

**Coalition for Responsible Home Education (CRHE)**

**HEDU 300: INTRODUCTION TO HOME EDUCATION**

Fall 2020; Block A; Section 01; Online course

**Instructor Name:** Chelsea McCracken, Ph.D.

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**Office Hours:** By appointment

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

**HEDU 300. Introduction to Home Education.**

This course is designed for first-time homeschooling parents as an introduction to evidence-based best practices for home education within a children's rights framework. Assignments cumulatively build toward the final Individualized Home Education Plan (IHEP) by requiring parents to reflect on their motivations for homeschooling and their responsibilities to their children; examine legal requirements and determine educational goals; select and design curriculum and assessment mechanisms; and anticipate potential challenges. **\*\*COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs):** At the successful conclusion of this course, parents will be able to: 1. Design an Individualized Home Education Plan (IHEP) that communicates the rationale, goals, outcomes, measures, and methods for homeschooling each child for one year. 2. Author oral and written communication relevant to the IHEP. 3. Assess personal educational views and philosophy of education within a children's rights framework. 4. Analyze the quality and relevance of information sources about homeschooling. 5. Discuss ideas and plans related to the IHEP with child(ren), peers, supervisors, and other professionals. 6. Understand the history and central concepts of education and children's rights.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides a structured process by which parents will design and plan one year of their child(ren)'s education. Parents will situate their philosophy of education within homeschooling theory; investigate their child(ren)'s goals and interests; articulate their responsibility to their child(ren) within a children's rights framework; examine legal requirements; network with peers, professionals, and community members; develop curriculum and instructional strategies; identify learning outcomes; anticipate child(ren)'s developmental challenges; and create a mechanism for assessing child(ren)'s progress. During the course, parents will work to create for each child a formal Individualized Home Education Plan (IHEP) which meets the course requirements. Successful completion of HEDU 300 requires the final approval of the IHEP(s) by the Homeschool Alumni Committee. Only parents whose IHEPs meet the Homeschool Alumni Committee's standards will be able to pass the course.

Each IHEP will include the following:

- Title Page, including homeschool name, educator name, child's name and grade level

- Cover Letter addressed to the Homeschool Alumni Committee
- Statement of Educational Philosophy
- Legal Requirements Checklist
- Child Development Plan
- Child's Goals and Interests
- Homeschool Learning Outcomes
- School Year Schedule
- Books, Materials, and Resources List
- Sample Lesson Plan
- Assessment and Evaluation Plan
- Educator Professional Development Plan

Parents in HEDU 300 will be required to develop their individual and self-directed learning capacities by designing, defending, and completing their IHEPs within the structured, weekly-assignment framework of the course. Assignments will include reading sources, peer discussions and reviews, watching and creating videos, conducting interviews, independent investigation, and composition of written documents. The assignments cumulatively build toward the final IHEP by requiring you to repeatedly design and modify your ideas until they form a coherent and defensible educational plan. Your completed IHEP (graded Pass/Fail) will account for 50% of your grade in the course, while the assignments and discussions along the way will account for the other 50%. This means that you cannot pass the class without turning in a completed IHEP; you also cannot pass the class if that is all you turn in. If you earn a passing grade of 70% in the course, you will receive a certificate of completion. Some institutions of higher education may be willing to grant you [credit for prior learning](#) (CPL) for your successful completion of this course.

As a fully online course, this course is primarily asynchronous, meaning that there are no regularly scheduled meeting times. You will need to spend much of the course working independently and motivating yourself to complete assignments. However, you will receive an email with announcements from your instructor at the beginning of each week; participate in frequent text-based peer and instructor interaction; attend two live video meetings with your instructor; and receive biweekly personalized written feedback and grades on your assignments. In most cases it will not be possible to work ahead in the course because completing your assignments often depends on interacting with others, and assignments typically build on one another. The course has formative assessment in the form of discussion workshops and assignment submissions. The summative assessment is the final draft of the IHEP.

