

Play as Survival with Professor Alison James

COURSE

Discover how play isn't just a pastime, it's a powerful human instinct that fuels creativity, adaptability, and resilience for both educators and learners.



About This Course

Play is far more than fun, it's how humans (and animals) learn, adapt, and survive. In this hands-on and thought-provoking session, Professor Alison James, a global authority on playful pedagogies and creativity in higher education, explores how play shapes our ability to think, learn, and thrive.

Drawing on parallels from the animal world and insights from her pioneering research, Alison guides educators to rediscover play as a vital tool for personal growth, resilience, and innovation. Participants will also engage in practical creative exercises using simple materials such as LEGO® bricks or paper, encouraging deep reflection and imagination through tactile exploration.



Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, educators will be able to:

Understand Play's Deeper Functions:

Explore how play develops essential life skills like adaptability, emotional regulation, and problem-solving.

Reflect on Personal Play:

Reconnect with their own playful instincts and consider how this influences their teaching and leadership style.

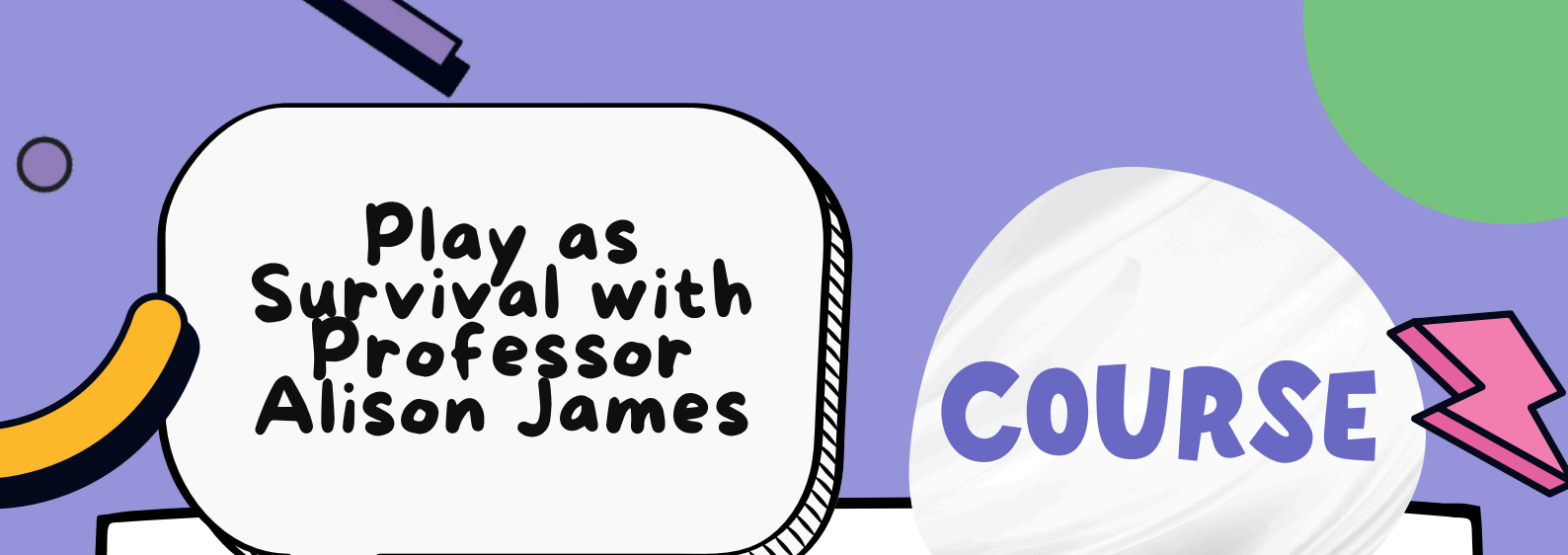
Integrate Play for Growth:

Discover practical ways to embed play-based approaches into classrooms, meetings, and professional routines.

Foster Resilience and Curiosity:

Use playful thinking to navigate uncertainty and inspire creativity within themselves and their students.





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Why This Matters for Educators

In challenging and fast-changing educational landscapes, play is not optional, it's essential. Through this course, teachers will learn how to:

- **Build Resilience and Joy** – Use play as a mindset to recover from setbacks and reignite motivation.
- **Enhance Student Engagement** – Create learning experiences that feel alive, relevant, and emotionally rich.
- **Encourage Creative Thinking** – Empower students to experiment, take risks, and explore new perspectives.
- **Rediscover Professional Fulfilment** – Reconnect with the wonder and curiosity that drew them to education in the first place.

About the Presenter

Professor Alison James is one of the world's leading voices in creative and playful learning. A Professor Emerita at the University of Winchester and certified LEGO® Serious Play® facilitator, Alison has spent her career exploring how play transforms higher education and professional learning. She is the co-author of *Engaging Imagination: Helping Students Become Creative and Reflective Thinkers* and *The Power of Play in Higher Education: Creativity in Tertiary Learning*.

Her work champions play as a core human capacity, essential for learning, innovation, and well-being at every stage of life.

Perfect For

Educators, leaders, and facilitators who want to:

- Reignite creativity and curiosity through playful learning.
- Strengthen adaptability and emotional resilience.
- Explore the science and philosophy of play as a lifelong survival skill.

