ECHE8200
Families in Context
Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2023
Macquarie School of Education

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convenor
Katie Wright
katie.wright@mq.edu.au
Contact via Dialogue
29WW262
please email via dialogue and to arrange a time

Co-convenor
Fay Hadley
fay.hadley@mq.edu.au
Contact via 9850 9833
29WW384
please contact Katie Wright for all consultations

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
Admission to MTeach(0-5) or MEChild or MEd or MEdLead or MIndigenousEd or GradDipIndigenousEd or MSpecEd or GradCertEChild or GradCertEdS

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
The overarching aim of this unit is to examine the implications of diversity in family values and the value of family across a range of contexts. Over the course of the unit, we will consider the role of socio-cultural, economic and political contexts in shaping family life and family values in the 21st century. Drawing on a variety of resources, including diverse media, academic publications and reflections on personal experiences, we will explore changing family lives and the extent to which traditional, largely Western-based, images of ‘family’ life reflect contemporary experiences and practices of families and children in Australia and abroad.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates
Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Explore diverse contexts in and perspectives on ways in which families function.
ULO2: Reflect on personal experiences and how these shape perspectives.
ULO3: Source credible and scholarly research concerning families to inform practice and generate new understandings and knowledge.
ULO5: Consider ways in which awareness of families in context can facilitate/support early childhood teaching practice.
ULO4: Highlight and critically analyse a range of social, cultural and political perspectives/influences on family life.
ULO6: Explore the online environment and contribute effectively and respectfully.
ULO7: Engage in active and critical reflective practice about working with diverse families.

General Assessment Information

• Students should be aware of and apply the University policy on academic honesty (see: https://policies.mq.edu.au/document/view.php?id=3)

• Unless a Special Consideration (see: https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration) request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of 0 (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue.

• This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

• Please format assessments using 12-point font and 1.5 spacing.

• All assessments are submitted electronically. Turnitin plagiarism detection software is used to check all written assessments.
Students can use Turnitin’s Originality Report as a learning tool to improve their academic writing if this option is made available in the unit.

Students should carefully check that they submit the correct file for an assessment as no re-submissions will be accepted after the due date and time, including instances where students upload an incorrect file in error.

Word limits are strictly applied. Work above the word limit will not be marked.

All assessments are marked using a rubric.

Marking of all assessments is moderated by the Unit Convenor.

Applications for extensions must be made via AskMQ (https://ask.mq.edu.au/).

It is not the responsibility of unit staff to contact students who have failed to submit assessments. If you have any missing items of assessment, it is your responsibility to make contact with the unit convenor.

**University policy on grading**

**Criteria for awarding grades for assessment tasks**

Assignments will be awarded grades ranging from HD to F according to guidelines set out in the University’s Grading Policy. For Professional Experience units the PE Report is marked as satisfactory or unsatisfactory and the Teaching Performance Assessment (in final PE units) is marked as not meets, meets or exceeds. The following descriptive criteria are included for your information.

**Descriptive Criteria for awarding grades in the unit**

In order to meet the unit outcomes and successfully pass this unit, students must make a genuine attempt at all assessment tasks. Where any submitted assessment task is considered to be unsatisfactory in this regard, the highest possible final grade that can be awarded for the unit will be 45.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HD (High Distinction)</td>
<td>Provides consistent evidence of deep and critical understanding in relation to the learning outcomes. There is substantial originality and insight in identifying, generating and communicating competing arguments, perspectives or problem-solving approaches; critical evaluation of problems, their solutions and their implications; creativity in application as appropriate to the discipline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D (Distinction)</td>
<td>Provides evidence of integration and evaluation of critical ideas, principles and theories, distinctive insight and ability in applying relevant skills and concepts in relation to learning outcomes. There is demonstration of frequent originality in defining and analysing issues or problems and providing solutions; and the use of means of communication appropriate to the discipline and the audience.</td>
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</table>
### Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Task A 23:55, 10/03/2023 Task B 23:55, 19/05/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 2</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>23:55, 21/04/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 3</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>23:55, 02/06/2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Assessment 1

