SUNY ORANGE, COURSE SYLLABUS

**Home, School, and Community:
Families and Teachers as Partners**

EDU 208 FH, 3 Credits, Bio Tech 251

Spring 2026

Education Department, Liberal Arts Division

Meeting Days and Time:
Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Instructor Information
Instructor, Dr. Marigrace Walker

Office, Bio Tech Room 250

Phone, 845.341.4367

Email, Marigracewalker@sunyorange.edu

Office Hours, all office hours are in person. Please email to request a Zoom appointment if needed.

Monday: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday: Email for appointments

Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Thursday: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Friday: By Zoom 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Course Format and Technology
The format for this course is Middletown Traditional. This means instruction is in person, on campus, at the designated day and time. Brightspace is used for course materials, weekly folders, assignment submission, grades, and announcements.

Catalog Description
This course introduces the importance of engaging families in reciprocal partnerships. Strategies to develop these partnerships and overcome barriers which can impede these relationships will also be emphasized. Major themes of the course include two-way communication, relationship building, and culturally responsive teaching. Students will also reflect on the benefits of and strategies for fostering community connections. A grade of C or better is required to continue and graduate in the A.A.S. Certificate program.

Prerequisites: EDU 101 and EDU 105

Lecture Hours: 3

Credits: 3

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/) (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
A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

Explain the influence of a family's social and cultural context on children's educational experience.

Design appropriate methods and strategies that foster positive partnerships among diverse families, children, teachers, and schools.

Identify and explain the benefits and barriers to establishing reciprocal family teacher relationships.

Explain the roles that families, teachers, schools, and communities play in education.

Determine appropriate advocacy efforts for educational policies and practices.

Understand ethical standards and professional guidelines related to family partnerships as related to early childhood practices.

Demonstrate college level proficiency in written and oral communication and critical thinking.

CHRONOLOGY OF STUDY

Weeks & Dates	Topics	Assignments	Readings	Notes
Week 1 January 20 and January 22	Course overview and syllabus review Introductions and community building Introduction to school, home, and community partnerships	No assignments due	Begin reading Chapter 1 as books become available	

Weeks & Dates	Topics	Assignments	Readings	Notes
Week 2 January 27 and January 29	Understanding families Defining family structures and systems	Assignment 1 Families Today Due January 29	Read Chapter 1	
Week 3 February 3 and February 5	Families and social context Cultural, social, and economic influences	Assignment 2 Contemporary Family Life Due February 5	Read Chapter 2	
Week 4 February 10 and February 12	Culturally responsive teaching Family stress and emotional responses	Assignment 3 Family Stress and Emotional Responses Due February 12	Read Chapter 3	In class quiz Quiz 1 February 12
Week 5 February 17 and February 19	Parenting roles and perspectives Family involvement	Assignment 4 Family Involvement Due February 19	Read Chapter 4	Project 1 Family Engagement Case Study Analysis Due February 19
Week 6 February 24 and February 26	Benefits and barriers to partnerships	Assignment 5 Benefits and Barriers to Partnerships Due February 26	Read Chapter 5	
Week 7 March 3 and March 5	Building partnerships Trust and professional relationships	Assignment 6 Building Partnerships Due March 5	Read Chapter 6	In class quiz Quiz 2 March 5
Week 8 March 10 and March 12	Beginnings and separation Supporting families during transitions	Assignment 7 Beginnings and Separation Due March 12	Read Chapter 7	Project 2 Professional Interview and Family Engagement Reflection Due March 12
Spring Recess March 16 through March 20		No assignments due		No classes

Weeks & Dates	Topics	Assignments	Readings	Notes
Week 9 March 24 and March 26	Communication with families Two-way communication	Assignment 8 Communication with Families Due March 26	Read Chapter 8	
Week 10 March 31 and April 2	Family conferences Professional collaboration	Assignment 9 Family Conferences Due April 2	Read Chapter 9	In class quiz Quiz 3 April 2
Week 11 April 7 and April 9	Families in the classroom Inclusive family engagement	Assignment 10 Families in the Classroom Due April 9	Read Chapter 10	
Week 12 April 14 and April 16	Parent education Supporting families as partners	Assignment 11 Parent Education Due April 16	Read Chapter 11	
Week 13 April 21 and April 23	Community resources Advocacy and family support systems	Assignment 12 Community and Advocacy Due April 23 Assignment 13 Culture, Language, and Belonging Due April 23	Read Chapter 12 Read Chapter 13	Quiz 4 April 23
Week 14 April 28 and April 30	Conflict, tension, and resolution Course synthesis and professional growth	Assignment 14 Conflict and Tension Due April 30	Read Chapter 14	Project 3 Family Engagement and Advocacy Plan Due April 30
Final Exam Period May 7 through May 13		No weekly assignments or projects due during finals week.		Final exam administered according to the college final exam schedule

Types of Assessments and Weights
Final grades are determined by a weighted combination of course assessments. The total equals 100 percent.

Weekly Homework Assignments
Ten percent of final grade

Students will complete weekly homework assignments in Brightspace. Homework is due by the posted due date. Late homework will not be accepted. Weekly assignments are designed to support understanding of course readings, class discussions, and application of course concepts.

In Class Quizzes
Fifteen percent of final grade

Four quizzes will be given in class throughout the semester. Quizzes may include multiple choice, true and false, and short answer questions and are designed to assess understanding of course concepts and readings.

Projects
Thirty five percent of final grade

Students will complete three major projects during the semester that focus on family engagement, professional learning, and advocacy in early childhood education.

