Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi  
College of Education  
SPED 5320.B01 – Applications of Learning Principles  
Spring 2017 Course Syllabus  

PROFESSOR:  
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OFFICE HOURS:  
M&T 1-3pm or by appointment  
COURSE NUMBER:  
SPED 5320  
COURSE NAME:  
Applications of Learning Principles  
CREDIT:  
3 Hours  

This class is a blended class.  
Our course meets Tuesdays, 4:20pm – 6:50pm, in BH 206.  

I. Course Description  
This course trains teachers, administrators, counselors, and diagnosticians to use a variety of  
evidence-based approaches to increase student learning and minimize disruptive behavior.  

II. Rationale  
This course is designed to provide professionals with practical skills based on applied behavior  
analysis principles to increase student performance and reduce inappropriate behavior.  

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  
A. The Generic Special Education EC-12 Certification (Field 161) TExES program  
competencies covered in this course include the following:  

DOMAIN I – UNDERSTANDING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND  
EVALUATING THEIR NEEDS
Competency 002: The special education teacher understands formal and informal assessment and evaluation procedures and knows how to evaluate student competencies to make instructional decisions.

**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.

Competency 006: The special education teacher understands and applies knowledge of issues and procedures for teaching appropriate behavior and social skills.

**DOMAIN IV – FOUNDATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

B. The Educational Diagnostician Field (153) TExES program competencies covered in this course include the following:

Competency 005: The educational diagnostician applies skills for interpreting formal and informal assessments and evaluations.

Competency 007: The educational diagnostician understands the use of appropriate assessment, evaluation, planning, and instructional strategies for developing students’ behavioral and social skills.

**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. Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Objectives
This course is designed to enable students to:

- Discuss different ways students learn (I, 001 iv)
- Discuss 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)
- Identify appropriate evaluation strategies for individual students with diverse characteristics and needs (I, 002, iii)
- Recognize the reciprocal nature of assessment and instruction; applies skills for developing individualized assessment strategies to evaluate the results of instruction; and knows how to use assessment and evaluation results to design, monitor, and modify instruction for individuals with disabilities. (I, 002, viii)
- Design and use ecological assessments, portfolio assessments, task analyses, and functional assessments to accommodate the unique abilities and needs of individuals with disabilities. (I, 002, ix)
- Discuss the role of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in developing Individual Education Programs for students with disabilities, and applies skills for sequencing, implementing, and evaluation individual learning objectives. (II, 003, iii)
- Prepare, adapt, and organize materials to implement developmentally appropriate and age-appropriate lesson plans based on Individual Education Program objectives. (II, 003, v)
- Demonstrate knowledge of how to design, structure, and manage daily routines, including transition time, for students in a variety of educational settings, and applies procedures for monitoring behavior changes across activities and settings. (II, 004, iii)
- Demonstrate knowledge of basic classroom management theories, methods, and techniques for individuals with disabilities, research-based best practices for effective management of teaching and learning, and management procedures that are appropriate to individual needs. (II, 004, iv)
- Identify ways in which technology can assist in managing the teaching and learning environment to meet the needs of individual students. (II, 004, v)
- Discuss how to serve as a resource person for families, general education teachers, administrators, and other personnel in recognizing the characteristics of and meeting the needs of individuals with learning differences in the general education classroom (II, 005, ii)
- Demonstrate using assessment results to design, monitor, and adapt instruction to enhance student learning, and applies skills for selecting, adapting, and using effective,
research-based instructional strategies, practices, and materials that are developmentally appropriate and age-appropriate and that meet individual needs. (II, 005, iii)

