1 Getting Started (cont'd)/Child Study Explanation | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Folder |
| 3 | 9/10 | Ch. 2 Class List Log/Assessing Separation & School Adjustment. | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Folder/Weekly Quiz |
| 4 | 9/17 | Ch 4 Checklists/Assessing Physical Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Folder/Weekly Quiz |
| 5 | 9/24 | Ch. 7 Conversations/Assessing Language & Speech Ch 8. Time Sample/Assessing Attention Span | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Folder/Weekly Quiz |
| 6 | 10/1 | Ch. 3 Anecdotal Recordings/Assessing Self-Care Ch. 5 Running Record/Assessing Social Dev. | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Folder/Weekly Quiz |
| 7 | 10/8 | Ch. 6 Frequency Counts/Assessing Emotional Development Ch. 12 Technology/Assessing Socio-Dramatic Play/ Explain Helping Professionals Assign Helping Professionals Assignment Explained | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Folder/Weekly Quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Helping Prof Assign. Due 10/23/ |
| 8 | 10/15 | ECERS Training Part 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Folder |
| 9 | 10/22 | ECERS Training Part 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Folder/ |

| | | | |
|----|---------------|--|--|
| 10 | 10/29 | ECERS Performance Task at Lab School Meet at lab school from 4:15 - 6:15 (No Class meeting at 1:00) | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Folder/Weekly Quiz <input type="checkbox"/> ECERS DUE 11/13 |
| 11 | 11/5 | Ch. 9 Standardized Measurement/Assessing Cognitive Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Folder/weekly quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Child Study Due 12/3 |
| 12 | 11/12 | Ch. 10. Rating Scales/Assessing Literacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Folder/Weekly Quiz |
| 13 | 11/19 | Ch. 11 Work Samples/Assessing Creativity | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Folder/Weekly Quiz |
| 14 | 11/26 | NO CLASS - Thanksgiving Break | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Folder |
| 15 | 12/3 | Ch.15 Using the Portfolio for Communications with Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly Folder/ |
| | Week of 12/10 | Final Exam | |

Faculty retain the right to make changes to syllabi. In the event that changes are needed, syllabi will be updated, and changes will be communicated by the instructor.

| Types of Assessments |
|---|
| <p>Indicated parenthetically below are the percentages of the final grade that each assessment represents.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of 24 hours of Field Experience observations are required to pass this course. 2. Weekly Assignment Grade (30% total) based on weekly homework assignments found in the weekly folder on Brightspace, Observation Weekly Reflection Sheets, and Observation Methods. 3. Weekly Quizzes (10% total) based on weekly assignments (textbook reading, videos, etc.) you will take weekly at home. (The average of all the quizzes will be 10% total) 4. Three projects on the topics below (30% total): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Helping Professionals Assignment 10% b. ECERS-R 10%. c. Child Study 10% 5. Attendance/Participation Grade (10%) - see explanation in the Attendance section. <p>Final Exam (20%)</p> |

Policy on Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Using AI may impede your learning in this course. The assignments in this class challenge you to develop creativity, critical-thinking, and problem-solving skills as an individual to apply the learning. Using AI technology could limit your capacity to do this type of work, and as the instructor, I urge you not to miss out on the educational opportunities that this course will provide.

Work submitted by you for this class should reflect both your own ideas and your own language and you are required to properly cite any resources you have consulted. If you have any questions about citation or about what constitutes academic integrity in this course or at SUNY Orange in general, please feel free to consult the [SUNY Orange Academic Policy Page](#), raise these questions in class and/or contact me to discuss your concerns.

The use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) that misrepresents the originality and authenticity of a student's work will be considered a breach of academic integrity. This includes the unauthorized use of GenAI tools to generate content, complete assignments, or manipulate data without proper attribution.

Students may use GenAI tools for academic purposes only with the explicit approval of the course instructor. In such cases, the instructor will provide guidelines and support to ensure proper understanding and application of GenAI in alignment with the course objectives.

This policy aligns with College Academic Policy #4 on Academic Integrity as outlined in the College Syllabus.