The workload for this course is equivalent to that of a 3-credit college course taught on an accelerated 8-week schedule, so you should expect to spend 12 to 18 hours per week working on the course. Because homeschooling in many states is legal regardless of the parent's educational background, there are no prerequisites for this course. However, a high school diploma or equivalent is highly recommended; facility with written and spoken academic English is expected.

### **STRUCTURE AND SCHEDULE:**

The specifics of assignments and deadlines are in Canvas, but in general, the course has been structured into 8 instructional modules. Each module represents one week's worth of coursework. Modules begin with an overview of the week's objectives and tasks. The modules also contain instructional materials, discussions, assignments, and quizzes. Most weeks will have assignment deadlines on Wednesday nights and Sunday nights. The first week also has assignment deadlines on Monday night. Please make sure to view and complete each module in its entirety, paying attention to assignments' internal deadlines.

Week 1: Introduction to the Course + Introduction to Homeschooling modules

Week 2: Children's Rights and Parental Responsibilities

Week 3: Legal Requirements

Week 4: Educational Standards

Week 5: Curriculum Design

Week 6: Challenges of Child Development

Week 7: Assessment and Evaluation

Week 8: Finalizing the IHEP

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND COURSE MATERIALS:**

The textbook for this course is required:

TBD

You will also need an electronic device with a keyboard (laptop or tablet), a reliable internet connection, and an email address. A webcam and microphone are highly recommended.

### **CRHE MISSION:**

The Coalition for Responsible Home Education empowers homeschooled children by educating the public and advocating for child-centered, evidence-based policy and practices for families and professionals.

### **CRHE VISION:**

Homeschooled children's right to a comprehensive and empowering education and a safe and supportive home environment is affirmed and protected by laws, stakeholders, and society as a whole.

### **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

There are six learning outcomes for HEDU 300. By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

1. Design an Individualized Home Education Plan (IHEP) that communicates the rationale, goals, outcomes, measures, and methods for homeschooling each child for one year.
2. Author oral and written communication relevant to the IHEP.
3. Assess personal educational views and philosophy of education within a children's rights framework.
4. Analyze the quality and relevance of information sources about homeschooling.

5. Discuss ideas and plans related to the IHEP with child(ren), peers, supervisors, and other professionals.
6. Understand the history and central concepts of education and children's rights.

### **CRHE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND SEMESTER DATES:**

Please review CRHE's [Academic Calendar](#) for important dates and the CRHE [Code of Learner Rights and Responsibilities](#) for our policies.

### **CLASS POLICIES:**

This course will be managed through Canvas. Please check Canvas often for announcements and content.

If you have specific or personal questions, please contact the instructor directly. If you contact the instructor, you can expect a response within 24 hours with the exception of weekends.

You can expect to receive an email with announcements from your instructor at the beginning of each week; participate in frequent text-based interaction with your instructor; attend two live video meetings with your instructor during the course; and receive biweekly personalized written feedback and grades on your assignments from your instructor. In addition, if the instructor notices that you are struggling in any way, you can expect the instructor to reach out to you directly and offer any support necessary for you to be successful.

The instructor will make a reasonable effort to accommodate late work. Late policies differ depending on the type of assignment. If you are going to miss a deadline due to life circumstances, it is always recommended that you discuss the issue with your instructor beforehand rather than after the fact.

- Assignments labeled 'Discussion' require you to interact with your peers and give them feedback on their responses. Your peers are relying on you to participate in order to do their assignments; therefore there is no grace period for these assignments and they will receive a zero if they are submitted late.
- Most other assignments will typically be accepted late for no penalty, as long as they are submitted before your instructor releases the class grades for the assignment. Assignments submitted after this point will earn half credit. It is always in your best interest to turn in late assignments even if you can only earn half credit for them. 50% of the points is a lot higher than 0% of the points. The work in this course is cumulative, so it is imperative that you not allow yourself to fall behind.

