PRIFYSGOL glyndŵr UNIVERSITY

MODULE SPECIFICATION FORM

Module Title: Understanding Curricula	Level: 4	Credit Value: 20

Module code: ECS408	Cost Centre: GAEC	JACS2 code: X310

Semester(s) in which to be offered: 3	With effect from: July 2015

Existing/New: Existing	Title of module being replaced (if any):

Originating Academic area:	Childhood and Family Studies	Module Leader:	Liz Sheen

Module duration (total hours)	200	Status: core/option/elective (identify programme where appropriate):	Option
Scheduled learning & teaching hours	30		
Work-based Learning	30		
Independent study	140		

Percentage taught by Subjects other than originating Subject (please name other Subjects):

Programme(s) in which to be offered: FdA Childhood Studies: Families and Young Children FdA Childhood Studies: Play FdA Childhood Studies: Education FdA Childhood Studies: Special Educational Needs	Pre-requisites per programme (between levels): None

Module Aims:

This module aims to explore how curricula has evolved over time and what are the current influences on contemporary curricula. It will question the purpose of curricula and examine the influence of attitudes, values and pre-conceptions as held by practitioners and society.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this module, students should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding:

1) Develop an understanding of how curricula have evolved over time.

2) Identify and explore the influences on current curricula.

3) Explore the purpose of a curriculum.

4) Recognise the importance of attitudes, values and pre-conceptions as an influence on the curriculum.

Key Academic skills:

Demonstrate academic writing conventions, including use of supporting evidence and Harvard referencing

Transferable/Key Skills and other attributes:

- Effective Communication
- Time management
- Organisational skills
- Personal and professional reflection
- Application of theory to practice
- Independent learning
- Team Work

Assessment:

1) Group Wiki Page & Resource – Exploration of curricula through a written wiki page which leads to the development of a resource for a specific audience.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1,2,3,4	Group Project	100%		3,000

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

This module is delivered through e-learning/blended learning

The basis for working with online materials will be through self-directed study, regular online communication with tutors/peers and work-based tasks. Each module will consist of sessions whereby the students are introduced to appropriate content through reading, watching videos, screencasts, listening to podcasts, and accessing suitable web resources. Students are directed towards and supported to access journal articles and e-books through Athens. Students are encouraged to interact with each other and tutors through a range of communication tools. Each tutor would be expected to engage students using chat forums, live chat sessions, e-mail, Moodle messaging, wiki pages, interactive quizzes and web conferencing. Students are enabled to communicate with each other and to form a community of practice using a variety of the above tools.

Work-based learning is an important and integral part of each module. Students are supported throughout to make links between the module content and their professional practice. This is facilitated informally through a variety of communication methods integrated within each session and formally through an assessed piece of work.

Syllabus outline:

The syllabus outline has been presented as a broad set of questions for the lecturer and students to answer together using the most up-to-date materials available. This recognises that knowledge, theory, concepts and practice will change over the life span of this course and the content used to answer the questions below should be revised each year as appropriate.

This module will support students to explore the following questions:

1) How have educational curricula evolved?
2) What has influenced the development of curricula?
3) What is the purpose of an educational curriculum?
4) How is an educational curriculum influenced by attitudes, values and pre-conceptions?

In exploring these questions this module will consider:

- An historical view of the development of curricula
- An understanding of the different types of curricula and their purpose
- International curricula
- Implementing curricula
- Practitioners involvement with curricula

Bibliography:

Books marked with an * are currently available for students to access via Athens

Essential reading:

File, N., Mueller, J.J. and Basler Wisneski, D. (2011), *Curriculum in Early Childhood Education. Re-examined, Rediscovered, Renewed.* London:Routledge

Georgson, J. And Payler, J. (2013), *International Perspectives on Early Childhood, Education and Care.* Maidenhead: Open University press

Other indicative reading:

Beckley, P. (2013), *The New Early Years Foundation Stage: Changes, Challenges and Reflections.* Maidenhead: Open University Press

Melhuish, E. and Petrogiannis, K. (2006), *Early Childhood, Care and Education International Perspectives.* London:Routledge*

Yelland, N., Lee, L., O'Rourke, M. And Harrison, C. (2008), *Rethinking Learning in early Childhood Education.* Maidenhead: Open University Press

Department of Education. (2012), Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-00023-2012

Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (2008), Framework for Children's Learning for 3-7 year olds in Wales. http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/earlyyearshome/foundation_phase/foundationphasepractitioners/frameworkchildlearning/?lang=en

Websites

Te Whariki
http://www.educate.ece.govt.nz/learning/curriculumAndLearning/TeWhariki.aspx

Reggio Children
http://www.reggiochildren.it/?lang=en

Highscope
http://www.highscope.org/

Montessori
http://www.montessori.org.uk/what_is_montessori

Steiner Waldorf
http://www.steinerwaldorf.org.uk/

Journals
Childhood – A Journal of Global Child Research
European Early Childhood Education Research Journal
Educational Research
Early Years - An International Research Journal
Education 3-13
Journal of Early Childhood Research