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter Grade/Numeric Equivalents

| A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | F |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|-------------|
| 100-94 | 93-90 | 89-87 | 86-83 | 82-80 | 79-77 | 76-73 | 72-70 | 69-68 | 67-66 | 65 | 64 or below |

GRADING SYSTEM:

Final grades will be determined by the weighted combination of assessments described in the **Types of Assessments** section of this syllabus. Letter grades and their numeric equivalents are shown in the chart below.

This grading system follows **College Academic Policy #2** as outlined in the SUNY Orange Catalog. If departmental grading policies differ from the College policy, the departmental policies will apply

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Week by Week 8th Edition paperback version Barbara Nilson

Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale - 3 (Third Edition), Harms, Cryer, and Clifford

Video Guide and Training Workbook for Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, Revised Edition / Edition 1 by Thelma Harms, Debby Cryer.

Please see the [Bookstore website](#) for information on purchasing textbooks and instructional materials.

Library Support: Chromebooks may be borrowed by any student by requesting one at the library's service desk. The College Libraries have selected textbooks for use in the library. Check them out at the library's service desk. Research databases, books and other resources, through the SUNY Orange Library, please visit: <https://sunyorange.edu/library/>

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

- Proper grammar and correct spelling are expected for each written assignment. Students should use spell check but not rely solely on it. (Errors in spelling and grammar will be reflected in grade for assignment.)
- It is a good idea for students to compose and save assignments in a Word or Google docs and then cut and paste into Brightspace and it's advisable for them to keep a copy of ALL of their assignments for this class until the semester is over and they've received your final grade.
- Students are responsible for determining and proving the credibility and accuracy of the information they use in course assignments, and cannot reasonably assume the lack of errors or inaccuracies particularly in such online sources as Wikipedia.
- I expect you to generate your own work in this class. When you submit any kind of work (including projects, exams, quizzes, or discussions), you are asserting that you have generated and written the text unless you indicate otherwise by the use of proper citations. Submitting any content that has been generated by someone other than you, or was created or assisted by a computer application or tool, including artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT is cheating and will be treated in the same manner as traditional plagiarism and cheating, as explained below. ***Adapted from Oregon State University's Center for Teaching and Learning***
- Students who plagiarize or "use the words and ideas of another person as if they were their own words or ideas" (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/plagiarize>) are in violation of the College's Academic Dishonesty policy (see College Syllabus on Brightspace for the full college policy). Plagiarism also includes sharing academic work with others so that they might use it as their own. This includes sharing in any way, including via Internet sites, such as Course Hero, etc.) If plagiarism occurs, depending on the circumstances, the instructor reserves the right to give the student a zero on the assignment and/or a failing grade in the course and/or report the student to the Education Dept. Chair and/or refer the student to the Vice President for Student Services for appropriate disciplinary action pursuant to the College's Code of Student Conduct.
- Students should monitor their Brightspace gradebook, at least weekly, throughout the semester and any questions regarding posted grades should be brought to the instructor's attention via email immediately.
- Recording of class lectures and discussions is NOT permitted without permission from the course instructor.

LATE WORK POLICY

- If a student is absent, they must turn in any assignments via email on their due date to be counted as "on time". Then students should bring a paper copy of the assignment to the next class.
- An assignment turned in after the due date (even if the student is absent) will be counted as LATE and points will be deducted from the assignment grade. (3 points per day)

- Without prior permission, I will not grade weekly assignments on Brightspace that are submitted more than a week after they're due. Any such assignments will receive a 0.
- However, if a project is handed in beyond 2 weeks past the due date and is of a satisfactory level, it may receive a grade of 65, rather than 0.

