



**Your Education Ally.**  
By Teachers, *For Teachers.*

# Fast-Track Course Syllabus

**Name:**

**Date:**

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Syllabus to be used for review or approval only.



## Today is a Great Day to Learn Something New!

*Professional learning to meet your needs.*

Engaging and applicable, **ELEVATE** courses are the core of Teaching Channel. We offer a variety of courses that meet the continuing education needs of teachers from across the country. Teaching Channel courses work perfectly for license renewal needs, working to move up through salary schedules, or for professional learning to support improved student outcomes. Teaching Channel provides continuing education graduate credit courses that have been approved and endorsed by regionally accredited colleges and universities from across the United States.



### **University Partners** (See a current list of academic partners on our website)

Continuing Education courses are approved by our regionally accredited (HLC, NECHE, and WSCUC) partners. Many also hold CAEP accreditation. All partners review syllabi, content, and coursework expectations.

**Spring Term**  
Registrations Accepted  
January 2 - May 15  
Coursework Due\*  
May 30

**Summer Term**  
Registrations Accepted  
May 16 - August 15  
Coursework Due\*  
August 30

**Fall Term**  
Registrations Accepted  
August 16 - November 25  
Coursework Due\*  
December 9

\*Or first business day after the 15th if due date falls on a weekend.

# Professional Learning Model

We design our courses to elevate professional growth and impact, which are the heart of our framework. Teaching Channel recognizes the learning process as an ongoing cycle characterized by the following key phases:



# ELEVATE Your Impact

Embark on a transformative learning experience where reflection, exploration, and innovation intersect to shape your professional practice.

ELEVATE courses provide a dynamic balance of knowledge-building and skill-building opportunities, followed by practical application and integration into your professional practice. Each self-paced course features research-based materials, video clips, and interactive elements to enhance and support learning.

- Activate prior knowledge in order to establish new learning goals
- Access research-based resources and materials to deepen your understanding and broaden your skillset.
- Participate in a variety of assignments that encourage the implementation of new learning in your classroom or school setting.
- Research solutions to challenges, answer lingering questions, or explore additional topics that spark your curiosity.
- Assess professional growth, and consider the potential impact of newfound knowledge and skills.
- Engage in student-to-student interaction in a discussion forum as well as teacher-to-student individual feedback.

## Continuous Improvement

Each course is reviewed annually, informed by participant feedback, current research available on the topic, insights from our University Partners, and new opportunities to show learning through implementation.

## Course Development and Evaluation

ELEVATE courses are created and evaluated by educators with a master's degree or higher in an education-related field and five or more years of classroom experience in PreK-12 education. Course evaluators provide personalized, specific feedback for submitted assignments and rubric-based grading aligned with best practices in professional education.

\*\*Per standard practice in the field, each course credit carries the equivalent of fifteen hours of content and coursework. To receive credit, participants must complete all requirements according to expectations outlined in the course rubrics.



# The Power and Possibilities of Play

Course Number: 5423 | 3 Credits

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*This document is an outline of the course requirements and is subject to change.*

## Course Description

Feel the enthusiasm, engagement, and energy jump off the page when you hear, “the power and possibilities of play!” More than a teaching strategy for our youngest, play enhances learning for all students from PreK to 12th grade, and even the adults, too. Learn the history of play, how to be an advocate for play in the classroom, support children’s right to play, and celebrate its benefits on the International Day of Play! Behold what researchers say about why play is the way we learn best, and identify the damaging effects of shrinking recess and taking play away. Investigate how you can infuse the best of technology and outdoor learning experiences into your professional play practice. Honor the rejuvenating power play brings to your classroom, including the ways it fosters friendships, teaches self-regulation, encourages social-emotional learning, and promotes well-being. Learn about the people behind the research, share your own play experiences, and take a quiz to determine your own play personality. Bring joy back to teaching as you rediscover the power and possibilities of play!

## Course Objectives

1. Explain your personal philosophy for using play as an instructional strategy.
2. Summarize how you will be an advocate for play and for equitable play areas, green spaces, and equipment for students.
3. Describe the ways play is a key component in digital and outdoor nature-based learning in ways that increase engagement, energy, and enthusiasm for learning.
4. Develop a comprehensive presentation, video, or infographic that incorporates the power and possibilities of play as a teaching and learning strategy.
5. Reflect on professional growth and articulate how learning from this course focused on play will impact students and the broader educational community.

## Course Materials

This course does not use a textbook. All required articles and resources are linked within the course modules.

