PERLS 421: Play Leadership

Instructor: Mary Ann Rintoul  
Phone: 780-492-9621  
Email: mrintoul@ualberta.ca  
Office: 3-418 Van Vliet Complex  
Office Hours: By appointment  

Location: Education 177  
Day: Wednesdays  
Time: 3:30 – 6:20  
Website: eClass  
CSL Dates: Variable (see eClass)  

Communication: It is strongly recommended that email communication with the professor be done using the university email system (your @ualberta.ca account). When sending an email to the instructor, the Course Number PERLS 421 should be in the subject field.

Course Description: This course provides a theoretical and experiential learning approach to understanding play. The content will cover its defining criteria, value (to the individual, community, as well as society), and the role and responsibilities of Play Leaders in fostering learning and development through play. Students will have the opportunity to design, lead, and assess various play environments and activities. This course is a mandatory CSL (Community Service-Learning) course and provides opportunities to facilitate play and recreation activities for children and youth in various locations in the community, while also learning the philosophy and skills of Play Leadership.

Course Objectives: Theory, discussion, and practical work (CSL) will run concurrently throughout the course in both classroom and community partner locations. The content listed below will be integrated for presentation rather than considered separately:
1. Defining criteria of play, play types, and associated benefits
2. Role of the Play Leader
3. Play Leadership Principles
4. Play Leadership Practice
5. Theories on Play
6. Plan and implement play program in the community
7. Play Advocacy

Learning Objectives: On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. understand the range of defining criteria of play, types of play and associated benefits of play
2. understand the unique role of a play leader
3. demonstrate play leadership principles in interactions with children and youth (in course community placements)
4. represent and critique a variety of theories on play
5. create engaging play environments (indoors and out-of-doors) that meet the needs of specific populations.
6. select the appropriate play interventions (with the least intrusiveness) for an individual or specific population
7. critically assess play programs, leadership and environments
8. demonstrate effective advocacy skills for the promotion of play and its value to the individual, groups and society at large

**Required Course Materials:**
Required readings are posted on eClass in a Reading List with links to online resources and articles.

**Course Evaluation and Grading:**
Students are responsible for all information presented in the lectures, audiovisual presentations, and required readings. Evaluation will be completed and expressed in raw marks throughout the course. Grades (using the letter grading system) will be assigned only to the final distribution of mark totals for the course. Grades will be assigned based on a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in this class and remain unofficial until approved by Faculty Council or its designate (i.e. Associate Dean).
A representation of evaluative material will be presented for students in class. For example, exam question samples will be available in lecture and/or on eClass to provide students with expectations for examinations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Play History Submission</td>
<td>January 28th</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Midterm Examination</td>
<td>February 11th</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Activity &amp; Write-up (in pairs)</td>
<td>Jan – March</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection Questions (E Submit)</td>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource for CSL Partners</td>
<td>April 1st</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSL Placement Presentation</td>
<td>April 8th</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>April 22nd 2:00</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students must verify the final exam date on BearTracks when the Final Exam Schedule is posted.*
*Additional details will be provided in a timely manner for each evaluative component listed above.*

**Late Assignments:**
Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date or on eClass in the designated due date timeframe. Ten percent will be deducted each day (this includes weekend days). The instructor may consider an extension if notified within 48 hours of due date and supporting documentation of an acceptable reason is provided.

**Deferred Final Examinations:**
A student who cannot write the final examination due to incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction or other compelling reasons can apply for a deferred final examination. Instructors do not have the authority to grant deferred final exams. An application must be made to the student’s Faculty office within 48 hours of the missed examination and must be supported by a Statutory Declaration or other appropriate documentation (Section 23.5.6 of the University of Alberta Calendar). Deferred examinations are a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferred examination will be granted.
Misrepresentation of Facts to gain a deferred examination is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

The common dates for writing deferred final examinations for courses in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation are as follows:


E-Class (Moodle) Students are responsible for accessing course information posted on eClass. This may include lecture notes, lab materials, assignment information, CSL information, readings, calendar, class announcements and additional course materials.

Lecture Notes: Please note that the instructor does not provide complete lecture notes or copies of the slides (either in person or via e-mail) to students who miss class. Therefore, it may be beneficial to introduce yourself to at least 2 other people in this class so that you can borrow their notes if you are unable to attend a lecture. eClass will be used for most lectures (partial notes). If notes are available on eClass they will be posted by approximately 4:30 p.m. the day before the class.

Recording of Lectures: Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the instructor.