**Assessment Type**: Participatory task  
**Indicative Time on Task**: 20 hours  
**Due**: Task A 23:55, 10/03/2023 Task B 23:55, 19/05/2023  
**Weighting**: 20%

Online participation and discussions. 1000 words
On successful completion you will be able to:

• Explore diverse contexts in and perspectives on ways in which families function.
• Reflect on personal experiences and how these shape perspectives.
• Highlight and critically analyse a range of social, cultural and political perspectives/influences on family life.
• Explore the online environment and contribute effectively and respectfully.
• Engage in active and critical reflective practice about working with diverse families

Assessment 2
Assessment Type: Essay
Indicative Time on Task: 35 hours
Due: 23:55, 21/04/2023
Weighting: 40%

Analysis of selected family topic. 2000 words

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Explore diverse contexts in and perspectives on ways in which families function.
• Source credible and scholarly research concerning families to inform practice and generate new understandings and knowledge.
• Highlight and critically analyse a range of social, cultural and political perspectives/influences on family life.
• Engage in active and critical reflective practice about working with diverse families

Assessment 3
Assessment Type: Report
Indicative Time on Task: 35 hours
Due: 23:55, 02/06/2023
Weighting: 40%

Philosophy paper. 2000 words

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Explore diverse contexts in and perspectives on ways in which families function.
• Reflect on personal experiences and how these shape perspectives.
• Source credible and scholarly research concerning families to inform practice and generate new understandings and knowledge.
• Consider ways in which awareness of families in context can facilitate/support early childhood teaching practice.
• Engage in active and critical reflective practice about working with diverse families

1 If you need help with your assignment, please contact:
• the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
• the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

2 Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Required and recommended texts

There is no set textbook for the unit. You will have weekly readings and some additional readings recommended.

Recommended additional textbooks

• Australian context


Information about the unit iLearn site

This unit has a full web presence through iLearn.

Students will need regular access to a computer and the internet to complete this unit.

Weekly access to iLearn is compulsory for all students. Important assessment information will be posted there, as will other relevant unit notices and materials, including a reading template and guide to lecture note taking to assist your studies.

Various activities and materials for discussion and critical reflection are included and external students especially are encouraged to use this web component. Electronic links and suggested references will be included in the Resources section. Please check the iLearn unit regularly.

Lectures

Weekly lectures are available on the web through the ECHO360 lecture component. You must listen to all lectures.
PowerPoint slides are available in iLearn in advance of the weekly lecture and/or are available in the Active Learning Tool.

Support resources
Macquarie University has a range of services for students. If you are struggling with any aspect of academic life or career trajectory and skills, we have great supports within the university. Please refer to the comprehensive list of support services here.

Access and technical assistance
Information for students about access to the online component of this unit is available at https://iLearn.mq.edu.au/login/index.php. You will need to enter your student username and password.

Please do NOT contact the Unit Convenor regarding iLearn technical help.

Assistance is available from IT Helpdesk
Ph: 9850 4357 or 1800 67 4357
Email: help.mq.edu.au.

On Campus: Ground floor at 18 Wally’s Walk

Other useful information about how the teaching is structured. Suggested wording below. Please amend for your unit.

Structure
The unit structure can be found in the university timetable https://timetables.mq.edu.au/2023/ in the tutorial students will discuss issues and questions arising from the lectures and prescribed readings. They are expected to base their arguments/discussions on evidence from published research and other relevant material. There will be a supporting iLearn site for the unit providing additional readings, links and materials.

The weekly program for the course with the accompanying readings/ preparation is available on the following pages or on the unit iLearn site.

Attendance Requirements
Attendance at all tutorials is expected for all students. There will be a supporting website for the unit providing additional readings, links and materials. Lectures will also be available through Echo in iLearn.

