<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course title:</th>
<th>Play Therapy with Young Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course #/term:</td>
<td>SW 625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time and place:</td>
<td>Monday, 8 am to noon (8 a.m. to 9 a.m. asynchronous; 9 to noon in B-770)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit hours:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisites:</td>
<td>506 or permission of instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructor:</td>
<td>Julie Ribaudo (you can call me Julie or Professor Ribaudo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pronouns:</td>
<td>She/her/hers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact info:</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:Jribaudo@umich.edu">Jribaudo@umich.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phone: 734-936-4949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I will do my best to respond within 2 working days. If you do not hear from me, please re-contact me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office:</td>
<td>2710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office hours:</td>
<td>It is easiest to make an appointment.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Pandemic Statement:**

You are in the MSW program while enduring the fall-out of major pandemics – Covid-19 and the long-standing epidemic of racism and oppression. I hope we will strive to treat ourselves and each other with compassion and grace, while also encouraging our collective growth. There will be glitches along the way. The course outline is my best attempt to help you predict what the class holds in store for you.

1. **Course Statement**

   a. **Course Description**
This course will examine theories and techniques for working directly with children ages eighteen months to nine years, and their caregivers, via play therapy. This course will emphasize evidence-based play therapies that address diverse groups of young children. Special attention will be given to the meaning of play across cultures, as well as the role of play in the healthy development of children. We will also cover the interaction between environmental risk factors, protective factors and developmental factors as they contribute to coping, resiliency, and emotional and behavioral disorders. Primary emphasis will be given to Child Centered Play Therapy (CCPT) as well as other forms of child or parent/child play therapy, such as Theraplay, Adlerian play therapy, Infant-Parent Psychotherapy, and Child-Parent Psychotherapy.

b. Course Content

We will address both the objective aspects of observing and interacting with young children and their caregivers, as well as the subjective experience of interacting with children, some of whom face significant environmental challenges, including poverty and the consequences of systemic oppression on them and their parents. We will address specific strategies for helping children who are distressed or dysregulated. Finally, students will have the opportunity to observe and reflect upon multiple domains of child development, including state regulation, attachment behaviors, play themes and emotional, language, cognitive and motor development.

c. Course Objectives and Competencies

Students will engage in holistic social work practice, including developing the knowledge, skills, values and affective and cognitive processes related to working with young children and their caregivers, and the related practice behaviors.

**KNOWLEDGE -**

**Competency 7: Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities:** Social workers apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment, person-in-environment, and other multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks in the analysis of assessment data from clients and constituencies

**Outcomes:**
- Describes the role of development in stages of play
- Distinguishes between normative and non-normative play
- Describes the benefits and limitations of play-based therapy
- Describes three evidence-based, play-based therapies

**SKILLS -**
Competency 8: Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities: Social workers critically choose and implement interventions to achieve practice goals and enhance capacities of clients and constituencies.

Outcomes:

- Demonstrates the capacity to observe multiple domains of child development.
- Accurately appraises and expresses the themes addressed in children’s play.
- Demonstrates in writing and orally the capacity to understand and respond to the unique communications of play.
- Demonstrates the capacity to engage with a young child through play, including the capacity to engage in child-led play.
- Synthesizes modalities in order to choose an appropriate intervention modality.
- Accurately assesses the effectiveness of chosen modality or intervention technique.

VALUES –

Competency 2: Advance Human Rights and Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice: Social workers are knowledgeable about the global intersecting and ongoing injustices throughout history that result in oppression and racism, including social work’s role and response. Social workers critically evaluate the distribution of power and privilege in society in order to promote social, racial, economic, and environmental justice by reducing inequities and ensuring dignity and respect for all. Social workers advocate for and engage in strategies to eliminate oppressive structural barriers to ensure that social resources, rights, and responsibilities are distributed equitably and that civil, political, economic, social, and cultural human rights are protected.