- Demonstrate instructional, compensatory, enrichment, and remedial methods, techniques, and curriculum materials, and applies strategies for modifying instruction based on the differing learning styles and needs of students. (II, 005, iv)
- Apply knowledge of techniques for motivating students, including the effects of high teacher expectations on student motivation. (II, 005, v)
- Demonstrate knowledge of life-skills and self-help curricula and strategies for providing students with life-skills instruction relevant to independent or assisted living and employment. (II, 005, vi)
- Develop and/or selects social skills and behavioral curricula and strategies that promote socially appropriate behavior, and prepares individuals to live cooperatively and productively in society. (II, 006, v)
- Incorporate social skills instruction across settings and curricula and knows how to design, implement, and evaluation instructional programs that enhance an individual’s social participation in family, school, and community activities. (II, 006, vi)
- Implement strategies for modifying learning environments to promote appropriate behaviors. (II, 006, vii)
- Recognize the impact of language on an individual’s behavior and learning and knows how the communication skills of nonspeaking/nonverbal individuals affect their behavior. (II, 006, viii)
- Apply knowledge of developmental processes associated with communication systems, including emergent and preliteracy skills, and knows how to provide a variety of opportunities for students with disabilities to learn communication skills. (III, 008, i)

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Students in this graduate program will:

- demonstrate knowledge of individuals with disabilities; (SPED 5315, SPED 5320, SPED 5340, and SPED 5397 are linked to this student learning outcome.)
- evaluate the needs of individuals with disabilities; (SPED 5340, SPED 5386 and SPED 5387 are linked to this student learning outcome.)
- demonstrate knowledge of fostering learning and development for individuals with disabilities; (SPED 5320, SPED 5385, SPED 5386, SPED 5387, and SPED 5397 are linked to this student learning outcome.)
- demonstrate knowledge of foundations of special education and professional roles and responsibilities of the special education educator; (SPED 5340, SPED 5385, SPED 5386, SPED 5387, and SPED 5397 are linked to this student learning outcome.)
- develop a behavior intervention/change plan. (SPED 5380 is linked to this student learning outcome.)
VI. Course Topics
- Overview of Applied Behavior Analysis, Evidence-Based Interventions, Systematic Instruction
- Instructional Approaches
  - Communication
  - Academics
  - Social Skills
  - Visual Supports

VII. Instructional Methods and Activities
- Traditional Experiences (i.e., lecture, discussion, multimedia presentations, web enhanced activities)
- Clinical Experiences (i.e., cooperative groups, student presentations, student demonstrations, value clarification, role play)

VIII. Evaluation and Grade Assignment
A total of 140 points can be earned in this course.

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<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>126 – 140</td>
<td>90 – 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>111 – 125</td>
<td>80 – 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>96 – 110</td>
<td>70 – 79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81 – 95</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:

Exam & Quizzes (40 pts.): This class contains one exam (20 pts) and two quizzes (10 pts each) – all are available on Bb and are timed.

Chapter Questions (20 pts): This class covers our primary text’s chapters 7-17. To support reflective thinking of this material, there are four assigned questions relating to specific chapters. Units 1-4 all contain one question. Please reflect on the material carefully prior to crafting your written response.

Research Paper or Project Report (20 pts): Students, who were enrolled in SPED 5319 (fall 2016) can choose to develop a Project Report or write a Research Report. Students who did not take 5319 are asked to write a Research Report. Whether you choose the Paper or Project, either should be “Presentation Ready” – able to craft into a professional lecture or oral presentation.
Students will choose a different topic in the field of severe disabilities and write a min. five (5) page research paper (page minimum does not include references). Topics may be disability-specific, involve a current issue, focus on evidence-based practices, or relate to the issue of social justice. **All topics must receive instructor approval.** All work must be in the most current version of APA and utilize people-first language. References must use at least three (3) research articles, along with book chapters, and other references. References must be within 5 years of publication.

If your Project is currently being implemented, then you may work with your group to develop a Project Report. As each project is different, please contact me and I will work with you to develop the guidelines for your research/data-based report.

You (or your group) will only have approximately 10 minutes to present (a more definitive time will be given in class - dependent on our number of presenters/groups). Each presenter/presenting group is responsible for crafting their presentations to meet the time frame. Each presenter/group will also have a timekeeper to help facilitate the use of time.

Showcase your work - you are sharing information in clear, concise format.