Bottomline: Make the time in your schedule, to get your work done ON TIME or your grades will suffer.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Instructors shall not penalize students for absences for religious observance, military obligations, or jury duty. You should inform the instructor when you anticipate an absence for any of these reasons so that arrangements can be made for make-up examinations or other work.
- Regular attendance is critical. Class discussions and activities introduce and reinforce course concepts. "Getting the notes" from classmates is NOT a substitute for attending class.
- Students must be present for the entire class to be counted as fully attending that day. Arriving excessively and/or consistently a little bit late (or leaving excessively and/or consistently early) may count as a half absence. (Two half absences = 1 absence)
- If an absence is unavoidable and known in advance, students should email the instructor prior to class.
- If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to obtain notes and any other pertinent information presented in class.
- Absent students must turn in any assignments via email on their due date to be counted as being "on time" and will not receive a grade of 0. Then students should bring a paper copy of the assignment to the next class.
- All students will start the semester with an Attendance/Participation Grade of 100 Points will be taken off for each unexcused or excused absence beyond two. (See chart below for details.) Additional points may be taken off if a student never, or rarely, participates in class by contributing positively to whole and small group discussions.

| # of Absences | Attendance Grade |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 100 (no penalty for one absence) |
| 2 | 80 |
| 3 | 70 |
| 4 | 60 |
| 5 | 50 |
| 6 or more | 0 (see message above) |

If you miss more than 5 classes (the equivalent of 5 weeks), it is highly recommended that you withdraw from the class, as you will have missed more than 1/3 of our class time.

OFFICIAL WITHDRAWAL FROM A COURSE

When a student finds it necessary to withdraw from one or more courses, they must submit an Add/Drop Form with appropriate signatures by the end of the 12th week or its equivalent (see [Registration Calendar](#)). A student who officially withdraws from a course between the 4th and 12th weeks or their equivalent will have the course appear on his/her transcript with a grade of W. For more information, visit <https://sunyorange.edu/registrar/index.html> or email: registrar@sunyorange.edu

CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (CSS): SUNY Orange students have access to support services such as tutoring, learning skill development, and workshops included as part of their tuition, with no additional cost. The Center for Student Success provides a range of online and on-campus support options. You can connect with a tutor for help with coursework, study skills, and staying organized. Appointments and drop-ins are welcome. To book a session, access [Orange Connect](#), or visit one of the [Center locations](#). Consistent tutoring can lead to improved performance on assignments, exams, and overall course grades. Additionally, there are several academic labs that provide extra support and online resources, including the [Biology Learning Center \(aka BATCAVERN\)](#), [Math Lab](#), and the [Reading/Writing Center](#). Please visit the [CSS webpage](#) for more information or speak with your instructor on how to access these resources.

ORANGE CONNECT: [Orange Connect](#) is an online student engagement tool used to connect students to faculty, staff, and support services across campus. Instructors may provide feedback in Orange Connect that will help the student and advisor/pathway coach understand how a student is doing in a class, so that support can be provided if needed to facilitate student success. Please check your MySUNYOrange, email, and log into Orange Connect daily. To access Orange Connect, log into your MySUNYOrange and click the [Orange Connect](#) option next to your Gmail. Make sure to check it daily. Students should be sure to open any emails they receive from Orange Connect and follow the recommendations. Instructors may also recommend students to contact a specific campus resource. If an instructor makes a referral, students may also be contacted directly by this campus service. Additionally, through Orange Connect students can sign-up for individualized tutoring and pathway coach appointments and can access support throughout the campus "raise your hand" feature and services on the students Orange Connect home page.

LIBRARY SUPPORT: The College Library services are available on campus and remotely to assist students! For questions and information on accessing library research, materials, resources, and the student Chromebook lending program through the SUNY Orange Library, please visit: <https://sunyorange.edu/library/>

The College Libraries are open on weekdays, semester hours are posted to the library's web site.

Newburgh campus library phone: 845-341-9020

Middletown campus library phone 845-341-4855

WELLNESS CENTER: Students interested in health and/or counseling services should call 341-4870 to schedule an appointment with a member of the Wellness Center Team. Visit <https://sunyorange.edu/wellness/index.html> or email wellnesscenter@sunyorange.edu for more information on accessing the Wellness Center services.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA): SUNY Orange is committed to making reasonable accommodations to assist individuals with disabilities in reaching their academic potential. If you have a disability that may impact your performance in this course and require accommodations, you must first register with the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS). Temporary academic accommodations may also be available to students who are recovering from an injury, serious illness, or medical procedure. Accessibility Services is responsible for coordinating classroom accommodations and other services for students with disabilities. Please note that classroom accommodations cannot be provided prior to your instructor's receipt of an Accommodations Notice from the Office of Accessibility Services. Since academic accommodations may require early planning and are not provided retroactively, please contact OAS as soon as possible. You can reach the Office of Accessibility Services at (845) 341-4642 or by email at accessibilityservices@sunyorange.edu

TITLE IX: SUNY Orange is committed to maintaining a learning environment free from discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence, in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX protects all students from sex-based discrimination in any educational program or activity.

