Course Overview

This course is designed to provide hands-on experience with care-giving, educational and service support settings for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families. Students will work for at least 60 hours in a Head Start classroom, in collaboration with classmates and students from CAS 394/L. (Students receiving Americorps stipends will complete 300 service hours in this and the subsequent CAS 141/L course, at least 60 of which must be completed during this Fall semester). This fieldwork will be supplemented by observational and educational activities in other settings, course readings and class discussions, and other community service activities. Through these experiences, students will come to understand basic principles of child development, early literacy and language, and school readiness.

Required Course Materials

- This course uses the required textbook: Schulman, R. *Jumpstarting school success: A toolkit for corps members*. Boston, MA: Pearson Custom Publishing.
- Additional readings (provided through the course website).
- Recordable computer media (3 ½” disk, 100 MB Zip disk, or CD-Rom).
- Internet access.
- Email address (must be checked at least weekly) and internet access.
Grading

Course grades will be based on the number of points you have earned out of the 400 possible points in the course. Points will be available as follows:

- Fieldwork Journal (as described below): 225 Points
- Class Participation: 50 Points
- Quizzes: 5 quizzes during the semester, each worth 125 Points

Grades in this class will not be assigned according to a curve. This means that it is theoretically possible for everyone in the class to receive an A. At the end of the semester, I will add your scores on the projects and exam and assign grades as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage of 400 Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>less than 59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Requirements

Participation

Your in-class participation is very important both for yourself and your fellow students. Material is presented in class that may be on quizzes or necessary for class projects and may not be available in the course readings. In addition, class discussion and exercises will help you better understand the material and provide the opportunity to focus on the aspects of development that most interest you.

To benefit fully from the course, you should arrive at class on time and should have read any assigned materials and completed any assigned activities in advance of the class meeting. Your participation in class discussions about readings and activities will be worth 50 points. If you will be unable to attend class meetings or to turn in assignments, please let me know.

Fieldwork Journal:

You should purchase a binder to maintain all of the fieldwork documentation. The binder will contain the following:

- **Fieldwork Log**: Each time you work at your fieldwork site, you will note your activities in the fieldwork log. These logs will be signed by your site supervisor and will be turned in 3 times during the semester. Appropriate completion and documentation of your fieldwork time will be worth 50 points.

- **Fieldwork Paperwork**: This binder should have a section for all of your fieldwork paperwork, including waiver forms, permissions, and the like. Most of this paperwork will be completed at the beginning of the semester, but there will be some (e.g., supervisor evaluations) that will be completed as the semester progresses (25 points).

- **Reflection Papers**: Each week you will respond to a set of questions about your
fieldwork site and/or your readings. These reflection papers will be turned in weekly for feedback, and then stored in the binder. At several points during the semester we will review your papers to see if your responses have changed (100 points).

- **Resume**: During the semester, you will be revising your resume to incorporate the fieldwork experience and to address the types of jobs you anticipate seeking. Both the original and final copies of your resume should be included in the binder (10 points).

- **Final Summary**: At the end of the semester, you will review your experiences using the Jumpstart Mid-Year Performance Evaluation Form and write a final paper (3-5 pages) summarizing the experience (including the program’s strengths and weaknesses, relationships between your experiences and your professional goals, and your learning). (25 points).

**Quizzes**

In lieu of longer exams, there will be 5 quizzes during the semester. You will generally not need a scantron or blue book for these quizzes. Each quiz will include some combination of objective and open-ended questions (e.g. multiple choice, matching, short answer and essay questions), and will be worth 25 points each (125 points total).