Outcomes:

- Articulates the position of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) on play.
- Lists arguments for and against the US ratification of the UNCRC.
- Develops capacity to advocate for the retention of play in the lives of children.
- Identifies the role of racism and inequity in identification and treatment of children placed at risk.

Competency 3: Engage Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) in Practice: Social workers understand how racism and oppression shape human experiences and how these two constructs
influence practice at the individual, family, group, organizational, and community levels and in policy and research. Social workers understand the pervasive impact of White supremacy and privilege and use their knowledge, awareness, and skills to engage in anti-racist practice

Outcomes:

- Compares and chooses modalities of treatment to address the goals and values of diverse families
- Articulates the role of privilege and oppression in the role of play in the lives of families and communities
- Describes child/caregiver behaviors and interactions through a multicultural lens, making accurate meaning of what is observed through understanding the child in the context of their caregiving environments, which are influenced by broader societal influences
- Identifies own biases and assumptions

AFFECTIVE AND COGNITIVE PROCESSES

Competency 1: Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior:
Social workers understand the value base of the profession and its ethical standards, as well as relevant policies, laws, and regulations that may affect practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers understand that ethics are informed by principles of human rights and apply them toward realizing social, racial, economic, and environmental justice in their practice

Outcomes:

- Demonstrates capacity to modulate emotional arousal by staying in a well-regulated state (neither withdrawn nor flooded) in interaction with a young child
- Articulates the roles and responsibilities in bringing clinical material to supervision

d. Course Design

Through lecture, discussion, reading, videos and course assignments, we will address both the objective aspects of observing and interacting with young children and their caregivers, as well as the subjective experience of interacting with children, some of whom face significant environmental challenges, including poverty and the consequences of systemic oppression on them and their parents. Specific strategies for helping children who are distressed or dysregulated will be addressed. Finally, students will have the opportunity to observe and reflect upon multiple domains of
child development, including state regulation, attachment behaviors, play themes and emotional, language, cognitive and motor development.

This course will take place in a combination of classroom experiences and working with children in a play environment in the community. To the best of my ability, I will help structure opportunities for students to interact with children, but there may be times students will have to arrange their own “play partner.”

I approach the class with the goal of developing your skills and confidence. I encourage you to enter our class sessions, and your assignments, with a spirit of curiosity. I encourage you to ask questions, bring your experience to the class in a way that links to the material we are discussing and offer input if we fail to address issues of equity, diversity and inclusion. I welcome the opportunity to grow and learn with you!

I recognize that the material we cover in class is sometimes evocative. We will be watching videos of actual sessions and thinking and talking about children who have experienced relational harm and other forms of trauma and/or oppression. Please do what you need to do to take care of yourself. The role of body-based recovery from trauma and stress is gaining increasing scientific attention. So that you have techniques to teach clients and ways to help with your self-regulation, I will begin each class with a “mindful self-regulation” technique to help settle our bodies/spirit. My hope is that you will practice these so that when you have evocative moments in the class, with clients or in your life more broadly, you have ways to mindfully attend to your present-moment experience. I will try to offer a variety in hopes that one speaks” to you but knowing not every exercise is right for every person. You are free to participate or not, but please mute your mike so that others who want to can engage.

Finally, it is not uncommon for social work students to desire therapeutic support during their program. If you find that you would like to see a therapist (which I especially encourage for anyone who desires to be a clinical social worker), I keep an updated list of therapists and phone numbers in the file tab of Canvas. If you would like a more personalized recommendation, please feel free to talk to me. Additionally, we have an embedded CAPS counselor who you can access. The information to reach that person is found in the link at the end of this syllabus.

e. Curricular Themes

**Multicultural and Diversity** themes will be addressed by careful attention to the impact of social class, race/ethnicity, family structure, physical and psychological ability, and community support, on young child and parent interactions. Different patterns of development which may result from different biological and/or social environments will be identified and differentiated from those patterns of development which may result from deprivation or impairment.
Social Justice and Social Change will be addressed through discussion of the impact of economic and social oppression on child development and family relationships.