**Book Review (15 pts.):** Our class will read *The Reason I Jump*, a story of a young man growing up, with autism, in Japan. Students will read the book and write a review of the book for both families and practitioners. Remember, all work must be written in people-first language and written in APA style. This Assignment is due in Unit 1.

**Visual Task Analysis or Social Script (15 pts.):**
Students will have the option of creating either a visual task analysis or a social script. For assignment detailed information, see our Bb Unit 2 Assignment folder.

Students will develop a task analysis as well as create an accompanying visual support (using the Rogers text) of the task analysis. A data collection instrument will also be required for the T.A.

Students will develop a social script visual support to address an individual’s social behavior. Students must use the format provided and may use the Rogers book if they so choose.

**Aligning Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment Activity (20 pts.):** Students will choose a grade level and subject and create a standards-based lesson. Each lesson will: state the grade level, TEK, show the material, and provide an assessment and data collection tool. For assignment detailed information, see our Bb Unit 3 Assignment folder.

**Autism 101 Module Assignment (3 pts.):** Students are required to complete the Autism 101 Module and submit the certificate online for credit. This assignment is located in Unit 5.
**Course Participation (7 pts.):** Each student is expected to participate in course discussions and activities and to complete all assignments as directed. Students are expected to be respectful and refrain from private conversations. Refer to Course Policies for additional information.

Each student is expected to come to class prepared. All readings/assignments are to be completed and cell phones are to be silenced and put away.

Late assignments will not be accepted without prior approval from the instructor. Late assignments, if accepted, must be received within one week of the assigned due date. Late assignments will incur an automatic point deduction of one letter grade.

During interactions (online and face to face), students are 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 participation/assignment grade.

**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. You will need to log onto Bb as we will using the site to share work, ideas, and resources. 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. 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 notify me prior to class.

**Statement of Civility**
Texas A&M University Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of gender, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, age,
sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated. [http://falcon.tamucc.edu/~students/JAffairs/ja_hndbk_academic_info.htm](http://falcon.tamucc.edu/~students/JAffairs/ja_hndbk_academic_info.htm)

**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 e-mail and/or Blackboard. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (e.g., e-mails, Blackboard, websites) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. Students need to make certain that the course instructor has both a primary and secondary means of contacting each student.

**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 punishment.

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:**


**Recommended:**


Additional assigned readings will be available online.

**XI: Bibliography**

The knowledge base that supports 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
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 Rule 13.02.99.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 CCH 117. 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.
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<td>Tues. Jan. 24 On Campus</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Tues. Jan. 31 On Campus</td>
<td>Unit 1: General Instruction Procedures</td>
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<td>Tues. Feb. 7 On Campus</td>
<td>Unit 1</td>
<td>On Campus - Guest Speaker</td>
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<td>Tues. Feb. 14 On Campus</td>
<td>Unit 1 Due (C.7-10)</td>
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<td>Tues. Feb. 21 On Campus</td>
<td>Unit 2: Specific Instruction Procedures</td>
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<td>Tues. Feb. 28 On Campus</td>
<td>Unit 2</td>
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<td>Tues. Mar. 7 On Campus</td>
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<td>Tues. Mar. 14 On Campus</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>Tues. Mar. 21 On Campus</td>
<td>Unit 3: Academic Content Instructional procedures</td>
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<td>Tues. Mar. 28 On Campus</td>
<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>Literacy On Campus - Guest Speaker</td>
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<td>Tues. Apr. 4 On Campus</td>
<td>Unit 3 Due (C. 17)</td>
<td>Math Instruction On Campus - Guest Speaker</td>
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<td>Tues. Apr. 11 On Campus</td>
<td>Unit 4: Management Procedures</td>
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<td>Unit 4</td>
<td>On Campus - Presentations</td>
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<td>Tues. Apr. 25 On Campus</td>
<td>Unit 4 Due (C. 13-16)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. May 2 On Campus</td>
<td>Unit 5: Synthesis</td>
<td>Unit 5 Due</td>
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<td>Tues. May 9 On Campus</td>
<td>Exam</td>
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