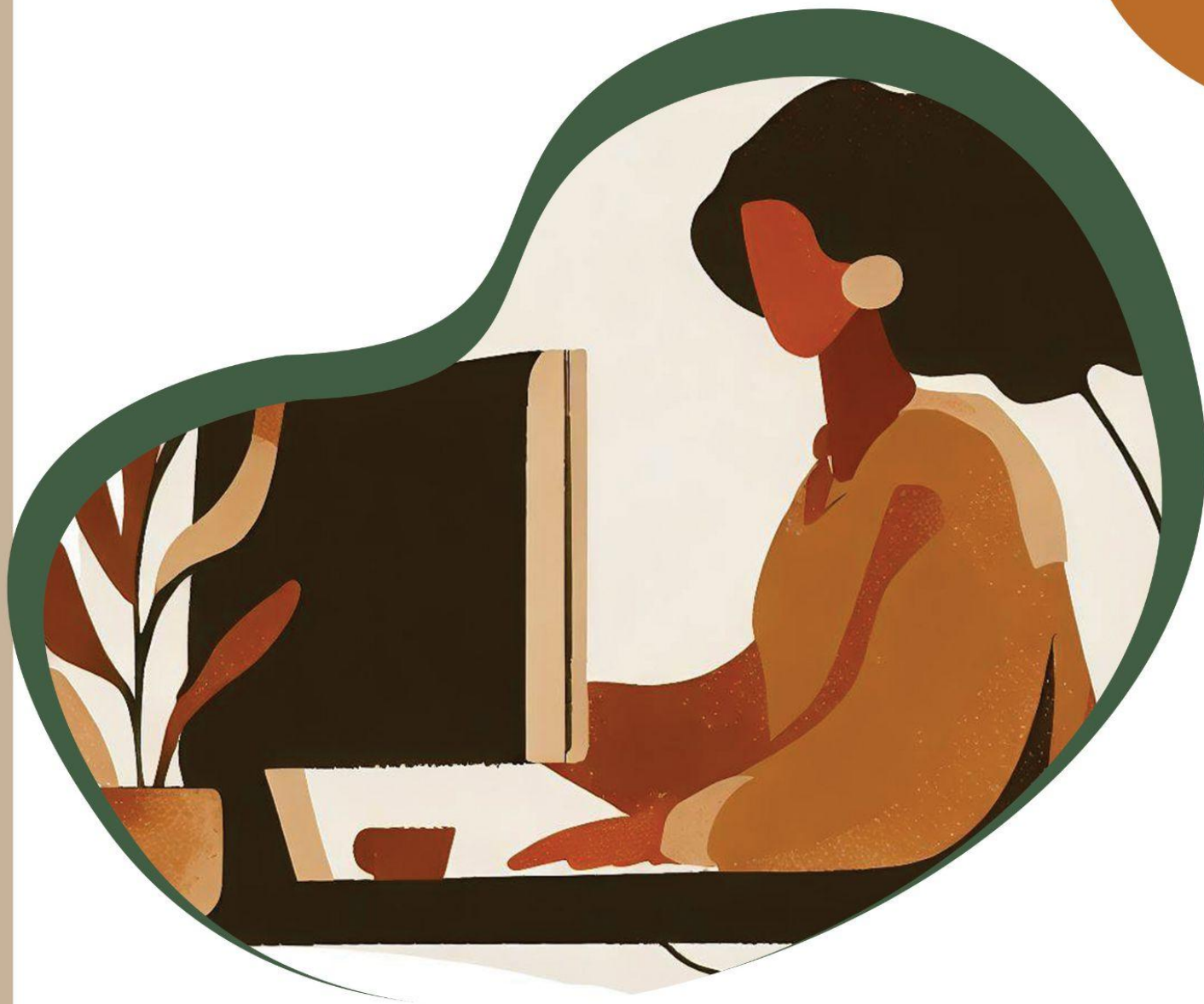




Course Syllabus

CREATING ADOPTION SENSITIVE CLASSROOMS



Creating Adoption Sensitive Classrooms

45 Hours/ 3 Graduate Credits

Course Access: Upon enrollment, you have 180 days to complete your online course in our [eClassroom](#). If you have any questions about course access, please email support@cecreditsonline.org, or call 425-788-7275 extension 104.

Course Description

This course is designed to help educators understand the many complex issues students who come from adoptive backgrounds face and how that can affect them in the classroom. While often regarded as a compassionate and beautiful way to form a family, it comes with challenges that many are not aware of or have not had the opportunity to work with. The challenges some of these students may bring with them can have a major impact on the classroom and on that student's learning.