Promotion, Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation is particularly important in social work with infants and young children because of the potential lifelong impact of facilitating or harmful conditions at this stage of life. This course will emphasize factors that may contribute to resiliency and vulnerability and identify the kinds of environmental conditions, programs, and interventions that promote optimal development.

Behavioral and Social Science Research will be emphasized throughout the course and will draw on empirically and qualitatively based knowledge regarding observation and assessment from a number of other disciplines, particularly developmental psychology and psychiatry.

f. Relationship to Social Work Ethics and Values

Because child development is so profoundly impacted by the parent(s)/child relationship, this course will emphasize understanding the development and indices of attachment. We will also consider potential ethical dilemmas may arise for social workers working with vulnerable children and families. The impact of social conditions and social policy and the need for macro and micro intervention to improve the lives of children will also be addressed.

2. Class Requirements

a. Text and Class Materials

Required Texts:


I would advise the hard copy vs. the e-copy because there is a CD Rom with the hard copy that gives you helpful tools like a progress-tracking worksheet.


In addition to weekly readings from the text, there will typically be at least one article that will be posted in Modules in Canvas. Please be sure to reference Modules weekly so that you are fully prepared for class. We will begin each week with a discussion of the readings and part of your participation grade will be dependent on your ability to contribute meaningfully to the small and large group discussion.
b. Expectations for student time.
This is a 3-credit graduate course offered online during the Spring Summer term. This means that, as a student, you are expected to spend a total of 112.5 hours on this course throughout the 11 instructional weeks (i.e., 10-11 hours per week), including synchronous and asynchronous class time. For more information, you can check out the UM Center for Academic Innovation at https://ai.umich.edu/.

c. Class Schedule (subject to modifications based on the needs of the class). PLEASE FOLLOW MODULES FOR UP-TO-DATE MODIFICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Reading or Assignment</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| One 5/8 | Course Introduction Course Requirements History and Purpose of Play Pre-Course Quiz | Syllabus Ray, Chap. 1 UNCRC [UNCRC Information](https://www.un.org/unesco/)
| Two 5/15 | Play and Child Development | Ray, Chap. 2
| Three 5/22 | Philosophy of Working with Children Attitudes and Skills of the Play Therapist | Ray, Chap. 3 & 4
| Four 6/5 | Child-Centered Play Therapy | Ray, Chap. 5 & 6
<p>| Five 6/12 | Helping Children Create Narratives | Ray, Chap. 6 &amp; 7 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Resource</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ray, Chap. 8 &amp;10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ray, Chap. 9</td>
</tr>
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<td>Fialka - Pieces of the Bye Article.pdf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Ten 7/17 | Off-site activity (Play partner day) | Ray, Chap. 12 & 13  
|---|---|---|
| Eleven 7/24 | Adlerian Play Therapy  
Termination in play therapy  
Supervision in Play Therapy  
Evidence Base for CCPT  
Course Review and Wrap-Up  
Post-Course Quiz | Ray, Chap. 14 & 15  
Ray, Appendix (CCPT Treatment Manual)  
SEE MODULE FOR LINK TO ADLERIAN PLAY THERAPY VIDEO  
Extra Resource:  
Many, Michele – Termination as therapeutic intervention when treating children who have experienced multiple losses. DOI: 10.1002/imhj.20201 |

b. Assignments

All assignments should be uploaded to Canvas by 11:59 p.m. on the due date with the video link for the annotation (I will explain in class) or a Word Document (not PDF) for the final reflection. Assignments are expected on time; however, life happens. I give a 3-day grace period; no explanation is necessary. If you must submit past the 3rd-day grace, let me know. I reserve the option to deduct 5% if turned in within five days. Papers or annotations submitted more than five days late will not receive any feedback and will be subject to a deduction of 10%. I will not accept any papers more than seven days late.
• Completion of two quizzes (pre and post) (5% of grade, post-test only). The quizzes will be completed through Qualtrics.

