SPED 346
Introduction to Exceptional Children
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2021

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Michelle Hanks, MEd
Clinical Instructor/Field Liaison

Office Location: Henderson 204
Office Hours: by appointment

University Email Address: michelle.hanks@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: e-mail

Communication Response Time: Responses to emails will be made Monday through Thursday within 48 hours. Please note that *I will not respond* to emails on Saturdays, Sundays, during holidays, or in the evenings. If you have any questions or need clarification on any aspect of the course, *email me early in the week*.

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: Hallahan, D. P., Kauffman, J. M., & Pullen, P. C. (2010). *Exceptional Learners: An Introduction to Special Education (14th Ed.).* Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

This course will provide a survey of populations with exceptionalities. Attention will be given to the cause of these deviations and their effect upon the individual's development. Professional roles of the special education team member as well as the policies and regulations applicable to special education programs in general will be covered.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable)

1. understand and apply knowledge of the characteristics and needs of students with disabilities,
2. understand and apply knowledge of procedures for managing the teaching and learning environment, including procedures related to the use of assistive technology,
3. understand the philosophical, historical, and legal foundations of special education, and
4. know how to communicate and collaborate effectively in a variety of professional settings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Be able to use the learning management system, Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, also being able to use presentation and graphics programs

Instructional Methods

The course will be a combination of in-class & online learning. There will be active participation activities, class assignments, lecture, quizzes & exams.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

You will need to regularly log into the course website, weekly/daily study and participation time expected are expected for you to be able to take the quiz at the end of each chapter. Also, it will be important for you to study weekly to prepare Handbook assignment pages.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100% (360-400)

B = 80%-89% (320-359)

C = 70%-79% (280-319)

D = 60%-69% (240-279)

F = 59% or Below (0-239)

Assessments

Exams: Three objective exams will be given on the scheduled dates. Tests will be taken in D2L (my Leo), and will be randomized to each user. You will have one-attempt at each test. You will have an hour and a half to take the exam. **If your time is not set to an hour and a**

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half, you need to contact me BEFORE you take the exam. There will be NO MAKEUP opportunities for missed tests. However, if there is a technical issue, those will be handled on a case-by-case basis. **Exams are NOT open book, open notes, or open friend.**

Exams are all available for students to review, with the correct answers marked, the day after the administration time period closes.

Assignments
Course Requirements and Expectations*:*

Misunderstood Minds Video: This assignment should be submitted to D2L submission folder in my Leo and is worth 50 points. (Details to follow)

Chapter 3 Discussion (Multicultural assignment): Students will read an article from the *Journal of Special Education*, posted (in .pdf) in Doc Sharing in D2L entitled "To Teach Me Is To Know Me". Students will also read <u>at least one of the three</u> culture stories posted in Doc Sharing. Story one (in .docx) is entitled "Good Intentions". Story 2 (The Kilmurry School) and Story 3 (It's Not Fair) are both in .pdf. Each story has questions for your consideration at the end of the story. These questions are for your consideration and reflection. You DO NOT have to submit written responses to these questions.   The discussion questions that require your responses will be submitted to the D2L Submission Folder and is worth 50 points.

<u>**OPTIONAL: Film Analysis**</u>

This assignment will allow students to analyze how society experiences "disability" as it is portrayed in film. Please note, this is NOT a review of a film and cannot be downloaded from the film's website. There are specific questions to be addressed in your analysis:

- Summary of film
- Critique of the film
- Your analysis
  - Emotional Response
  - Portrayal
  - Filmmaking
  - Class Discussion
  - Cultural Response

<u>Additional information on each of these required sections AND a list of approved films is provided in Doc Sharing in D2L.</u>

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- To fully participate in online courses you will need to use a current Flash enabled internet browser. For PC and Mac users the suggested browser is Mozilla Firefox.

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- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
    - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
    - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
    - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

- You must have a:
    - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
    - Speakers or headphones.
    - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.

- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp

- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

- Run a browser check through the Pearson LearningStudio Technical Requirements website. Browser Check   http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browset

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.
> Pop-ups are allowed.
> JavaScript is enabled.
> Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
    - Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/
    - Adobe Flash Player *(version 17 or later)* https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/
    - Adobe Shockwave Player   https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/
    - Apple Quick Time   http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

- For additional information about system requirements, please see: System Requirements for LearningStudio   https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical

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ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) Access and Log in Information

This course will be facilitated using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to myLeo and from the top menu ribbon select eCollege. Then on the upper left side of the screen click on the My Courses tab.   http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu**.**

Note: It is strongly recommended you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the My Courses tab, and then select the Browser Test link under Support Services.

Pearson LearningStudio Student Technical Support

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support for the use of Pearson LearningStudio.

Technical assistance is available 24/7 (24 hours, 7 days a week).

If you experience LearningStudio (eCollege) technical problems, contact the LearningStudio helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511 (toll free) or visit Pearson 24/7 Customer Support Site http://247support.custhelp.com/

The student help desk may be reached in the following ways:
- **Chat Support:** Click on *'Live Support'* on the tool bar within your course to chat with a Pearson LearningStudio Representative.

- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.

Accessing Help from within Your Course: Click on the *'Tech Support'* icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. Then you will be able to get assistance via online chat or by phone.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's

home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511.
2. Students must file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and provide me with the helpdesk ticket number.

4. I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

PLEASE NOTE: Your personal computer and internet access problems are not a legitimate excuses for filing a ticket with the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk. Only Pearson LearningStudio based problems are legitimate reasons to contact the Help Desk.

You strongly are encouraged to check for your internet browser compatibility **BEFORE** the course begins and take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform.

myLeo Support
Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at myLeo. https://leo.tamuc.edu
Learner Support
The One Stop Shop was created to serve you by providing as many resources as possible in one location. http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/

The Academic Success Center provides academic resources to help you achieve academic success. http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/

FREE Mobile APPS

The Courses apps for phones have been adapted to support the tasks students can easily complete on a smaller device. Due to the smaller screen size course content is not presented.

The Courses app is free of charge. The mobile Courses Apps are designed and adapted for different devices.

	App Title:	**iPhone –** Pearson LearningStudio Courses for iPhone **Android** – LearningStudio Courses - Phone
	Operating System:	**iPhone** - OS 6 and above **Android** – Jelly Bean, Kitkat, and Lollipop OS

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	iPhone App URL:	https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pearson-learningstudio-courses/id977280011?mt=8
	Android App URL:	https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pearson.lsphone

Once downloaded, search for Texas A&M University-Commerce, and it should appear on the list. Then you will need to sign into the myLeo Mobile portal.

The Courses App for Android and iPhone contain the following feature set:

• View titles/code/Instructor of all Courses enrolled in online
• View and respond to all discussions in individual Courses
• View Instructor Announcements in individual Courses
• View Graded items, Grades and comments in individual Courses
• Grade to Date
• View Events (assignments) and Calendar in individual Courses
• View Activity Feed for all courses
• View course filters on activities
• View link to Privacy Policy
• Ability to Sign out
• Send Feedback

LearningStudio Notifications

Students can be alerted to course activities via text on their mobile phones or up to two email addresses.

Based on their preferences, students can automatically receive a push notification with every new: course announcement, threaded discussion post, grade, and/or assignment without having to login to the course. Enrolled students will automatically receive email notifications for announcements and can <u>opt out</u> of this feature. To receive text notifications, students must opt in.

To begin setting up notifications, go into your course in LearningStudio and click on the bell-shaped Notifications icon on the main menu ribbon.

By default the student's university email address will appear. This cannot be changed in LearningStudio. Additional email addresses may be added by clicking the Add button. After all of the other selections are completed be sure to click the Save and Finish button.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

Responses to emails will be made Monday through Thursday within 48 hours. Please note that I will not respond to emails on Saturdays, Sundays, during holidays, or in the evenings. If you have any questions or need clarification on any aspect of the course, email me early in the week. I will make time during office hours or after class to review and collaborate with you regarding any concerns you have regarding assignments, quizzes, exams, etc.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Assignments will not be accepted unless with instructor's prior approval (before the deadline) due to extenuating circumstances. Quizzes and exams will not be reopened for students to access once the deadlines indicated on the tentative calendar have elapsed. Thus, please make very sure to note when all quizzes and exams are available to access. Attendance is class is mandatory in order to keep up with lecture and assignments. Please be present and on time.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.
http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: Netiquette
http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.
http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

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Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have

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been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR
Tentative Calendar

Unit	Days	Chapter Readings	Quiz/Exam Dates
Unit 1 Chapters 1-4	1	Chapter 1: Exceptionality and special education **Assign: Misunderstood Minds (D2L)**	Exam 1 (chapters 1-4)
	2	Chapter 2: Current Practices for Meeting the Needs of Exceptional Learners	
	3	Chapter 3: Multicultural and Bilingual Aspects of Special Education **Assign: Multicultural Assignment (D2L)**	
	4	Chapter 4: Parents and Families	
Unit 2 High Incidence Disabilities	5	Chapter 5: Learners with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	Exam 2 (chapters 5-8, 10)
	6	Chapter 6: Learners with Learning Disabilities	
	7	Chapter 7: Learners with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	
	8	Chapter 8: Learners with Emotional or Behavioral Disorders	
	9	Chapter 10: Learners with Communication Disorders	
Unit 3	10	Chapter 11: Learners who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing	

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Low Incidence Disabilities	11	Chapter 12: Learners with Blindness or Low Vision	**Exam 3 (chapters 9, 11-15)**
	12	Chapter 9: Learners with Autism Spectrum Disorders **Assign: Film Review (D2L)**	
	13	Chapter 13: Learners with Low-Incidence, Multiple, and Severe Disabilities	
	14	Chapter 14: Learners with Physical Disabilities and Other Health Impairments	
	15	Chapter 15: Learners with Special Gifts and Talents	
End of Course; Wrap-Up	16	**Final Exam (**OPTIONAL**)**	**Cumulative Final Exam**

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