

EDUC 485T-B Spiritual Development of

Young Children

Course Syllabus for Summer 2023

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Office: virtual office only <https://southern.zoom.us/j/8370580375>

Office Hours: (Call between 12 noon and 5:00 p.m. Mon.-Thurs. / text anytime other than Sabbath hours.)

Class Meetings: Every Monday from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Eastern / 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Central Time

Online Meeting Room: Class meetings will be held via Zoom. The link will be provided in eClass.

Support services:

eClass Help Desk:

Email eclasshelp@southern.edu or call 423-236-2086

Information Technology Workstation Support: Desktop Computer Support.

Go to IT Workstation Support Desk in Wright Hall, or call 423-236-2712

McKee Research & Writing Center: Help with writing or research assignments for any class.

Call to make an appointment. McKee Library: 423-236-2788

Course Description

Experienced teachers are given opportunity to develop new skills and gather new facts in content fields at various levels.

Textbooks

Habenicht, D. J. & Burton, L. (2004). *Teaching the Faith: An Essential Guide for Building Faith-shaped Kids*. Review and Herald Publishing Association.

Wilhoit, J. C. & Dettoni, J. M. (1995). *Nurture That Is Christian*. BridgePoint Books.

Biblical Foundation of the Course

Jesus embraced little children and told us to do the same. We are told to train them because as faithful adults the Scriptures learned from infancy will be remembered (Mark 10:13-16; Prov. 22:6; 2Tim. 3:14, 15). God's chosen prophetess told us, *"Too much importance cannot be placed on the early training of children. The lessons that the child learns during the first seven years of life have more to do with forming his character than all that it learns in future years."* (CG 193) Early instruction, guidance and modeling of relationships made with God for young Joseph, Samuel, David, Esther, Daniel and his three friends made these Biblical children leaders in God's nation. We have a responsibility to God and to the very youngest child, *"If we will live in communion with God, we too may expect the divine Spirit to mold our little ones, even from their earliest moments"* (DA 512). By nurturing the growth and development of young children's relationship with Jesus that He will be honored even more than John expressed in a letter to a friend: *"I could have no greater joy than to hear that my children are following the truth."* (3 John 1:4) and drawing the children unto salvation in Him, this is the Biblical foundation of this course.

Biblical Foundation Course Objectives

1. To understand that spiritual development begins where the physical and emotional development of newborns begins, and how this is so.
2. To learn how to cultivate young children's relationship with God via trust, friendships, love, praise, prayer, nature, respect, good values and healthy sensibility.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe when and how spiritual development begins.
2. Summarize theory and research of renowned contemporary developmentalists regarding young children's (birth-7) growth in cognitive, social, emotional, and communication aptitudes.
3. Differentiate between and nurture both spiritual development and moral development.
4. Demonstrate knowledge and proactive instruction to a variety of learning styles.
5. Create developmentally appropriate object lessons for birth through second grade children.
6. Tie spiritual and moral development lessons into school and childcare center Bible/Worship curriculums.
7. Show how specific actions and activities encourage and promote spiritual development in each of the developmental stages of birth through seven years of age.

Class Attendance, Presence, Absences and Make-Up Work

Regular class attendance is expected. In an online class, attendance looks different than it does in a face-to-face course. Southern Adventist University has an Absence and Attendance Policy in the University Catalog-Academic Policies Section. Please familiarize yourself with it and with the following particulars of this course.

For the most part, other than on Sabbath, you should enter eClass daily, especially given that this course is an intensive. Please note that the logs of eClass are checked to ensure that students are actively engaging with the course materials. If you are inactive or miss an assignment, you will be contacted. If an assignment has not been submitted by the due date, a grade of zero is entered in the gradebook. If you wish to submit a late assignment, please contact me at tlibonati@southern.edu to find out if you may and what procedures should be followed.

We will have a live session class meeting each week. Please plan and make arrangements to attend these live sessions as they are required. If for some unforeseen reason you cannot attend, please contact me as soon as possible. Generally speaking, SAU professors will not excuse absences for reasons other than illness, conflicting school activities both of which are required, or emergencies beyond the students' control. Excused absence or not, students are held responsible for work they miss. It is their responsibility to initiate arrangements to make up their assignments.

Class Meetings/Live Sessions

Each Monday during Weeks 2-7, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Eastern Time, there will be a class meeting for EDUC 485T-B where we will pray together, discuss the week's content, have Q & A, etc. Attendance is required. If for some unforeseeable reason you cannot attend, we will generate a link to the session recording and place it in eClass in the week in which the meeting took place. You may then receive credit for attending the week's session by clicking on the provided link, listening and responding to it accordingly.

