

# CFS-170: STUDYING THE REGGIO EMILIA APPROACH

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## Justification for this inactivation request

Course not offered in more than three years.

## Effective Term

Fall 2026

## CC Approval

10/03/2025

## AS Approval

10/09/2025

## BOT Approval

10/16/2025

## COCI Approval

02/23/2026

## SECTION A - Course Data Elements

### CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

### Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Child Development/Early Childhood Education (Master's Degree)	

### Subject Code

CFS - Child and Family Studies

### Course Number

170

### Department

Child and Family Studies & Education

### Division

Career Education and Workforce Development (CEWD)

### Full Course Title

Studying the Reggio Emilia Approach

### Short Title

The Reggio Emilia Approach

### CB03 TOP Code

1305.00 - \*Child Development/Early Care and Education

### CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

### CB09 SAM Code

B - Advanced Occupational

## SECTION B - Course Description

### Catalog Course Description

This is an introductory course in the theory, philosophy, and inspiration of Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education. Students will explore an interpretation of the basic principles of this approach. Emphasis is on developing a new image of the child in connection with the role of adults (teachers and parents), developing relationships, interactions, and experiences based on "progettazione" (term used in Reggio Emilia for prediction, hypothesis, projections of emergent projects).

## SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

### Open Entry/Open Exit

No

### Repeatability

Not Repeatable

### Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

### Allow Audit

Yes

## Requisites

## SECTION D - Course Standards

### Is this course variable unit?

No

### Units

3.00

### Lecture Hours

54.00

### Outside of Class Hours

108

### Total Contact Hours

54

### Total Student Hours

162

## Distance Education Approval

### Is this course offered through Distance Education?

Yes

### Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Hybrid	Permanent
Entirely Online	Permanent

## SECTION E - Course Content

### Student Learning Outcomes

**Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Identify methods of implementing curriculum used in the Reggio Emilia programs.
2. Create a documentation of a deep exploration by children.

### Course Objectives

**Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. List and describe the major elements of the Reggio Emilia approach
2. Demonstrate skills in listening, observing and recording as part of planning and documentation
3. Design and analyze childcare environments while demonstrating the principle of "the environment as the third educator"

4. Identify the various roles of the educators in Reggio Emilia
5. Demonstrate an understanding of "progettazione" and emergent in-depth projects

### Course Content

1. History and context of the Reggio Emilia approach
  - a. Origins and philosophy
2. The image of the child
3. Relationships and interactions
  - a. Children's group work on projects
  - b. Fostering connections
4. Scheduling the rhythm of the day
  - a. Determining the rhythm
  - b. Using the flow of the day to meet children's needs
5. The environment as the third educator
6. The role of the educators
7. "Progettazione", emergent in-depth project approach
  - a. Projects - short and long term
  - b. Helping children look deeper at area of study
8. Documentation
  - a. Using observations
  - b. Listening
9. Implementing the Reggio Emilio approach
  - a. Inspiration
  - b. Attempts of adaptation and translation
  - c. Further exploration in US contexts

### Methods of Instruction

#### Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Field Trips	Field trips may be used as a means to explore different languages (art mediums).
Lecture	Some lecture is used to present concepts and to lead critique of approaches.
Discussion	Small and large group discussion used to collaborate and debate methods of implementation.

#### Online Adaptation

Types	Examples of learning activities
Activity	
Discussion	
Group Work	
Individualized Instruction	
Journal	
Lecture	

#### Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards  
 Chat Rooms  
 Discussion Boards  
 E-mail Communication  
 Telephone Conversations  
 Video or Teleconferencing

#### Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms  
 Discussions  
 Group Work

**Course design is accessible**

Yes

**Methods of Evaluation****Methods of Evaluation**

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Quizzes	Students will take short answer quizzes on readings.
Projects	Students will research 4-5 different philosophies of curriculum development for young children and compare and contrast those to the philosophy used in the Reggio Emilia schools. Students will create in class projects exploring the philosophy of the Reggio Emilia approach.
Oral Presentations	Students will create documentation panels on an exploration activity with young children that meets all the requirements for documentation presented and discussed in class.

**Assignments****Reading Assignments**

Reading assignments are based on textbook readings or instructor generated handouts.

For example:

1. Read chapter 3 in "The Hundred Languages of Children: The Reggio Emilia Approach-Advanced Reflections" which covers the history, philosophy, and perspectives of the approach used in the Reggio Emilia schools.
2. Read chapter 3 in "In the Spirit of the Studio: Learning from the Atelier of Reggio Emilia" which provides an overview of setting up the environment and materials for an exploration.

**Writing Assignments**

- 1) Reflective summaries

For example:

Students will watch the movie "Portrait of a Lion" and write a reflection on the process used, the children's exploration, and the children's final creations presented in the movie.

- 2) In class activity

For example:

Working in small groups the students will present their individual documentation panels and mutually critique the panels utilizing the criterion presented in class.

**SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials****Material Type**

Textbook

**Author**

Gandini, Lella

**Title**

In the Spirit of the Studio: Learning from the Atelier of Reggio Emilia

**Publisher**

Teacher's College Press

**Year**

2005

**Material Type**

Textbook

**Author**

Hendrick, Joanne

**Title**  
First Steps Toward Teaching the Reggio Way

**Edition/Version**  
1st

**Publisher**  
Merrill

**Year**  
1997

**Material Type**  
Textbook

**Author**  
Edwards, Carolyn; Gandini, Lella; and Forman, George

**Title**  
The Hundred Languages of Children

**Edition/Version**  
3rd

**Publisher**  
Ablex Publishing

**Year**  
2011

**ISBN #**  
9780313359811

**Material Type**  
Textbook

**Author**  
Gandini, L., L. Hill, L. Cadwell

**Title**  
In the Spirit of the Studio

**Edition/Version**  
2nd

**Publisher**  
Teachers College Press

**Year**  
2015

**ISBN #**  
0807756326

**Material Type**  
Textbook

**Author**

Wurm, Jilianne

**Title**

Working in the Reggio Way: A Beginner's Guide for American Teachers

**Publisher**

Redleaf Press

**Year**

2005

**Rationale**

quality text for this course. respected content.

**ISBN #**

978-192961064

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**SECTION G - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity**

**Course Codes (Admin Only)**

**CB00 State ID**

CCC000062423

**CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status**

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

**CB11 Course Classification Status**

Y - Credit Course

**CB13 Special Class Status**

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

**CB23 Funding Agency Category**

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

**CB24 Program Course Status**

Program Applicable

**Allow Pass/No Pass**

Yes

**Only Pass/No Pass**

No