• Completion of two video annotations of a segment of child-led play (60% of grade)
  o Video annotation will be discussed in class.
    ▪ You will be critically appraising your interaction with the child as well as linking your interaction to course readings and discussions
  o You will receive a Permission to Record Consent Form.

• Completion of a final summary write-up (15% of final grade)

• Attendance and participation (20% of final grade)

c. Attendance and class participation

  To receive full credit, you are expected to attend every class session because:

  a. Some material considered essential to the objectives of the course will only be presented in class;
  b. The application of critical concepts and student co-learning requires participation in class discussions and exercises;
  c. Predictability, reliability, and consistency are core to any strong relationship… “being there” is incredibly important to children, so it is essential in this class;
  d. **Attendance means participating and attending to others.** Using computers or mobile devices to text, shop, Facebook, etc., will reduce your grade. Please put your phones away unless you have a family emergency (and please speak to me about it beforehand). We will develop other “ground rules” as a class to create a civil, conducive-to-learning environment.
  e. Please see the UM-SSW Student Guide: [Policy on Class Attendance](#).

If you miss more than one class, you must submit a 2 to 3-page synthesis of 3 key takeaways from the week’s material, including all assigned reading and media. It is due the Sunday evening before the next class. This also applies to students with accommodations, although if you need additional time, you can discuss that with me.

**GRADING of annotation and the final summary will be based on the following:**

  Thoroughness and relevance of observations, noting the child’s affect, themes in the play, and play behavior. For the annotations, I must see evidence that you can accurately document and describe the skills you display and discern when you missed an opportunity or made a “misstep” (which always happens in clinical work).

  Ability to suspend judgment of the child or family in the description of observations (i.e., language is descriptive vs. evaluative).
Relevancy, detail, and accuracy of words relative to the child, using developmental level and environmental context to understand the potential meanings of behaviors.

Evidence of capacity to follow the child’s lead, resist “teaching,” and ability to provide accurate mirroring and narration of the child’s activities and feelings.

Reflective Capacity – evidence that you are noting and managing your own reactions and thinking about the child's inner world; evidence of your awareness of your power and privilege, as well as how your own cultural view may shape your experience and interpretation of the child’s play.

Writing, grammar, clarity.

I return all work within 2 to 3 weeks. I provide extensive feedback designed to acknowledge your strengths and capacities and invite your attention to areas for growth or refinement. I appreciate your patience in the grading process! If I make an unclear comment or observation, please ask me for clarification! If you receive a C or lower, I allow for revision. That option is NOT available if you receive a B- or better.

Grading scale:

Using A+, A, and A– distinguishes degrees of superior competence. Per UM standards, ‘A’ grades are given for exceptional individual performance and understanding of the material. B grades are given to students who demonstrate competence in the material: B+ is used for students who perform just above the competency level but not exceptionally; B– is used for students just below the competency level. C grades are given when demonstrating competency in the material is minimal. My scale is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>99 – 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95 - 98.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 94.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>85 - 86.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 84.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>75 - 76.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 - 74.9</td>
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As I calculate final grades, if you are within .5 of the next highest grade (e.g., 89.5), I will round up to account for the subjectivity naturally inherent in grading.

Please see Field Instruction, Student Grievance procedures, and the policy for grading in exceptional circumstances.

Additional School and University policies, information, and resources are available here: https://ssw.umich.edu/standard-policies-information-resources. They include:

- Safety and emergency preparedness
- Mental health and well-being
- Teaching evaluations
- Proper use of names and pronouns
- Accommodations for students with disabilities
- Religious/spiritual observances
- Military deployment
- Writing skills and expectations
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
  - [https://www.lib.umich.edu/academic-integrity/understanding-plagiarism](https://www.lib.umich.edu/academic-integrity/understanding-plagiarism)