To join the live session, simply click on the "Live Sessions" words in the light green horizontal bar on the general page of this course in eClass. More detailed information regarding live session requirements, and helpful tips, can be found [here](#).

Communication - Keeping in Touch - Feedback Plan

To facilitate communication between the professor and every co-learner, all class members are encouraged and expected to regularly check their southern.edu email account and the “Announcements Forum” within our eClass course. All eClass announcements posted to the class will be considered public class announcements.

You may email questions or comments to me, course professor, at tlibonati@southern.edu . Every student can expect to receive an electronic reply to questions or comments within 24-48 hours, except on the weekend. When you need to send an email, please state the purpose/topic of that email in the subject line.

The timeframe for returning virtually graded weekly assignments with feedback and for responding to student questions electronically is within 48 hours. Larger projects/papers can be expected within 5 days. Feedback will be given privately through email, via respective eClass assignment, or virtual live one-on-one conference. Additional feedback may be sought by contacting the professor via email or text.

Additional information on important policies and procedures, such as, but not limited to, disabilities and accommodations, academic honesty, and student authentication, can be found in the link provided at the end of this paragraph. The document also provides valuable information regarding instructional strategies/methodologies and how to access eClass, technology support, learning methods, resources available in eClass, etc: [University Policies and Additional Syllabus Information](#). Be aware that you will be accountable for the provided information.

Assessment Plan -

The criteria for grading each assignment and expectation, such as attendance and participation along with the grading scale with instructions on how you may view your grades is described here. In addition, clearly stated participation requirements for live session and discussion forums in eClass and special rubrics and checklists used for projects and certain major assignments, are as follows:

Grading Scale			
The following Grading Scale will be used:			
A	93-100%	C	73-77%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	88-89%	D+	68-69%
B	83-87%	D	63-67%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-63%
C+	79-79%	F	59% & below

Category	Weight
Live Session Attendance & Participation	%
Forums/Discussion Board Participation	%
Weekly Assignments	%
Culminating Project & Presentation	%
Quizzes & Exams	%
Total 100%	

Accessing Your Grades in eClass

There are two places in eClass pertaining to grades. One place is the “Grades” link found in the navigation drawer which will appear a sidebar that will pop open upon clicking the menu icon in the top left corner of the course page.

The other location is called the Open Grader, which can be found by clicking on the course gear icon located near the top right side of the course page. This section contains a detailed look at each assignment and forum item in the grade book. You can view the grading rubric as it was returned to you,

along with any comments made in the rubric. A list of all the posts you made in a graded discussion is also available in this location.

Submission Times and Late Work Caution

Course assignments are to be submitted electronically to the course site, unless specifically indicated otherwise. First-response posts are due on Padlet before midnight Wednesday and all second-level responses are due by noon on Friday. All written assignments are due by noon each Friday. Feel free to use Sundays for getting a jump-start on the new week's reading assignments. Late work is at risk of not being accepted. It is your responsibility to plan ahead and to deliver a professional product in a timely manner. If, however, you are experiencing an unusual circumstance that is impeding your progress, please contact me immediately regarding the situation. Last day to drop this course with a "W" is the date posted by SAU admissions.

Tentative Course Schedule/Calendar

Week	Date	Live Session Classes	Topic of Study	Assignments and Assessments Due
1	May 30 - June 2	N/A	Anatomy and Physiology of the Young Brain	Sunday, June 4
2	June 5 - 9	Monday, June 5 5:00 p.m. Eastern	Pedagogy for in Early Childhood Education	Sunday, June 11
3	June 12 - 16	Monday, June 12 5:00 p.m. Eastern	Spiritual and/or Moral Development	Sunday, June 18
4	June 19 - 23	Monday, June 19 5:00 p.m. Eastern	Learning Styles for Children Birth to Seven	Sunday, June 25
5	June 26 - 30	Monday, June 26 5:00 p.m. Eastern	Lesson Planning of DAP in Spiritual Development for Young Children Note: July 1 and 2 are recognized	Sunday, July 2
6	July 3 - 7	Monday, July 3 5:00 p.m. Eastern	Utilizing a Nature and Pebbles Curriculum	Sunday, July 9
7	July 10 - 14	Monday, July 10 5:00 p.m. Eastern	Student Project Presentations	Sunday, July 16
8	July 17 - 21	Monday, July 17 5:00 p.m. Eastern	Course Culmination & Assessment	Sunday, July 23

Disclaimer

SAU grants professors the right to modify, supplement, and make changes to the course syllabus as needs arise which includes during the semester if necessary. This course syllabus and schedule are subject to change at short notice. The professor will endeavor to keep the changes minimal and communicate changes within the course site on eClass. Kindly be alert to announcements either via eClass, email and/or face-to-face live session class meetings, if/when any changes are made.