



ECE 561.01W – Advanced Child Development COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Karen Walker

Office Location: Sowers Education South 227

Office Hours: Tues & Thur 9am-1:30pm Zoom <https://etamu.zoom.us/j/3046434632>

Office Phone: (903)886-5537

Preferred Form of Communication: Email Karen.Walker@etamu.edu

Communication Response Time: Please allow 24 business hours for a response time.

COURSE INFORMATION

This course uses an Open Educational Resource (OER) as the primary textbook:

Cummings-Clay, D. (n.d.). *Child development*. Simple Book Publishing.

Available online at:

[https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Early_Childhood_Education/Child_Development_\(Cummings-Clay\)](https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Early_Childhood_Education/Child_Development_(Cummings-Clay))

This textbook is freely accessible online at no cost to students. The resource is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0, allowing you to read, download, and print the materials as needed for the course.

Additional Required Readings: Supplemental readings, articles, and other required course materials will be made available through the course D2L.

Course Description

ECE 561 - This course is a study of the principles and theories of child growth and development in early childhood education. Course content centers on the physical, cognitive, affective, and social development domains. Students will be required to observe the development of a young child outside of the classroom in order to complete a comprehensive child study project. (Hours: 3)

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze and synthesize major child development theories (cognitive, psychosocial, behavioral, ecological systems) and evaluate their application to contemporary early childhood education practices, demonstrating understanding of theoretical strengths, limitations, and cultural considerations.
2. Examine and assess the interconnected nature of physical, cognitive, social-emotional, and language development in young children (birth through age 8), conduct systematic developmental observations, and create comprehensive developmental profiles that inform instructional planning.
3. Critically evaluate current research in child development, distinguishing between high-quality empirical studies and other sources, and apply research findings to inform evidence-based decision-making in early childhood educational settings.
4. Analyze how cultural, socioeconomic, family structure, and community contexts shape children's developmental trajectories, and design culturally responsive approaches that honor diverse developmental pathways while supporting optimal growth across all domains.
5. Synthesize developmental knowledge to create and justify developmentally appropriate learning experiences and intervention strategies, while developing effective communication strategies for collaborating with families and other professionals in supporting children's developmental progress.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed. Taking an online course requires general computer literacy. All work in this course must be completed and submitted through myLeo Online (D2L), our campus Learning Management System. You must have consistent and reliable access to a computer and the Internet. You must be able to use Leomail, organize and save electronic files, download and upload documents, locate information with a browser, and generate content using general word processing programs.

Instructional Methods

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes/objectives for the course and instructional units/modules. Each week you will work on various combinations of assignments, discussions, readings, research, quizzes, and/or exams.

Quizzes are designed as a study guide for each chapter. Post-quiz may be retaken to achieve the grade desired by the students.

Application exercises are designed for you to apply the information that has been mastered in the quizzes. Students are encouraged to review the application exercises at the beginning of the semester. Several exercises require observations in the community.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

The ABCs of Student Responsibility:

- Actively participate in class and the learning process.

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- Be organized and prepared.
- Communicate with me about questions or concerns.

GRADING

All assignments and examinations are due as indicated on the course calendar. Written work should follow the guidelines published in the APA Manual (7th ed.) for citations, references, and manuscript style using 1" margins, double spaced, and 12-point font.

Work submitted late will be subject to a **10% deduction per day**. Ten days after the due date a grade of '0' will be entered in the Grade Center.

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Assignments	20%
Discussions	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
TOTAL	100%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.etamu.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.etamu.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

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<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran

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status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M University Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

ETAMU Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.etamu.edu/counseling-center

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

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