Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
Department of Special Services

SPED 4335 Fall 2011
Applied Learning Theory
Syllabus

Dr. Karen McCaleb

This class meets: Tuesday, 4:20-6:50pm, in CI 107.

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Office Hours: M&T 1:00pm – 4:00pm or by appointment

I. Course Description
This course is designed to develop and extend the student’s knowledge of the principles of applied learning theory as it relates to students with disabilities.

II. Rationale
This course is designed to familiarize students with current learning theories and their influence on instructional methods as they pertain to students with disabilities.

III. State Adopted Proficiencies for Teachers
The state adopted proficiencies covered in this course include the following:

1. Equity in Excellence for All Learners. The teacher responds appropriately to diverse groups of learners. The administrator promotes equity in excellence for all by acknowledging, respecting, and responding to diversity among students and staff while building on shared values and other similarities that bond all people.

IV. TExES Competencies and CEC National Standards
TExES Competencies
DOMAIN I – UNDERSTANDING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND EVALUATING THEIR NEEDS

Competency 001: The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of the characteristics and needs of students with disabilities.

DOMAIN IV – FOUNDATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITLIES
Competency 010: The special education teacher understands the philosophical, historical, and legal foundations of special education.

Competency 011: The special education teacher applies knowledge of professional roles and responsibilities and adheres to legal and ethical requirements of the profession.

**CEC National Standards**

TAMUCC Special Education Program is aligned with the National Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Standards.

Council for Exceptional Children: Initial Level Content Standards

Beginning special educators demonstrate their mastery of the following standards:

**Initial Content Standard 1: Foundations**

Special educators understand the field as an evolving and changing discipline based on:

- philosophies and evidence-based principles and theories
- relevant laws and policies
- diverse and historical points of view
- human issues that influence the field and professional practice
- issues of human diversity that can impact families, cultures, and schools
- relationships of organizations of special education to the organizations and functions of schools, school systems, and other agencies

**Initial Content Standard 2: Development and Characteristics of Learners**

Special educators:

- know and demonstrate respect for their students first as unique human beings
- understand the similarities and differences in human development
- understand how exceptional conditions can interact with the domains of human development
- use this knowledge to respond to the varying abilities and behaviors of individuals with exceptional learning needs

**Initial Content Standard 3: Individual Learning Differences**

Special educators:

- know and understand the effects that an exceptional condition can have on an individual’s learning in school and throughout life
- utilize active and resourceful means in seeking to understand how primary language, culture, and familial backgrounds interact with the individual’s exceptional condition
• understand learning differences provide the foundation upon which special educators individualize instruction

Initial Content Standard 4: Instructional Strategies
Special educators:

• possess a repertoire of evidence-based instructional strategies to individualize instruction for individuals with exceptional learning needs.
• select, adapt, and use these instructional strategies to promote positive learning results in general and special curricula
• modify learning environments appropriately for individuals with exceptional learning needs
• enhance the learning of critical thinking, problem-solving, and performance skills of individuals with exceptional learning needs
• promote increased student’ self-awareness, self-management, self-control, self-reliance, and self-esteem
• emphasize the development, maintenance, and generalization of knowledge and skills across environments, settings, and the life span.

Initial Content Standard 5: Learning Environments and Social Interactions
Special educators actively:

• create learning environments for individuals with exceptional learning needs
• foster cultural understanding, safety and emotional well-being, positive social interactions, and active engagement
• foster environments in which diversity is valued
• shape environments to encourage the independence, self-motivation, self-direction, personal empowerment, and self-advocacy
• help their general education colleagues integrate individuals with exceptional learning needs in general education environments and engage them in meaningful learning activities and interactions
• use direct motivational and instructional interventions
• teach students to respond effectively to current expectations
• intervene with individuals with exceptional learning needs in crisis
• coordinate all these efforts and provide guidance and direction to paraeducators and others, such as classroom volunteers and tutors.

Initial Content Standard 6: Language
Special educators:

• understand typical and atypical language development
• use individualized strategies to enhance language development and teach communication skills
• are familiar with augmentative, alternative, and assistive technologies to support and enhance communication
• match communication methods to an individual’s language proficiency and cultural and linguistic differences
• provide effective language models and use communication strategies and resources to facilitate understanding of subject matter for individuals with exceptional learning needs whose primary language is not English.

