Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi
College of Education
SPED 4310.01W – Students with Exceptionalities
Summer I 2014 Course Syllabus

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OFFICE HOURS: By appointment.
COURSE NUMBER: SPED 4310.01W
COURSE NAME: Students with Exceptionalities
CREDIT: 3 Hours

This course is an online course.
Course dates: Monday, June 2 – Thursday, July 3.

I. Course Description
This online course is designed to familiarize the student with the various conditions of
individuals with disabilities.

II. Rationale
This course is designed to provide students with a knowledge of the characteristics and
needs of individuals with disabilities.

III. State Adopted Proficiencies for Teachers
The state adopted proficiencies covered in this course include the following:
  1. Learner-Centered Knowledge. The teacher possesses and draws a rich knowledge
     base of content, pedagogy, and technology to provide relevant and meaningful
     learning experiences for all students.

  2. 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 II – PROMOTING STUDENT LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Competency 004: The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of procedures for managing the teaching and learning environment, including procedures related to the use of assistive technology.

Competency 005: The special education teacher knows how to promote students’ educational performance in all content areas by facilitating their achievement in a variety of settings and situations.

DOMAIN IV – FOUNDATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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 4330, SPED 4335, SPED 4340, and SPED 4345 are linked to this student learning outcome.)
- demonstrate a depth of knowledge of fostering learning and development for individuals with disabilities;
  (SPED 4325, SPED 4330, SPED 4335, SPED 4340 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 4325, SPED 4330, SPED 4335, SPED 4340, SPED 4345 and SPED 4397 are linked to this student learning outcome.)

This course is designed to enable students to:

- **Recognizes** the historical foundations of special education, major contributors to the literature, major legislation relevant to knowledge and practice in the education of individuals with disabilities, and current issues and trends in special education (IV 010 i)
- Recognizes various perspectives regarding definitions and etiologies of disabilities (IV 010 iv)
- Applies knowledge of ethical concerns related to assessment and evaluation, including legal provisions, regulations, and guidelines regarding unbiased evaluation and the use of psychometric instruments and instructional assessment measures with individuals with disabilities (I 002 i)
- Applies current educational terminology and definitions regarding individuals with disabilities, including professionally accepted classification systems and current incidence and prevalence figures (IV 010 iii)
- Analyzes issues relating to definition and identification procedures for individuals with disabilities, including individuals from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (IV 010 iv)
- Applies knowledge of the continuum of placement and services for individuals with disabilities (IV 010 viii)
- **Recognizes** the effects of cultural and environmental influences on the child and family (I 001 v)
- Analyzes cultural factors and perspectives that affect relationships among students, parents/guardians, schools, and communities with regard to providing instruction for individuals with disabilities (II 005 i)
• Identifies factors that influence the overrepresentation of culturally and/or linguistically diverse students in programs for individuals with disabilities (IV 010 v)
• Recognizes the collaborative roles of students, parents/guardians, teachers and other school and community personnel in planning and implementing an individualized program, and applies effective strategies for working collaboratively in various contexts (IV 012 i)
• Applies knowledge of factors that promote effective communication and collaboration with students, parents/guardians, teachers, paraprofessionals, and other school and community personnel (IV 012 ii)
• Identifies ways to foster respectful and beneficial relationships between families and professionals in the school and community (IV 012 iii)
• Identifies typical concerns of families of individuals with disabilities and appropriate strategies to support families dealing with these concerns (IV 012 iv)
• Applies knowledge of strategies for encouraging and assisting parents/guardians in their role as active participants in their children's education, and identifies procedures for planning and conducting collaborative conferences with parents/guardians (IV 012 v)
• Recognizes characteristics of individuals with different types of disabilities, including individuals with different levels of severity and multiple disabilities across eligibility categories, and analyzes the impact of various disabilities on learning and experience (I 001 i)
• Identifies the different ways that students with and without disabilities learn (I 001 iv)
• Identifies ways in which technology can assist in managing the teaching and learning environment to meet the needs of individual students (II 004 v)
• Recognizes normal, delayed, and disordered communication patterns, including nonsymbolic communication, and the impact of language development on the academic and social skills of individuals with disabilities (I 001 vii)
• Identifies ways in which technology can assist in managing the teaching and learning environment to meet the needs of individual students (II 004 v)
• Identifies ways in which physical and health impairments relate to development and behavior, and knows the etiologies and effects of sensory disabilities and other conditions affecting individuals with disabilities (I 001 ix)
• Recognizes the etiologies and effects of sensory disabilities affecting individuals with disabilities (I 001 ix, partial)