Unit Schedule
OVERVIEW OF THE WEEKLY CONTENT AND PROGRAM FOR UNIT ECHE8200

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/ Date</th>
<th>Lecture topic/ Lecturer</th>
<th>Online tutorial</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/160598/unit_guide/print
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Feb 20</th>
<th>Introduction to the unit Families: Definitions, Contexts and Theoretical Orientations (Fay Hadley)</th>
<th>no tutorials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rouse, E. <em>Partnerships in the Early Years</em>. Australia: Oxford University Press. Chapter 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>February 27</th>
<th>Research and study of families: Multi-disciplinary perspectives (Fay Hadley)</th>
<th>tutorial for all students Katie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>March 6</th>
<th>Media Portrayal of families (Katie Wright)</th>
<th>no tutorials Katie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Assignment #1: Task 1 due 10th March by 23.55 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>March 13</th>
<th>Recent arrivals: children from immigrant and refugee backgrounds (Fay Hadley)</th>
<th>tutorial for all students Katie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>March 20</th>
<th>Families with members who experience disability (Katie Wright)</th>
<th>no tutorials Katie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offers/160598/unit_guide/print
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 10 – April 21</td>
<td>Mid semester break</td>
<td>Assignment #2: Analysis of selected family topic due 21st April by 23.55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Week 11
May 15
Out-of-Home Care of Children – state care, grandparent, kinship care
Assignment #1: Task 2 due 19th May by 23.55
no tutorials

Week 12
May 22
What next? Where to from here in terms of researching with families (Fay Hadley)
tutorial for all students

Week 13
May 29
Assignment #3: Philosophy Paper on Working with families due 2nd June by 23.55
no tutorials or lectures
no readings

All students engage with the content weekly which includes listening to the lecture, completing the prescribed readings and responding to the questions and post in the blog. Engagement with the online zoom sessions is expected. Students can also read further on topics that interest them from the recommended list of readings in each module. However, all topics are inter-related and students are likely to find it useful throughout studies on this unit to revisit readings from previous topics and/or dip into readings required for future topics. All lectures are recorded and will be available through Echo360.

Policies and Procedures
Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/160598/unit_guide/print
Students seeking more policy resources can visit Student Policies (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the search tool.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct

**Results**

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

**Academic Integrity**

At Macquarie, we believe academic integrity – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free online writing and maths support, academic skills development and wellbeing consultations.

**School of Education Procedures**

In addition, the following policies and procedures of the School of Education are applicable in this unit.

**Attendance for units**

See the university timetable for information about when classes begin in this unit. https://timetables.mq.edu.au/2023/

Activities completed during weekly tutorials (internal) or on campus days (external) are essential for building the core knowledge and/or skills required to demonstrate the learning outcomes of this unit [and to meet the AITSL Graduate Teacher Standards and/or ACECQA requirements]. Attendance at all tutorials or on campus days is expected and the roll will be taken. Make up tasks may be given if attendance is missed to ensure all content is covered to meet accreditation requirements.
Students are required to attend the tutorial in which they are enrolled. Any changes to tutorial enrolments must be completed officially through e-student. Please do not contact the unit convenor requesting a change.

Electronic Communication

It is the student’s responsibility to check all electronic communication on a regular weekly basis. Communication may occur via:

- Official MQ Student Email Address
- The Dialogue function on iLearn
- Other iLearn communication functions

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- Workshops
- Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader
- Access StudyWISE
- Upload an assignment to Studiosity
- Complete the Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides
- Ask a Librarian

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of **Student Support Services** including:

- IT Support
- Accessibility and disability support with study
- Mental health support
- Safety support to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues
- Student Advocacy provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and
Student Enquiries
Got a question? Ask us via AskMQ, or contact Service Connect.

IT Help
For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

5Rs Framework
The 5Rs Framework, developed by the School of Education at Macquarie University, is embedded throughout your teacher education course. Your use of the 5Rs Framework will help you develop the capabilities that will make your teaching career sustainable and fulfilling. In this unit, you will learn using the 5Rs framework in the following important ways:

Responsive - all modules - cover all family types. This allows you to think about the various ways we can build responsive relationships with families in our educational settings.

Ready to learn - the essay is set to challenge your thinking and how stereotypes are perpetuated.

Research engaged - the philosophy assessment provides opportunity to engage with the research. One of your modules is also on researching with families and the ethical considerations that need to be thought through. This module also provides opportunities to analyse who is missing in the research on working with families - what are the gaps/who is silenced and what does that mean for educational settings?