Initial Content Standard 7: Instructional Planning
Individualized decision-making and instruction is at the center of special education practice. Special educators:

• develop long-range individualized instructional plans anchored in both general and special education curricula
• systematically translate these individualized plans into carefully selected shorter-range goals and objectives taking into consideration an individual’s abilities and needs, the learning environment, and a myriad of cultural and linguistic factors
• emphasize explicit modeling and efficient guided practice to assure acquisition and fluency through maintenance and generalization.
• modify instructional plans based on ongoing analysis of the individual’s learning progress
• facilitate instructional planning in a collaborative context
• develop a variety of individualized transition plans from preschool to a variety of postsecondary work and learning contexts
• use appropriate technologies to support instructional planning and individualized instruction

Initial Content Standard 8: Assessment
Assessment is integral to the decision-making and teaching of special educators and special educators use multiple types of assessment information for a variety of educational decisions. Special educators use the results of assessments:

• to help identify exceptional learning needs and to develop and implement individualized instructional programs
• to adjust instruction in response to ongoing learning progress

Special educators understand:
• legal policies and ethical principles of measurement
● measurement theory and practices
● appropriate use and limitations of various types of assessments

Special educators collaborate with families and other colleagues to:
● assure nonbiased, meaningful assessments and decision-making
● conduct formal and informal assessments of behavior, learning, achievement and environments
● identify supports and adaptations required for individuals
● regularly monitor the progress of individuals
● use appropriate technologies to support their assessments.

Initial Content Standard 9: Professional and Ethical Practice
Special educators are guided by the profession’s ethical and professional practice standards to:

● to practice ongoing attention to legal matters along with serious professional and ethical considerations

Special educators view themselves as lifelong learners and regularly reflect on and adjust their practice to reflect current evidence-based best practices.

Initial Content Standard 10: Collaboration
Special educators routinely and effectively collaborate with families, other educators, related service providers, and personnel from community agencies in culturally responsive ways and promote and advocate the learning and well-being of individuals with exceptional learning needs across a wide range of settings and a range of different learning experiences.

V. Student Learning Outcomes and Course Objectives

Student Learning Outcomes
Students in the EC-12 Special Education program will:

● demonstrate a depth of knowledge of understanding individuals with disabilities and evaluating their needs;
  (SPED 4310, SPED 4320, SPED 4330, and SPED 4335 are linked to this student learning outcome.)
● demonstrate a depth of knowledge of fostering learning and development for individuals with disabilities;
  (SPED 4320, SPED 4330, and SPED 4335 are linked to this student learning outcome.)
● demonstrate a depth of knowledge of foundations of special education and professional roles and responsibilities of the special education teacher;
  (SPED 4310 and SPED 4330 are linked to this student learning outcome.)
effectively apply the competencies of a special education teacher in their student teaching experience. (SPED 4310, SPED 4320, SPED 4325, SPED 4330, SPED 4335, SPED 4397 and SPED 4398 are linked to this student learning outcome.)

Course Objectives
This course is designed to enable students to:

- Describe prevalent learning theories as they pertain to students with severe disabilities
- Discuss ABA strategies – in theory and practice
- Delineate the link between theory and research-based teaching strategies
- Identify, describe, and apply research-based teaching methods for students with disabilities

VI. Course Topics
The course topics include:

- Applied Behavior Analysis
- Discreet Trial Training
- Naturalistic/Milieu Teaching
- Visual Supports

VII. Instructional Methods and Activities

- Traditional Experiences (i.e., lecture, discussion, multimedia presentations)
- Clinical Experiences (i.e., cooperative groups, student presentations, value clarification)

VIII. Evaluation and Grade Assignment
A total of 100 points can be earned in this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>90 – 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>79 – 89</td>
<td>80 – 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>68 – 78</td>
<td>70 – 79%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>57 – 67</td>
<td>60 – 69%</td>
<td>D</td>
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59% or lower constitutes an F.
The major requirements of this course include the following assignments:

1. One quiz

2. Class Assignments and Participation

**Quiz (20 pts.):** This class contains one quiz.

**Assignments (70 pts.):** This class contains hands-on activities and assignments (including homework assignments). It is critical that you attend each class and fully participate in all assignments and activities – including course discussions, simulations, role play scenarios, assigned readings, etc. You are expected to come to class prepared and ready to learn. Refer to Course Policies for additional information. You MUST present your work on the due date to receive full credit.

This class is designed to support students in applying learning theory to practice. It is important that each activity is approached with diligence and professionalism.

The following activities are worth:
- DTT lesson plan 10pts.
- Visual Schedule/Task 10pts.
- Multisensory Book 10pts.
- Social Story/Script 10pts.
- Digital Book 20pts.
- Instructional Activity 10pts

**Book Club (10 pts):** Each student will read a non-fictional book about a student with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and write a reflective summary. All books must receive instructor approval. Assignment details will be provided in class.

**IX. Course Schedule and Policies**

**Tentative Course Schedule**
See attached.

**Attendance Policy**
Attendance is expected. Due to the nature of this course, participation is critical. Please arrive to class on time and be prepared to stay until the class is dismissed. **Arriving late or leaving early twice during our course (any combination), will count as an absence. More than one (1) unexcused absence may result in a lower letter grade.** If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to check in with a classmate for notes, materials and other information you have missed. Please note: There are no extra credit opportunities in this class.