**Important!** Courses are completed 100% online within the learning management system. You should have access to a compatible web browser (such as Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Apple Safari, and/or Mozilla Firefox) and a word processing tool (such as Microsoft Word and/or Google Docs). While our course platform does support mobile devices, for the best user experience, we recommend using a desktop or laptop computer to complete courses.

## Course Delivery

All coursework will be completed and submitted online within the learning management system. Log-in to your account at [www.teachingchannel.com](http://www.teachingchannel.com) to access your online course and view additional details of each assignment.

- Explore a variety of educational resources, videos, and additional tools necessary for successful course completion.
- Complete modules including journaling, progress check assessments, and written response, that facilitate opportunities to apply strategies and reflect on new learning.
- Participate in our discussion forum to share insights and learn from peers.
- All modules and activities within the courses are required. You will complete and submit (if applicable) each module separately for evaluation in the online course.
- Your course evaluator will review your work using the criteria outlined in the rubric.

Need help getting started with your online course? Watch this [Quick Start Tutorial](#) video.

## Grading & Feedback

Fast Track courses include formative Progress Check Assessments at the conclusion of Modules 1 and 2. A passing grade of 80% or higher is required, however, you are provided multiple attempts, if needed.

For Module 3, you will submit comprehensive written responses. We use a rubric-based grading system to provide detailed feedback and ensure fair assessment. Once you've submitted your Module 3 coursework, your evaluator will review your work and provide personalized, written feedback within 7 days of submission. Each assignment within the module is evaluated based on the detailed holistic rubric criteria defined below. Your grade for the module is determined as follows:

- **A Grade:** If the majority of assignments within a module meet the "Above Target Expectations" criteria, demonstrating exceptional understanding and application of the concepts, you will earn an "A" for that module.
- **B Grade:** If the majority of assignments within a module meet the "At Target Expectations" criteria, showcasing a solid understanding and application of the concepts, you will earn a "B" for that module.
  - **Example:** If a module has 5 graded assignments, you would need at least 3 to meet the "Above Target Expectations" criteria to earn an 'A' for the module.
- **Resubmission:** If any assignment is missing required components or doesn't meet minimum expectations, it will be marked "Below Target Expectations." You'll receive detailed feedback and have the opportunity to revise and resubmit for full credit.
- **Re-grading:** Once a module grade has been issued, coursework will not be re-evaluated.
- **Final Course Grade:** Each module must be completed to enable a final grade to post. For Modules 1 and 2, a Progress Check grade of 80% or higher must be recorded. These grades are not factored into the final course grade. Your final course grade will be earned by your written submission for Module 3.

## Detailed Holistic Rubric

Criteria for All Assignments	A Grade: Above Target Expectations	B Grade: At Target Expectations	Resubmission Required: Below Target Expectations
Understanding and Application	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the content; integrates theory with practice seamlessly, using detailed examples or applications that extend beyond the course materials.	Shows a solid understanding of the material; provides appropriate examples or applications that link theory to practice.	Coursework is missing required components or does not meet target expectations. Coursework will be returned for resubmission with evaluator instructions.
Critical Thinking and Analysis	Exhibits a high level of critical thinking and innovative analysis; makes insightful connections and distinctions that reveal deep comprehension.	Demonstrates adequate critical thinking; analysis is correct but lacks depth, with few connections made that are not explicitly discussed in course materials.	
Clarity and Organization	Assignment is well-organized and clear; ideas are articulated clearly and logically, enhancing the reader's understanding.	Assignment is organized and clear; ideas are generally well-expressed but may lack occasional clarity or logical flow.	
Integration of Content and Reflection	Integrates multiple ideas from course resources and activities; incorporates reflective insights that	Integrates few ideas from course resources and activities; reflection is present but may be somewhat superficial or less detailed	

	demonstrate personal growth and professional application.	about personal and professional implications.	
Adherence to Assignment Guidelines	Fully adheres to all assignment instructions and format guidelines; exceeds basic requirements by enriching the assignment with additional relevant content or innovative ideas.	Meets basic assignment instructions and guidelines; fulfills the requirements satisfactorily without significant additional elements or creativity.	

## Collaboration

Collaboration is a key component of the learning experience, designed to promote a supportive and inclusive learning environment where diverse perspectives are valued and respected. Teaching Channel asks learners to interact with their peers through discussions, participate with colleagues in collaborative assignments, and engage with embedded tech tools. Additionally, learners interact with the credentialed course evaluator who provides personalized feedback on assignments.