The instructor is committed to grading you fairly and in accordance with published rubrics. If you feel that you have been graded unfairly, you can discuss the issue with your instructor. Conflicts with your instructor may be addressed to CRHE's Executive Director, Dr. Rachel Coleman, at [execdirector@responsiblehomeschooling.org](mailto:execdirector@responsiblehomeschooling.org).

The instructor will return grades and feedback to you in a timely fashion, generally within 72 hours after a due date. The instructor is aware that feedback on one assignment may be necessary in order to turn in the

next assignment. If there will be a substantial gap in receiving grades or feedback, the instructor will notify you.

### **ACCESSIBILITY:**

This course provides accessibility to people with disabilities through ease of use in navigation and multimedia, alternative means of access to multimedia content, and use of accessible text and images in files, documents, and web pages. Videos use YouTube's automatic captioning feature. If you are having any issues with accessibility, please contact the instructor.

- [Canvas Accessibility](#)
- [Google Accessibility](#)
- [YouTube Accessibility](#)

### **PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY:**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 prohibits CRHE and your instructor from releasing certain personally identifiable information about you to a third party without your written consent. CRHE and your instructor will release data only in aggregate unless you provide your written consent that your personally identifiable data may be released to a third party. See more information [here](#).

However, please note that, as an educator, your instructor is a mandated reporter of child abuse and neglect. This means that your instructor is required to notify the local department of social services or the appropriate law enforcement agency as soon as possible if they have cause to suspect that a child is being abused or neglected. See more information [here](#).

It is your responsibility to protect your data and privacy online. Be careful and use discretion when using any of the course technologies to complete required learning activities. If you are unsure about how to protect your data and privacy online, please use the following resources to understand your responsibility:

- [101 Data Protection Tips](#)
- [9 Simple Ways To Protect Your Privacy](#)
- [Google Privacy Policy](#)
- [YouTube Policies](#)

### **RESOURCES AND SUPPORT:**

If you need help troubleshooting the technical aspects of the course, you may contact CRHE's Director of Technology, Jedediah Holler, at [jedediah@responsiblehomeschooling.org](mailto:jedediah@responsiblehomeschooling.org).

- [Canvas Help](#)
- [Google Drive Help](#)
- [YouTube Help](#)

### **LEARNER EXPECTATIONS:**

As this course has the equivalent workload to an accelerated 3-credit course, you are expected to spend 12 to 18 hours per week on this class. The course moves much faster than you think, especially in the first week.

I expect that you will log into the class at least four times per week to view the module overview materials, participate in discussions, and complete all assignments. Discussions typically require you to do some independent reading or research and make a first post about what you learned or found, and then respond to your peers' posts with deep analysis. Make sure to allow yourself enough lead time before the due date that you will have time to complete all the parts. Many assignments also include interaction with community members, so make sure to start these early in case they prove difficult to contact. Most weeks will have two assignment deadlines on Wednesday night at 11:59 PM and Sunday night at 11:59 PM (in whatever time zone you are in). The first week also has a Monday night deadline at 11:59 PM.

To be successful in this course, you will need a reliable device with a keyboard, an internet connection, and an email account. You are expected to have the following computer and digital literacy skills:

- basic typing proficiency
- using email, web browsers, phone, webcam and microphone
- collaborating with others on Google Apps
- effectively searching for information on the internet
- determining the reliability of internet sources

You will also be required to interact with the course, the instructor, and your peers. You are required to view and complete each component of every module and submit all required assignments, asking the instructor for help or feedback if needed. You are required to interact with your peers by completing discussions and any other learner-learner interactions included in this course. Failure to complete these required interactions will result in loss of points and worst of all, loss of learning opportunities.

### **Learner-Content Interactions**

- Readings
- Videos
- Websites
- Assignments

### **Learner-Instructor Interactions**

- Submission feedback
- Private communication (email/messages/phone/video)
- Discussions

### **Learner-Learner Interactions**

- Discussions
- Collaborative group work

- Peer reviews

### DISCUSSION GUIDELINES:

It is important to communicate well and professionally in both in-person and online discussions, not only for your grade but also for the perception you wish to convey to your fellow learners and instructor. Generally, do not say or do anything in an online discussion that you would not say or do in a classroom discussion.

