

ELEMENTARY I COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Math

The course focuses on the presentation of Montessori math materials to teach the following concepts: symbol and quantity, linear counting, decimal system, four operations, memorization of facts, laws of arithmetic, problem-solving, and measurement. Also included is the history of mathematics. The course consists of lectures, group discussions, presentation of materials, practice, and student presentations.

Geometry

The focus of the course is on the presentation of Montessori geometry materials to teach plane and solid geometry. The study of fractions includes operations, denominators, and reducing. This course will also include equivalence, similarity, congruence, and nomenclature through lectures, lesson demonstrations, group discussions, and practicum experiences.

Language & Reading

The Montessori Language Arts course includes the study of grammar, parts of speech, sentence analysis, and word study. Adult learners will be introduced to pedagogy and materials for teaching reading and spelling to all levels of readers, with a focus on including diverse learning approaches and DEIB topics in children's literature. Adult learners will learn how to include reading and comprehension through all areas of the curriculum.

Physical Science

The course consists of science experiments, demonstrations, and extension activities involved with the Great lessons and will be woven throughout Geography, History, and Biology courses.

Geography

The course focuses on the study of the development of the child's concept of geography. The content includes knowledge of the earth, globes, atlases, maps (physical and political), flag study, landforms, compass points, classified nomenclature, biomes of the world, and the interconnected nature of geography to human development on each continent. The course will also highlight world cultures, with an emphasis on diverse cultures around the world, including various music, art, and literature.

History

The course focuses on the development of the child's concept of history. The content includes time, the age of the Universe, the history of life on Earth, the fundamental needs of people, and

geologic eras and periods. The course covers historical contributions across diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural groups. The structure will include lectures and demonstrations of lessons, readings, discussions, the practice of creating lessons or projects, and album preparation.

Biology

The Biological Sciences course is comprised of two parts: Botany and Zoology. Botany topics include the concept of living/nonliving, the Kingdoms of life, plant/animal, external parts of the plant, the function of the parts of the plant, plant stories, and plant physiology experiments. Zoology includes living/nonliving, kingdoms of life, the animal kingdom, classification of the animal kingdom into its major phyla, external parts of the animals of the major phyla, the way animals meet their fundamental needs, the first knowledge of the animal kingdom (animal stories), animal classification charts, and main characteristics of vertebrates.

Curriculum Design

This course will cover ways to add extensions to the Montessori curriculum while maintaining the integrity of the philosophy. It will also incorporate equity and diversity in curriculum design, ways to integrate technology, and tools to help teachers utilize technology for curriculum enhancement. Additionally, this course will cover the need to provide real-life “going out” learning experiences and community service opportunities to elementary children to further their sense of responsibility and independence.

Classroom Leadership

Cultural relevance, diversity, and responsive ideology are at the heart of all topics in this course. This course is a study of classroom management systems that will help adult learners create a classroom climate that optimizes learning. Our discussions will include elements of the Montessori philosophy that facilitate the children’s academic and spiritual growth. Adult learners will develop communication skills that encourage positive interactions between teachers and parents, coworkers, and administrators. The importance of having a broad and equitable repertoire of teaching strategies to accommodate varied learning styles will be covered. Additionally, this course will examine ways to add extensions to the Montessori curriculum while maintaining the integrity of the philosophy. It will also incorporate ways of integrating technology in the classroom and guide teachers in utilizing technology for curriculum enhancement.

Philosophy

All topics for this course will be through a lens of equity, justice, anti-bias, and anti-racism. Instructors will present a culturally responsive approach to topics that include Dr. Montessori’s concept of the 6-9 year old child, life, preparation of the environment, observation, the nature of the child, and preparation development of the teacher. With ‘Education for Peace’ as a

foundation for the course, an integrated curriculum including personal development and positive communication, along with tools to support self-directed, autonomous learners will be given throughout the course. Class delivery includes online content, videos, recorded lectures, and small group projects and presentations.

Child Development

This course serves as a study of theories of child development according to the major contemporary child developmentalists. Stages of development related to the social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and spiritual growth of the 6-12-year-old child are examined along with current research. The course examines the developmental impacts of bias, racism, trauma, and inequities for at-risk students. Developmental and learning differences are discussed, and current research is shared through online content, videos, recorded lectures, and small group projects and presentations.

Practical Life

The study of Practical Life will include presentations and activities in the areas of self-care, hygiene, health and safety, and care of the environment, including daily maintenance and repairs of the environment. The course also includes gardening, cooking, and information technology topics for the Elementary-age student. Adult learners will participate in applying culturally responsive grace and courtesy to daily practical life activities, preparing studio and workshop space with tools and equipment such as sewing, woodworking, and other crafts. They will become competent in preparing, teaching, and managing hands-on activities for their students.

Movement

Through participation in group exercises and discussion, adult learners will develop an understanding of the way movement is essential to the development of the child. The adult learners will expand their knowledge of how to direct children through a variety of physical activities that are relevant, meaningful, and enjoyable and promote coordination in exercise, games, and sports.

Art

This course includes a discussion of Maria Montessori, the creative process, art integration, and application in the Montessori Classroom. Adult learners will explore art mediums and ways to apply them in the classroom, including drawing, painting and sculpting, and the use of tools and techniques. Art appreciation, through a lens of diversity and respect for all cultures, will be shown along with cultural crafts. Adult learners will discuss ways to create lesson plans to integrate arts into their classroom.

Music

This course is designed to give adult learners the tools needed to incorporate music into every area of the Elementary I curriculum regardless of prior experience. Creating a cultural experience across the curriculum serves as a strong foundation for this course. Adult learners will learn about such topics as rhythm, singing, instrumental skills, and music appreciation.

Practicum Seminar & Year-Long Project

The Practicum seminars focus on the practicum phase of working in the classroom and discuss the purpose and details of meeting the requirements during the practicum phase of the training process. The requirement includes 1080 hours of classroom experience to be fulfilled by working in a Montessori classroom for a minimum of 6 hours per day (during the work cycle), 5 days per week, over 9 consecutive months in the same classroom.

The Practicum phase also includes the yearlong projects, reflective journals, observations, transformation of the adult, preparation of the environment, curriculum design, and other assignments that are assigned throughout the courses of this program level. A minimum of 3 field visits are conducted by field consultants from PCTE, who will observe you in your classroom during your teaching time. Additional mentorship and visits may be required, depending on the Practicum model, experience, and circumstances.

3-6 Overview (Prerequisite for EI)

The purpose of this course is to give an overview of the early childhood philosophy and curriculum. Its focus is Dr. Montessori's view on many aspects of development for the child between 2.5 and 6 years. Topics include the learning environment, the role of the adult, and the curriculum. An overview of materials and class observation are included in this course. The methods of instruction include lectures, presentations, and practice. The Google Classroom course includes online content, videos, recorded lectures and presentations, slide decks, and the opportunity to join Zoom meetings to further discuss 3-6 topics.