Attendance: “Since presence at lectures, participation in classroom discussions and projects, and the completion of assignments are important components of most courses, students will serve their interests best by regular attendance. Those who choose not to attend must assume whatever risks are involved” (UofA Calendar §23.3 Attendance). Regular attendance and participation are expected at all sessions, as theory, discussion, observation and practical work will run concurrently throughout the course. Students are expected to build a supportive class culture which focuses on inclusion, active participation, commitment to personal growth, respect of others and critical reflection of one’s own biases, perceptions, assumptions and beliefs. Students are expected to contribute to the learning of all members of the class by being prepared and by contributing to class discussions and activities.

Community Service Learning (CSL): PERLS 421 is a Community Service Learning (CSL) course (please refer to the student guidebook posted on eClass). Students will travel to and work (volunteer) at the CSL partner organizations where they will observe, plan and implement a range of play and recreational activities. Additionally they may be required to complete more service learning hours outside of class time. This may take place at a) the existing service learning location b) as a winter Play Day volunteer or c) another appropriate location, after approval by the instructor. The instructor will track total service learning hours required to complete the CSL hours. More information with regards to placement options will be provided.
Accommodations: Students who require accommodations in this course due to a disability affecting mobility, vision, learning impairments, or to mental or physical health are advised to discuss their needs with Specialized Support and Disability Services, 2-800 Students’ Union Building, Phone: 780-492-3381 or TTY: 780-492-7269.

Academic Support Centre: Students who require additional help in developing strategies for better time management, study skills or examination skills should contact the Student Success Centre (2-300 Students’ Union Building).

Academic Integrity and Honesty: The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/governance/StudentAppealsRegulations.cfm) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation or aiding and abetting any of these offences. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. Students should understand the University of Alberta definitions for this inappropriate behaviour.

30.3.2(1) Plagiarism
No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student’s own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

30.3.2(2) Cheating
30.3.2(2)a No Student shall in the course of an examination or other similar activity, obtain or attempt to obtain information from another Student or other unauthorized source, give or attempt to give information to another Student, or use, attempt to use or possess for the purposes of use any unauthorized material.

30.3.2(2)b No Student shall represent or attempt to represent him or herself as another or have or attempt to have himself or herself represented by another in the taking of an examination, preparation of a paper or other similar activity. See also misrepresentation in 30.3.6(4).

30.3.2(2)c No Student shall represent another’s substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student’s own work.

30.3.2(2)d No Student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course Instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project, assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has previously been obtained by the Student or which has been or is being submitted by the Student in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.
30.3.2(2)e No Student shall submit in any course or program of study any academic writing, essay, thesis, report, project, assignment, presentation or poster containing a statement of fact known by the Student to be false or a reference to a source the Student knows to contain fabricated claims (unless acknowledged by the Student), or a fabricated reference to a source.

30.3.6(4) Misrepresentation of Facts
No Student shall misrepresent pertinent facts to any member of the University community for the purpose of obtaining academic or other advantage. See also 30.3.2(2) b, c, d and e.

30.3.6(5) Participation in an Offence
No Student shall counsel or encourage or knowingly aid or assist, directly or indirectly, another person in the commission of any offence under this Code.

The Truth In Education (T*I*E) project is a campus wide educational campaign on Academic Honesty. This program was created to let people know the limits and consequences of inappropriate academic behaviour. There are helpful tips for Instructors and Students. Please take the time to visit the website at: http://www.ualberta.ca/tie

Amendments to the Code of Student Behaviour occur throughout the year. For the most recent version of the Code, visit the University Governance website at http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/governance/StudentAppealsRegulations.cfm

Final Note: This course outline acts as an understanding between the student and the instructor regarding the details of the course. It is understood that circumstances might develop, during a term, when a change to the course outline makes sense to all concerned. Policy about course outlines can be found in section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar.

Disclaimer: Any typographical errors in this Course Outline are subject to change and will be announced in class. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.
## PERLS 421 – Play Leadership
### Tentative Schedule and Topical outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Content / Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 14 - 21</td>
<td>CSL Police Information Checks – Please go to 412 Arts and Convocation Hall sometime during this week.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>CSL Student Site Form Deadline – Please go to CSL portal online.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 30 (6:30 – 9:00) and/or January 31 (1:00 – 4:00)</td>
<td>Winterfest Green and Glow <a href="http://alumni.ualberta.ca/events/centennial/winterfest">http://alumni.ualberta.ca/events/centennial/winterfest</a> Optional Hours for CSL placement (Playday station)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11</td>
<td>Midterm Exam Risk and Play</td>
<td>Risk and Play (sections 2,4,6) Sandseter &amp; Kennair (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>Family Day Playday (optional Hours for CSL)</td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 25</td>
<td>CSL Placement</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>CSL Placement</td>
<td>Observation of Play Behaviors (link)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>CSL Placement - Reflection Questions Submission Due (eClass)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>CSL Placement</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>CSL Placement</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>CSL Presentations in class Final review</td>
<td></td>
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*Guest Speakers to be confirmed.*