- **Be respectful.** Your instructor and classmates need to feel safe when sharing opinions and experiences. No matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, there should be respect and tolerance in the spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community.
- **Be friendly, positive and self-reflective,** with an attitude of helping and sharing information with your fellow learners. Feelings can be hurt if you are not careful in how you express yourself. Think before you click 'send'. When you feel a critique is necessary, say it in a positive tone. Reread what you have written to be sure it is positive.
- **Be humble.** Do not dominate any discussion. Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion. Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write. Keep an open mind and be willing to express even your minority opinion. Minority opinions have to be respected.
- **Use proper language** and titles for your instructor and classmates. Avoid cursing unless you are sure the people you are communicating with are comfortable with it.
- **Use effective communication.** Try to speak and write clearly at all times. Again, reread before you respond. Define and restate your words when necessary. Correct a misunderstanding right away. Chances are, if one person felt a certain way about what you said, and then another may also. Likewise, be careful of making jokes, which are easy to misinterpret in an online format.
- **Be professional.** Be cautious in using internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting. Do not use texting abbreviations such as LOL. Popular emoticons such as ☺ or / can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them. Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation. Last, always say please and thank you.
- **Ask for clarification.** If you are unsure of what was said, or the instructor's directive, or are trying to interpret a person's expressions, then ask again. Do not sit in silence either misunderstanding or feeling offended. Your instructor will appreciate your responsiveness and maturity. A simple way to do this is to say (or write), "I did not understand..." always keeping the onus for the misunderstanding on yourself.

In online discussions, it is important that your discussion posts have meaningful content that contributes to the learning experience for everybody.

- **Contribute your own insights.** Do not read and reword other posts. Try to share original thinking that could help others understand the subject from a different perspective. If you share a contrary or opposing viewpoint, do so in a respectful manner.



- **Take time to fully develop ideas.** Use as many words as needed to fully develop your ideas. Do not stop writing simply because you think you've "done enough". Write as much as needs to be written to clearly communicate your thoughts. On the other hand, remember that your instructor and peers would appreciate and prefer to read concise and well-written posts instead of long, wordy posts.
- **Leave meaningful replies.** In your replies to others, find connections, ask questions, or contribute additional insight. Also, if somebody replies to your posts or replies, it would be a good idea to reply or like their feedback where applicable.
- **Refer to other sources.** You should be using the instructional materials and learning activities as your primary source for information in the discussions, but you may also refer to other sources. Posting links, videos, or references can enrich and provide for more robust discussion.
- **Revise your writing.** Usually, the very first thing you write will not be your best. Take time to reread and revise your thoughts before posting. Use Google's spelling and grammar checker to make sure your writing is clear.

### **ASSIGNMENT POINT SYSTEM:**

**Final IHEP:** 50% of course grade

**Assignments:** 50% of course grade

Your IHEP will be graded Pass/Fail (either receiving 100% or 0%) by the Homeschool Alumni Committee based on the [IHEP Rubric](#). Your IHEP is worth 50% of your course grade. Because of this, you must earn 100% (Pass) on your IHEP to pass the course. However, you cannot pass the course if a passing IHEP is the only assignment you submit. In order to earn a passing grade in the course (70%), you will need to earn a 100% (Pass) on your IAP and ALSO earn at least a 40% average on your assignments.

### **GRADING SCALE:**

The Coalition for Responsible Home Education requires that you earn at least a C (70%) in order to pass any course. Children who attend school are typically taught by dozens of teachers of varying levels of quality. As you will be your child's only teacher, we require that you meet a basic standard of quality in order to earn a certificate of completion.

**A** 90.0 and above

**B** 80.0 - 89.9

**C** 70.0 - 79.9

**F** 69.9 and below

Your grades will always be available to you in Canvas.