ECH 400
Individual Educational Project
S1 External 2013
Institute of Early Childhood

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Camilla Gordon
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Contact via camilla.gordon@mq.edu.au

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
Admission to GDipAdvStEc or GCertTeach(8-12)

Corequisites

Co-badged status
ECH400 is co badged with ECH440

Unit description
This unit enables students to undertake an independent study in a topic related to early childhood education. A list of approved topics may be obtained from the department prior to enrolment and topics may vary each semester. Students are required to complete a guided program of study related to their selected topic. Assessment may include a review of relevant literature and a paper examining specific issues.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/enrolmentguide/academicdates/

Learning Outcomes
1. Locate theoretical and research literature relevant to your choice of topic
2. Demonstrate a depth of knowledge about the area of inquiry
3. Identify the implications for the early childhood field

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial report</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>week 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First assignment</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>week 5</td>
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Initial report
Due: **week 2**
Weighting: **10%**

Contact your academic supervisor and agree on assignment details. Submit a written record of the agreement to your academic supervisor so you are both clear on expectations for the unit.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Locate theoretical and research literature relevant to your choice of topic
- Demonstrate a depth of knowledge about the area of inquiry
- Identify the implications for the early childhood field

First assignment
Due: **week 5**
Weighting: **25%**

Submit first assignment to your academic supervisor. This should be submitted via the unit iLearn site.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Locate theoretical and research literature relevant to your choice of topic
- Demonstrate a depth of knowledge about the area of inquiry
- Identify the implications for the early childhood field

Second assignment
Due: **week 7**
Weighting: **25%**

Submit second assignment to your academic supervisor. This should be submitted via the unit iLearn site.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Locate theoretical and research literature relevant to your choice of topic
Demonstrate a depth of knowledge about the area of inquiry
Identify the implications for the early childhood field

Final assignment
Due: week 13
Weighting: 40%

Submit final assignment to your academic supervisor via the unit iLearn site

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• Locate theoretical and research literature relevant to your choice of topic
• Demonstrate a depth of knowledge about the area of inquiry
• Identify the implications for the early childhood field

Delivery and Resources

Learning in this unit
Some students enjoy the challenge of independent study, while others find it difficult to work to their own schedule without a weekly timetable provided in a unit outline, or a structure provided by recorded lectures. In ECH 440, you control your own learning and you should develop some personal strategies to make sure you remain focused on your study.

Unit Workbook
It is a good idea to maintain a Workbook as you work your way through your study. This is a personal record of your study, and entries may include responses to your reading, any quotes you would like to remember, new ideas or techniques you would like to try and questions for discussion with your tutor or other students. Weekly entries in your Workbook help maintain a steady focus on your study.

Readings
As there are no lectures, tutorials or on-campus sessions for this unit, your independent reading is a key component of your learning. The diversity of students’ interests makes it impossible to cover the range of topics in a text or recommended readings. You must spend time searching for relevant information to complete your assignments. A wide range of original and creative thinking underlies the work you will complete for ECH 440, and a search of the literature is an important component of your study.

Unit Schedule
Individual education report develops over a period of 13 weeks.

Policies and Procedures
Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:
Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at: http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

UniWISE provides:

- Online learning resources and academic skills workshops
  http://www.students.mq.edu.au/support/learning_skills/
- Personal assistance with your learning & study related questions.
- The Learning Help Desk is located in the Library foyer (level 2).
- Online and on-campus orientation events run by Mentors@Macquarie.

Student Enquiry Service
Details of these services can be accessed at http://www.student.mq.edu.au/ses/.

Equity Support
Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

IT Help
If you wish to receive IT help, we would be glad to assist you at http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/.

When using the university’s IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students and it outlines what can be done.

Graduate Capabilities

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills
Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where
relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Locate theoretical and research literature relevant to your choice of topic
- Demonstrate a depth of knowledge about the area of inquiry
- Identify the implications for the early childhood field

**Assessment tasks**

- Initial report
- First assignment
- Second assignment
- Final assignment

**Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking**

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Locate theoretical and research literature relevant to your choice of topic
- Demonstrate a depth of knowledge about the area of inquiry
- Identify the implications for the early childhood field

**Assessment tasks**

- Initial report
- First assignment
- Second assignment
- Final assignment

**Problem Solving and Research Capability**

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in
order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Locate theoretical and research literature relevant to your choice of topic
- Demonstrate a depth of knowledge about the area of inquiry
- Identify the implications for the early childhood field

**Assessment tasks**

- Initial report
- First assignment
- Second assignment
- Final assignment