Excused absences are limited to participation in a TAMUCC sanctioned event or participation in a religious holy day as outlined in the University catalog. Any
assignment, quiz, or test missed due to a TAMUCC sanctioned event must be completed prior to the absence.

**Student Conduct**
Professional behavior is expected of all students. Inappropriate class conduct (cursing, disruption, sidebar conversations, etc.) may result in a reduced final grade or failure of the course. All cell phones will be turned off or to the inaudible mode during class. Do not answer a call during class. Do not read or compose texts during class. Do not leave the classroom to answer a call, unless you anticipate an emergency call and warn me prior to class.

**Academic Honesty**
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.)

Disciplinary action for academic misconduct is the responsibility of the faculty member assigned to the course. The faculty member is charged with assessing the gravity of any case of academic dishonesty, and with giving sanction to any student involved. Penalties that may be applied to individual cases of academic dishonesty include one or more of the following:

1. Written reprimand;
2. Requirement to re-do work in question;
3. Requirement to submit additional work;
4. Lowering of grade on work in question;
5. Assigning grade of “F” to work in question;
6. Assigning grade of “F” for course;
7. Recommendation for more severe consequences.

If the faculty member determines that assigning a grade of “F” to the course is the appropriate penalty and this disciplinary action occurs prior to the deadline for dropping courses, the student forfeits his/her right to drop the course in question.

The faculty member may file a record of cases of academic dishonesty, including a description of the disciplinary action taken, along with any materials involved, with his or her college dean and the Office of Student Affairs. The office of the academic dean of the college in which the offense took place will maintain records of all cases of academic dishonesty reported for a period of not more than two years.
X. Textbook

Required:
Educating Students with Autism
A Quick Start Manual
PRO-ED, Inc.

Recommended:
A Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process
Online publication available at TEA website

It’s a New Idea: The Manual for Parents and Students About Special Education Services in Texas (2007)
Online publication available at: www.thearcoftexas.org or www.advocacyinc.org

XI: Bibliography

The knowledge base that support course content and procedures include, but is not limited to, the following:


The following professional organizations and their respective publications are important resources for specialists in the disability field:

Council for Exceptional Children
- Division for Physical and Health Disabilities
- Council of Administrators of Special Education
- Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders
- Division on Developmental Disabilities
- Division for Communicative Disabilities and Deafness
- Division for Learning Disabilities
- Division on Visual Impairments
- The Association for the Gifted

TASH

XII. Grade Appeals
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
XIII. Disabilities Accommodations
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disability. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Driftwood 101.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office at (361) 825-5816 in Driftwood 101.
This class is scheduled for Tuesday, 4:20-6:50, in CI 107.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Class Activities</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Aug. 30</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Tues. Sept. 6</td>
<td>Autism &amp; ABA Assignment</td>
<td>C. 1 &amp; 2 &amp; review sheet</td>
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<td>Tues. Sept. 13</td>
<td>Discrete Trial Training (DTT)</td>
<td>C. 3</td>
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<td>Tues. Sept. 20</td>
<td>DTT</td>
<td>DTT Lesson</td>
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<td>Tues. Sept. 27</td>
<td>Naturalistic/Milieu Training</td>
<td>C. 4 &amp; review sheet</td>
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<td>Tues. Oct. 4</td>
<td>Visual Supports &amp; Communication</td>
<td>C. 5 &amp; Assigned Reading</td>
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<td>Activity Schedules</td>
<td>Visual Book Packet</td>
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<td>PECS</td>
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<td>Tues. Oct. 11</td>
<td>Exam</td>
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<td>Tues. Oct. 18</td>
<td>Visual Supports</td>
<td>Visual Schedule/Task</td>
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<td>Multisensory Books/Input</td>
<td>TEA ppt</td>
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<td>Curriculum Development</td>
<td>TEKS/Essence</td>
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<td>Skills/TAKS-ALT*</td>
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<td>Assigned Reading</td>
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<td>Book Reflections Due</td>
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<td>Tues. Nov. 1</td>
<td>Communication Behavior</td>
<td>C. 9</td>
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<td>Book Reflections Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Nov. 8</td>
<td>Social Skills</td>
<td>Assigned Reading &amp; Social Story</td>
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<td>Activity</td>
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<td>Tues. Nov. 15</td>
<td>Social Stories/Scripts</td>
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<td>Tues. Nov. 22</td>
<td>Digital Assignment</td>
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<td>Digital Book Activity</td>
<td>Digital Book &amp; Activity</td>
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<td>Tues. Dec. 6</td>
<td>Digital Book Activity</td>
<td>Digital Book &amp; Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Dec. 13</td>
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