SPED 346 Introduction to Special Education
COURSE SYLLABUS: May Mini 2025

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.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings
Textbook(s) Required: Hallahan, D. P., Kauffman, J. M., & Pullen, P. C. (2023). *Exceptional Learners: An Introduction to Special Education (15th Ed.).* Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

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 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

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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 100 points.

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.

<u>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

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L

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cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

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Introduction to Exceptional Children

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or **point** release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or **point** release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2Lsupports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- 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.

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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:
  o Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/
  o Adobe Flash Player *(version 17 or later)* https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/
  o Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/
  o 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.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

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: 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.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT
Brightspace Support

Need Help?
Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

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Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "click here" to submit an issue via email.

System Maintenance

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

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.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Late assignments will not be accepted unless with instructor's prior approval (before the deadline) due to extenuating circumstances.

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/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx

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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

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 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

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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 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	
	2	Chapter 2: Current Practices for Meeting the Needs of Exceptional Learners	

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Introduction to Exceptional Children

	3	Chapter 3: Multicultural and Bilingual Aspects of Special Education	**Exam 1 (chapters 1-4)**
	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 Low Incidence Disabilities	10	Chapter 11: Learners who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing	**Exam 3 (chapters 9, 11-15)**
	11	Chapter 12: Learners with Blindness or Low Vision	
	12	Chapter 9: Learners with Autism Spectrum Disorders	
	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			NO FINAL

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