Project 1 Family Engagement Case Study Analysis

Students will analyze a family engagement case study to understand family context, identify benefits and barriers to partnership, and explore culturally responsive and ethical approaches to working with families.

Project 2 Professional Interview and Family Engagement Reflection

Students will learn from an early childhood professional through an interview and reflect on family engagement practices, challenges, and connections to course concepts.

Project 3 Family Engagement and Advocacy Plan

Students will design a family engagement and advocacy plan that reflects culturally responsive practice, ethical responsibility, and community collaboration.

Attendance
Ten percent of final grade

Students are expected to be present in class. Attendance is essential in a course focused on relationships, discussion, and collaboration. Students who miss more than three class meetings will lose points in this category.

Class Participation
Ten percent of final grade

Active participation includes engagement in class discussions, activities, and collaborative work. Participation reflects preparation, respectful interaction, and thoughtful contribution to learning.

Final Exam
Twenty percent of final grade

The final exam will be administered during the college scheduled final exam period and will assess cumulative understanding of course concepts.

Generative AI Guidance
Academic integrity is required in all work. The use of generative artificial intelligence that misrepresents the originality and authenticity of a student's work is not permitted. Students may use generative AI tools for academic purposes only with the explicit approval of the course instructor and must follow any guidelines provided.

Grading System

Letter Grade and Numeric Equivalents
A: 93 to 100

A minus: 90 to 92

B plus: 87 to 89

B: 83 to 86

B minus: 80 to 82

C plus: 77 to 79

C: 73 to 76

C minus: 70 to 72

D plus: 67 to 69

D: 63 to 66

D minus: 60 to 62

F: below 60

A grade of C or better is required to successfully complete this course and continue in the program.

Instructional Materials

Required textbook:
Home, School, and Community Relations, by Gestwicki. Use the edition required by the SUNY Orange Bookstore for Spring 2026.

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: https://sunyorange.edu/library/

Required equipment:
You will need a device and internet access to download, complete, and upload assignments to Brightspace.

Attendance Policy
Attendance is critical. Students are expected to attend and participate in all class meetings and activities.

You must be present for the full class period to be counted as attending.

If an absence is unavoidable and known in advance, email the instructor before class.

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain notes, handouts, and information from that class and to stay current in Brightspace.

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.

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 Suny Orange Registrar
(https://sunyorange.edu/registrar/index.html) or email**:** registrar@sunyorange.edu

General Course Information

All written work must be typed. Unless otherwise specified, assignments should be double spaced in 12-point font.

All papers must include a heading with student name, date, course, and assignment title. Work submitted without a name may not be graded until identified.

Proper grammar and spelling are expected for college level writing.

Students should draft and save work in Word or Google Docs, then submit through Brightspace. Keep copies of all submissions until final grades are posted.

Students are responsible for the credibility and accuracy of sources used in assignments.

Recording of class lectures and discussions is not permitted without permission from the instructor.

Homework and Assignment Submission Policy

Weekly homework assignments are posted in Brightspace weekly folders. Homework is due by the posted due date. Submitting work on time is a form of professionalism and reflects the expectations of the teaching profession. Assignments must be submitted through Brightspace unless the instructor provides a different submission method.

If something comes up and you are having difficulty completing homework assignments, please contact the instructor as soon as possible so we can discuss options and supports.

Late Work Policy

Weekly assignments are designed to prepare you for class and should be completed by the due date. Late weekly assignments may receive reduced credit or a zero as stated in Brightspace.

Projects are due by the due date. Students should plan ahead and communicate early if a serious circumstance interferes with completion.

If you are absent, you are still responsible for submitting any work due by the deadline unless otherwise stated.

Cell Phone Usage Policy

Use of cellular phones or any other electronic communication device during class or exam sessions is prohibited unless expressly permitted by the instructor. If you must respond to an urgent communication, step into the hallway briefly and return promptly.

College Wide Policies and Resources

The following College wide policies and resources are provided for students. They also appear in the College Syllabus in Brightspace.

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, Math Lab, and the Reading Writing Center.

ORANGE CONNECT

Orange Connect is an online student engagement tool used to connect students to faculty, staff, and support services across campus. Please check your MySUNYOrange, email, and log into Orange Connect daily.

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/.

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.

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). 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. For support or to file a report, please contact titleixcoordinator@sunyorange.edu.

OFFICIAL ACADEMIC EMAIL POLICY
The College issued email account is designated as the student's official email address. This will be used as the method of communication when administrative offices, academic departments, and faculty need to communicate with students.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
SUNY Orange regards academic integrity as a commitment to uphold ethical standards in all academic endeavors. Incidents of plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, falsification, and multiple submissions are considered a breach of academic integrity. The use of generative artificial intelligence that misrepresents originality and authenticity will be considered a breach of academic integrity.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND 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.

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. Phone 1 844 673 6786 press 1. Email SUNYOnlineHelp@suny.edu. Or submit a Brightspace Help Desk Ticket.
For assistance with other technical issues, SUNY Orange Technical Services phone 845 341 4749 and https://itservice.sunyorange.edu.

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.

Faculty Right to Make Changes
Faculty retain the right to make changes to this syllabus. In the event that changes are needed, the syllabus will be updated and changes will be communicated by the instructor in class and through Brightspace.

Please see the College Syllabus for College-Wide Policies and Resources

College Syllabus Fall 2025

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.

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 Suny 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/studentservices/student_handbook.html

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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

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

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

[Suny IT support](#)

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.