## Academic Integrity

While collaboration is encouraged, each learner must complete their own assignments and assessments individually, ensuring the integrity and originality of their work. Any instances of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism or unauthorized sharing of work, will be addressed in accordance with Teaching Channel's [Collaboration and Plagiarism Policy](#).

## Artificial Intelligence

We recognize that artificial intelligence (AI) is an emerging and evolving technology that is embedded into many aspects of our personal and professional lives. Just as with other emerging technologies, we embrace the benefits it can provide for teachers, such as enhancing efficiencies for teacher planning, designing differentiated materials, and assisting as a thought partner. However, we encourage the educator community to stay mindful that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic.

Please use the following guidelines if completing your work with the assistance of AI:

- Consider AI as a collaborator and use your preferred tool(s) to generate ideas that enhance your learning and creativity.
- Modify any AI generated output to make it your own (e.g. applicable to your audience, differentiated for unique student needs, relevant to your educational environment) and to meet course requirements.
- To the best of your ability, verify the AI generated coursework you are submitting is accurate and without bias.

## Course Outline

### Module 1

Identify your motivations and goals for the course, then assess prior knowledge and experiences you bring with you. Review foundational resources to better understand how play impacts teaching and learning, and ways in which they can be integrated into the classroom.

### Outcomes:

Participants will be able to:

1. Identify and differentiate various play theories and types, recognizing their relevance to modern educational practices.
2. Explain the neurological and developmental benefits of play, emphasizing its impact on cognitive, social, and emotional growth.

3. Advocate for play as a fundamental right for all children, and recognize the importance of equitable access to play spaces and opportunities.
4. Reflect on personal beliefs and experiences related to play, and articulate a philosophy for integrating play-based learning into educational settings.
5. Apply the Keep-Stop-Start framework to refine current teaching practices, and develop a plan for professional growth.

## Assignments

- 1.1 Activate Your Learning
- 1.2 The History of Play
- 1.3 The Science of Play
- 1.4 The Power of Play
- 1.5 Adult Play
- 1.6 Keep-Stop-Start

## Module 2

This module explores the vital role of play in social-emotional learning, highlighting how activities can ensure students understand and can regulate their emotions by connecting physical sensations with feelings. The module extends exploration into diverse contexts, including technology integration and outdoor education, emphasizing the multifaceted benefits of play in development.

### Outcomes:

Participants will be able to:

1. Analyze the connection between play and social-emotional learning, recognizing how play supports emotional intelligence and self-regulation.
2. Evaluate the impact of technology on play and learning, considering both the benefits and challenges of digital play in education.
3. Explore the benefits of outdoor and nature-based learning experiences in fostering holistic child development.
4. Investigate the work of prominent play researchers and apply their insights to enhance your understanding of play-based learning and its implications for students and families.
5. Apply the Keep-Stop-Start framework to refine current teaching practices, and develop a plan for professional growth.

## Assignments

- 2.1 Social-Emotional Learning and Play
- 2.2 Tech & Play
- 2.3 Outdoor and Nature-Based Learning and Play
- 2.4 Play Mentors and Play Researchers
- 2.5 Keep-Stop-Start
- Optional Discussion

## Module 3

This module culminates in a comprehensive presentation on play, drawing from the course's diverse topics like its definition, research, classroom strategies, and connections to SEL, technology, and nature-based learning. Participants are asked to reflect on their learning journey, assessing their initial goals, identifying key takeaways, and articulating how their newfound knowledge will impact their professional practice and broader educational community.

### Outcomes:

Participants will be able to:

1. Articulate a clear understanding of the definition and importance of play in child development and learning.
2. Develop and present research-based arguments supporting the integration of play in educational settings.
3. Analyze the impact of play on student learning, social-emotional development, and overall well-being.
4. Reflect on personal growth and articulate the potential impact of play-based learning on your professional practice and the wider educational community.
5. Evaluate teaching strategies and routines by finalizing the Keep-Stop-Start document, justifying your choices with detailed explanations.

