I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: ECHD 255 - Foundations of Early Childhood Education

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2009

D. Sponsoring Department: Humanities and Social Sciences and Education

E. Semester Credit Hours: 3

F. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3 Laboratory: 1

G. Prerequisites: none

H. Laboratory Fees: none

I. Chair: Kimberly Schirner, kschirner@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

This course examines the historical and philosophical foundations of Early Childhood Education, Pre-school through 3rd grade. Current trends in primary education will be reviewed and evaluated with a focus on the public school system. Issues affecting the role of the early childhood teacher, including an overview of the profession, classroom management, teaching strategies related to the growth and development of the primary aged child, planning, and assessment will be explored.

III. Statement of Course Need

This course is required in the A.A. Degree in Early Childhood, the AAS Degree in ECHD, and the ECHD Certificate.
IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum
A. Free Elective
B. Not a General Education Elective
C. Meets a requirement in the A.A. Degree in ECHD, AAS Degree in ECHD, and the ECHD Certificate program
D. Course transferability: This course according to NJ Transfer, transfers to four year institutions.

V. Outline of Course Content
A. Teaching as a profession
B. Qualities of effective teachers
C. Issues of diversity and multiculturalism
D. Legal and ethical issues in education
E. Social problems
F. Technology in teaching
G. School governance and finance
H. Educational reform

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. Educational Goals

Student will:
1. describe the history of education in the United States (G.E. 6)
2. discuss society’s expectations regarding the teaching profession (G.E. 5, G.E.6)
3. discuss basic legal and ethical aspects of education (G.E. 5)
4. demonstrate knowledge of how schools are funded and governed (G.E. 5, G.E.6)
5. examine personal commitment to the teaching profession through reflection (G.E. 1)
7. identify and discuss issues of diversity and multiculturalism (G.E. 5, G.E. 6)

B. Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. describe important terms, trends, sequences, classifications, methods, principles, theories and other factual information in the area of education, based primarily on assigned readings and classroom lectures/discussion
2. demonstrate understanding of material from assigned readings and lecture: translating elements of the content into students’ own words; interpreting the meaning of written and oral materials.
3. analyze the historical and philosophical foundations of and the current trends in the American educational system and apply them to issues affecting the role of the teacher.
VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

A. lecture/discussion
B. small-group work
C. guest speakers
D. simulation/role playing
E. student collaboration

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

A. reflection papers
B. research papers
C. journals
D. midterm and final examinations
E. participation in class discussions

IX. Grade Determinants

A. A series of response papers
B. Research paper
C. Book review
D. Reflection paper recounting service learning experiences in a public school
E. Journals

X. Texts and Materials

A. Suggested Text:
B. Observations
C. Student Writing
D. Web Sources

XI. Resources

A. CAT, Computer-Assisted Technology, classroom with Internet access.
B. Document Camera