If you or someone you know has experienced discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it.

For support or to file a report, please contact the Title IX Coordinator at:
titleixcoordinator@sunyorange.edu

Additional information, policies, and resources are available on the Title IX website: www.sunyorange.edu/titleix

CELL PHONE USAGE POLICY: Use of cellular phones or any other electronic communication device for any purpose during class or exam sessions is prohibited, unless expressly permitted by the instructor. *(Faculty can detail out specific policies they will enforce in their courses, if needed).*

OFFICIAL/ACADEMIC EMAIL POLICY: For Degree-Seeking and non-degree seeking students, the College-issued email account (@sunyorange.edu) is designated as the student's official email address as it is validated by an authentication process. This will be used as the method of communication when administrative offices, academic departments and faculty need to communicate with students.

Electronic communication through the use of the college's learning management system (Brightspace) remains at the discretion of the instructor and should be communicated to the student in the course syllabus.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Per Academic Policy 4: SUNY Orange regards academic integrity as a commitment to uphold ethical standards in all academic endeavors. The College is dedicated to ensuring that students develop the critical thinking skills, ethical judgment, and intellectual integrity necessary for academic and professional success. Academic integrity embodies the principles of honesty, fairness, responsibility, and accountability in every aspect of the academic experience; it demands the acknowledgment and citation of sources, ideas' originality, and information's ethical use.

Incidents of plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, falsification, and multiple submissions are considered a breach of academic integrity. Consequences include but are not limited to academic penalties, disciplinary action, or even legal action. The primary responsibility for recognizing these incidents rests with the faculty member.

When a breach of academic integrity has occurred, the faculty member shall advise the student of the action to be taken, including but not limited to procedures outlined in the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

The use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) that misrepresents the originality and authenticity of a student's work will be considered a breach of academic integrity. This includes the unauthorized use of GenAI tools to generate content, complete assignments, or manipulate data without proper attribution. Students may use GenAI tools for academic purposes only with the explicit approval of the course instructor. In such cases, instructors shall provide guidelines and support to ensure proper understanding and application of GenAI in alignment with the course objectives.

ACADEMIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES: Students who have concerns about their academic performance in a course should consult with their instructor. Academic Grievance Procedures are available to students and can be found in the Student Handbook: <https://sunyorange.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html>

MAKE-UP FOR CANCELED CLASSES: In the event that classes are canceled due to inclement weather or other unanticipated events, instructors will notify students how and when instruction time will be made up, as appropriate.

BRIGHTSPACE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

The SUNY Online Help Desk is available to students and faculty for assistance with Brightspace distance learning questions:

Choose any of these contact options to request help...

1. 1-844-673-6786 *Press 1
2. send an email to SUNYOnlineHelp@suny.edu

3. [Submit a Brightspace Help Desk Ticket](#)

Online learning phone support is available during the following hours:

| Days | Hours |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Monday - Friday | 7am - 12am Midnight EST |
| Saturday | 10am - 6pm EST |
| Sunday | 10am - 9pm EST |

You can also send an email to danasalkowsky@sunyorange.edu, or check out the online learning pages at <http://www.sunyorange.edu/ol>

For assistance with all other technical issues like MySUNYOrange, email, Banner, or other SUNY Orange related service:

SUNY ORANGE Technical Services:

1-845-341-4749 Phone and Chat Support available 24/7

<https://itservice.sunyorange.edu>

ON-CAMPUS IT department hours are Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm EST

STAYING CONNECTED: Please visit the College's [Staying Connected](#) page that lists contact information for important College offices and support services.

Faculty retain the right to make changes to syllabi. In the event that changes are needed, syllabi will be updated, and changes will be communicated by the instructor.