VII. Course Topics
• Overview of Special Education
• Inclusion and Accessing General Education
• Multicultural, Bilingual and Diverse Schools
• Partnerships with Families
• High Incidence Disabilities
• Low Incidence Disabilities
• Gifted/Talented Education
VIII. Instructional Methods and Activities

- Traditional Experiences (i.e., online delivery, videos, discussion)
- Clinical Experiences (i.e., cooperative groups, simulations, value clarification)

IX. Evaluation and Grade Assignment

A total of 150 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>135 – 150</td>
<td>90 – 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>119 – 134</td>
<td>80 – 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103 – 118</td>
<td>70 – 79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87– 102</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. Student Learning Activities - 6
2. Quizzes - 4
3. Final Exam - 1

**Student Learning Activities (50 pts.)**

Students will participate in a series of learning activities using the assignment link, and blackboard tools (such as blogs). The Introduction Activity and Conclusion (Unit 5) are worth 5 points each. Unit Activities (1-4) are worth 10 points. Students will also participate in experiential activities, discussions, and self-reflections.

In order to receive full credit, each response must be thorough and well-written. All course members are expected to communicate in a respectful and professional manner. In all written correspondence to the instructor, text speak is not appropriate. Using text speak in an assignment, will affect your assignment grade.

During our course, students will be expected to use language consistent with IDEA (emphasizing “person-first” language). Person first language is also to be used in all assignments for this course. Not using the correct terminology will affect your assignment grade. Please review the Person-First Language information provided on your Bb Start Here! page.

You will be allowed to submit your work only one time. You may want to create your work in a word document and then copy and paste it into the online assignment area.
**Quizzes (60 pts.)**
There will be 4 quizzes within the course. Each quiz is worth 15 points. The quizzes are cumulative and based on the reading study questions provided at the beginning of each chapter. The quizzes are timed.

You will be allowed to log onto each quiz only once so plan your time accordingly. There are no “make up” quizzes allowed. You will take the quizzes within the time allotted so plan well.

**Final Exam (40 pts.)**
The final exam is cumulative and is based on the study questions from each chapter. The final exam is timed.

**X. Course Schedule and Policies**

**Tentative Course Schedule**
See attached.

**Attendance Policy**
In this online course, your presence is critical. We have several interactive engagement activities in which your participation is expected. NO late assignments will be accepted – only under the most extraordinary circumstances as determined by the instructor. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE to complete and submit your work. Expect the unexpected and prepare ahead of time.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**
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, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one's own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in failure. See website http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/.

**Dropping a Class**
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped
from the class. Check the university academic calendar website for dates related to dropping a class with an automatic grade of "W" this term. See website http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/academic_cal.html.

Preferred methods of scholarly citations

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition is the preferred method for citations within papers.

Classroom/professional behavior

All students are expected to act in a responsible manner with consideration of fellow students and toward TAMU-CC faculty and staff members. Specific rules and information is available in the TAMU-CC Student Handbook and available through the website http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/studentcofc.html.

Statement of Academic Continuity

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

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://advising.tamucc.edu/grade_appeals.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
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 disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in CCH 116. See website http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/.

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 for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

*Required by SACS

XI. Textbook

Required:

XII: 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**
- Teacher Education Division
- Division for Early Childhood
- Council for Educational Diagnostic Services
- Technology and Media Division
- Division on Career Development and Transition
- Division for Research
- Division for Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners
This course is an online course.
Course dates: Monday, June 2 – Thursday, July 3.

**Tentative Course Schedule**
All assignments must be submitted by the specified Wednesday no later than 5pm. After that time, submission access will no longer be available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Activities</th>
<th>Due on Wednesday by 5pm!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Due June 4, 5pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 1 (chapters 1-4)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Education Foundations, Accessing the General Education Curriculum, Diversity, Families, and Collaboration</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>All Unit 1 Assignments due NO later than June 11, 5pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 2 (chapters 5-8)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning Disabilities, Communication Disorders, Emotional Behavioral Disorders, ADHD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>All Unit 2 Assignments due NO later than June 18, 5pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 3 (chapters 9-12)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Intellectual Disabilities, Multiple Disabilities, Autism, Other Health Impairments</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>All Unit 3 Assignments due NO later than June 25, 5pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 4 (chapters 13-15)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Traumatic Brain Injury, Hearing Loss, Visual Impairments</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>All Unit 4 Assignments due NO later than July 2, 5pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Due NO Later than July 3, 5pm</strong></td>
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