## Assignments

- 3.1 Tell Us About Yourself
- 3.2 Culminating Project
- 3.3 Keep-Stop-Start
- 3.4 Reflect on Your Growth and Impact

Optional Discussion

## Module 3 Rubric

Criteria	Ratings		
Assignment 3.1	Prompt Addressed	Prompt Partially Addressed	Prompt Not Addressed
Assignment 3.2	<p><b>A Grade: Above Target Expectations</b></p> <p>Coursework is above target expectations as defined in the Detailed Holistic Rubric, included in the course syllabus.</p>	<p><b>B Grade: At Target Expectations</b></p> <p>Coursework meets target expectations as defined in the Detailed Holistic Rubric, included in the course syllabus.</p>	<p><b>No Grade: Below Target Expectations</b></p> <p>Coursework is missing required components or does not meet target expectations. Coursework will be returned for resubmission with evaluator instructions.</p>
Assignment 3.3	<p><b>A Grade: Above Target Expectations</b></p> <p>Coursework is above target expectations as defined in the Detailed Holistic Rubric, included in the course syllabus.</p>	<p><b>B Grade: At Target Expectations</b></p> <p>Coursework meets target expectations as defined in the Detailed Holistic Rubric, included in the course syllabus.</p>	<p><b>No Grade: Below Target Expectations</b></p> <p>Coursework is missing required components or does not meet target expectations. Coursework will be returned for resubmission with evaluator instructions.</p>
Assignment 3.4	<p><b>A Grade: Above Target Expectations</b></p> <p>Coursework is above target expectations as defined in the Detailed Holistic Rubric, included in the course syllabus.</p>	<p><b>B Grade: At Target Expectations</b></p> <p>Coursework meets target expectations as defined in the Detailed Holistic Rubric, included in the course syllabus.</p>	<p><b>No Grade: Below Target Expectations</b></p> <p>Coursework is missing required components or does not meet target expectations. Coursework will be returned for resubmission with evaluator instructions.</p>

Module grade is based on the level to which the participant meets rubric criteria. The Module 3 grade will also be recorded as the final course grade.

## Knowledge Base:

This course draws on research from the following sources:

Common Sense Media. Most technology wasn't built with kids in mind. We're on a mission to change that. Retrieved March 17, 2024, from <https://www.commonsense.org/>

Children & Nature Network: There's no app for this. Retrieved March 20, 2024, from <https://www.childrenandnature.org/>

Bisz, J., & Mondelli, V. L. (2023). The Educator's Guide to Designing Games and Creative Active-Learning Exercises: The Allure of Play (M. C. Linn, Ed.). Teachers College Press.

Frey, N., Fisher, D., & Smith, D. (2022). The Social-Emotional Learning Playbook: A Guide to Student and Teacher Well-Being. Corwin Press.

Gray, P. (2011). American Journal of Play, (Spring). <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ985541.pdf>

Henricks, T. S. (2020). Play Studies: A Brief History. American Journal of Play, 12(2). <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1255272.pdf>

Johnston, K. (2021, October 18). Engagement and Immersion in Digital Play: Supporting Young Children's Digital Wellbeing. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. National Institutes of Health

Mardell, B. (2023). A Pedagogy of Play. Project Zero. <https://pz.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/PoP%20Book.pdf>

Vygotsky, L., et al. Play and Its Role in the Mental Development of the Child. Play: Its Role in Development and Evolution.

Yogman, M. e. a. (2018, September). The Power of Play: A Pediatric Role in Enhancing Development in Young Children. The American Academy of Pediatrics, 142(3). <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/142/3/e20182058/38649/The-Power-of-Play-A-Pediatric-Role-in-Enhancing?autologincheck=redirected>

## Course Wrap-Up

### Final Course Grade

Each module must be completed to enable a final grade to post. For Modules 1 and 2, a Progress Check grade of 80% or higher must be recorded. These grades are not factored into the final course grade. Your final course grade will be earned by your written submission for Module 3. Participants may earn a final grade of either an "A" or "B".

Once your final grade has posted in the course, that grade will be visible in your Account within 24 hours only if:

- Grade release date has passed
- All payments are complete if you are a part of a group registration, or used a purchase order payment

### Transcripts

Visit our website for more details on how to request your transcript from the university partner selected upon registration.

## We Are Here to Help!

**Our Customer Support Team**  
is available to help you with:

- Registration Information
- Textbooks
- Shipping Information
- User Login/Password Questions
- Coursework Extensions
- Final Grade Questions
- Updating Your Customer Records

**Phone:** 952-469-3454

**Email:** [Support@teachingchannel.com](mailto:Support@teachingchannel.com)

[\*\*Live Chat\*\*](#)

**Our Course Instructor Team**  
is available to help you with:

- Completion of Course Requirements  
(including content-specific questions, accommodations, and modifications)
- Course Recommendations
- Module Grade Questions

**Phone:** 952-469-3454

**Email:** [Instructor@teachingchannel.com](mailto:Instructor@teachingchannel.com)

[\*\*Instructor Help Form\*\*](#)