This course will help educators go beyond the storybook idealism of adoption and help them understand the deeper issues facing these students including trauma, disability, identity, multiculturalism and equity as well as give concrete information and strategies to support these students academically and from a social-emotional perspective. In addition, by the end of the course, educators will be able to critically analyze their own practice and apply learning by creating, tailoring and implementing an adoption sensitive classroom review and plan.

Objectives

- Understand what adoption is and is not.
- Gain an understanding of how trauma may impact children who come from adoptive families.
- Learn strategies for identifying and managing trauma in the classroom.
- Understand the best methods for discipline and classroom management in support of adoptive students.
- Understand how special needs and disability may impact many adoptive students.
- Increase cultural sensitivity and sensitivity to adoptive issues in lesson planning.
- Critically assess their own practice and work to revise practice so that it is in alignment with supporting this group of students.

Alignment to the [Charlotte Danielson Framework for Teaching](#)

Domain 1: Planning and Preparation

- 1b Demonstrating Knowledge of Students

Domain 2: Classroom Environment

- 2a Creating an Environment of Respect and Rapport
- 2d Managing Student Behavior

Domain 3: Instruction

- 3a Communicating with Students
- 3e Demonstrating Flexibility and Responsiveness

Domain 4: Professional Responsibilities

- 4c Communicating with Families

Course Outline**Module 1: The Many Faces of Adoption**

- Introduction
- What is Adoption?
- Adoption Positive Language
 - Discussion Board: Debunking Myths Around Adoption
- Adoption Myths
 - Discussion Board: Adoption Positive Language

Module 2: Trauma and the Brain

- What is Trauma?
 - Discussion Board: Defining Trauma
- Is it Adoption or is it Trauma?
- Trauma and the Brain
 - Discussion Board: Trauma and the Brain

Module 3: Trauma and the Classroom

- What Trauma Looks Like in a Classroom
- Understanding Stress, Its Impact on Trauma and Regulation
- Authentic Task #1: Co-Regulation Plan
- Moving Towards a Trauma Informed Classroom-Understanding Underlying Behavior
 - Discussion Board: Adoption, Trauma and Human Centered and Sensitive Classrooms
- Challenging How We Do Discipline and School Culture
 - Discussion Board: Changing How We Look at Discipline and Practice

Module 4: “Special Needs” and disability impact on adoptive students, ELL and Executive Function

- Understanding “Special Needs” and Adoption
 - Discussion Board: The Disability Dynamic
- Understanding English Language Acquisition and Adoption
 - Discussion Board: A New Lens for ELL in the Classroom

- Adoption, Executive Function and the Classroom

Module 5: Identity, cultural sensitivity, and mental health

- Cultural Sensitivity, Identity and Mental Health
 - Discussion Board: Understanding the Impact of Identity on Adoption
- White Privilege
 - Discussion Board: Understanding Privilege

Module 6: Sensitivity to Adoptive issues in the Classroom

- Understanding Why Sensitivity Matters
- Adapting Your Classroom and Curriculum
 - Authentic Task #2: Adoption Sensitive Classroom Checklist
- Their Voices
 - Discussion Board: Making Shift
- Shifting Lenses and the Triad of Adoptee, Educator and School
 - Discussion Board: When You Know Better...

Final Project:

You will be creating a comprehensive adoption sensitive classroom checklist that should be tailored for your own teaching situation (level content). You will draw upon and utilize concepts learned throughout the course.

After completing the checklist, you will then document areas in your own classroom or school where these are already in place and/or describe the measures you will need to take to implement them.

Grading Policy

Course Component	Percentage of Final Grade
Authentic Task	40%
Discussion Boards	25%
Final Project	35%

You must have an 80% average in order to pass and obtain University credit for this course unless your district has specified otherwise.

Compliance with and Commitment to the American Disabilities Act

In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, participants who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, which might affect their ability to complete this course, are encouraged to reach out to support@cecreditsonline.org at the beginning of the course. We will make reasonable academic and accessibility accommodations to the course.

Academic Integrity Policy

Honesty is an essential aspect of academic integrity. Individual students are responsible for doing their own work and submitting original assignments as per the course directions. Individual students are responsible for doing their own work. Plagiarism and cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes using information from the Internet without citing the website. Avoid plagiarism by appropriately acknowledging the source of the author's words and ideas.