### Title: Observation Techniques

### Module Code: PSYC9011

### Credits: 5

### NFQ Level: Expert

### Field of Study: Psychology

### Valid From: Semester 1 - 2013/14 (September 2013)

### Module Delivered in 2 programme(s)

### Module Coordinator: JIM WALSH

### Module Author: Judith Butler

### Module Description:

This module provides students with the requisite skills to select and implement appropriate observation techniques. Students will develop the skill of producing theory based interpretations of observations of children at various ages and stages of development in diverse environments.

### Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module the learner will be able to:

- **LO1** Analyse guidelines and ethics for observing behaviour, recording it precisely and interpreting observations
- **LO2** Critically evaluate observation techniques which can be used when working with children
- **LO3** Apply major theories of child development in order to interpret observations successfully
- **LO4** Critically evaluate their own role and skills, drawing together strategies to enhance child development and behaviour
- **LO5** Develop a holistic picture of children's experiences, development and learning from live observation and interpretation

### Pre-requisite Learning

**Module Recommendations**

This is prior learning (or a practical skill) that is strongly recommended before enrolment in this module. You may enrol in this module if you have not acquired the recommended learning but you will have considerable difficulty in passing (i.e. achieving the learning outcomes of) the module. While the prior learning is expressed as named CIT module(s) it also allows for learning (in another module or modules) which is equivalent to the learning specified in the named module(s).

No recommendations listed

**Incompatible Modules**

These are modules which have learning outcomes that are too similar to the learning outcomes of this module. You may not earn additional credit for the same learning and therefore you may not enrol in this module if you have successfully completed any modules in the incompatible list.

No incompatible modules listed

**Co-requisite Modules**

No Co-requisite modules listed

**Requirements**

This is prior learning (or a practical skill) that is mandatory before enrolment in this module is allowed. You may not enrol on this module if you have not acquired the learning specified in this section.

No requirements listed

**Co-requisites**

No Co Requisites listed
Indicative Content

Guidelines and Ethics for Observing Children

Child Observation Techniques

Observation and Theory Based Interpretation
Theories associated with children's development. Piaget, Vygotsky, Bruner, Chomsky, Howard Gardner, Bowlby, Winnicott, Freud and Erikson. Creating a holistic picture of children's experiences, development and learning from observation and interpretation. Support planning that is meaningful to each child. Commonsense interpretations. Theory based interpretations. Objectivity and Reliability. Own role in implementing and interpreting observations. Their role in identifying appropriate strategies to promote and support children's development and behaviour.

Assessment Breakdown

| Course Work | 100.00% |

Course Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Type</th>
<th>Assessment Description</th>
<th>Outcome addressed</th>
<th>% of total</th>
<th>Assessment Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Report</td>
<td>Case Study Proposal</td>
<td>1,2,4</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>Child Study based on live observation</td>
<td>1,3,4,5</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>Sem End</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No End of Module Formal Examination

Reassessment Requirement

Coursework Only
This module is reassessed solely on the basis of re-submitted coursework. There is no repeat written examination.

The institute reserves the right to alter the nature and timings of assessment
This module has no Full Time workload.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workload Type</th>
<th>Workload Description</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Average Weekly Learner Workload</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Independent &amp; Directed Learning (Non-contact)</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>Every Week</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Theory</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Every Week</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong> 7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Weekly Learner Workload</strong> 7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Weekly Contact Hours</strong> 2.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Module Resources

#### Recommended Book Resources


#### Supplementary Book Resources


#### Recommended Article/Paper Resources


#### Supplementary Article/Paper Resources


#### Other Resources

- Website: MSU *Methods of Observing Young Children*, Michigan State University, Michigan [https://www.msu.edu/~mandrews/mary/obs__methods.htm](https://www.msu.edu/~mandrews/mary/obs__methods.htm)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Code</th>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Delivery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CR_HPLTH_9</td>
<td>Master of Arts in Play Therapy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR_HPYTY_9</td>
<td>Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Play Therapy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>