



## ISSUES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS - SPED 480.01W

COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor: Jennifer Ozuna, M.Ed.**

Telephone: (972) 948-9647 (cell – please text before calling)

Email: [Jennifer.Ozuna@tamuc.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Ozuna@tamuc.edu)

Office Hours: I do not have an office at the University, but I will have virtual office hours on Tuesdays - 5:00-6:30 pm, Wednesdays - 5:00-6:30 pm, and Fridays - 9:30-11:30 am - ***Please text before coming to the virtual office.***

### COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

**Resource text (not required):** Rapp, Whitney H. and Katrina L. Arndt (2012). Teaching Everyone: An Introduction to Inclusive Education. Baltimore: Paul H. Brooks Publishing Co.

### Course Description

The purpose of this course is to identify the social/emotional and academic needs of students with special needs in mainstream settings. Management strategies, social skill development, and academic accommodations will be targeted. A key purpose of this course is to identify collaborative strategies, tools, and approaches that will assist in making the general education classroom one where all students can be successful.

### Student Learning Outcomes

**Students will demonstrate understanding and apply knowledge of:**

- **C002: formal and informal assessment procedures and how to evaluate student competencies to make instructional decisions**

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- **C003: procedures for planning for individuals with disabilities**
- **C005: how to promote students' educational performance in all content areas by facilitating their achievement in a variety of settings and situations**
- **C0011: professional roles and responsibilities and legal and ethical requirements**
- **C0012: how to communicate and collaborate effectively in a variety of professional settings**

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Since this is an online class, students should be able to use Zoom, the D2L platform, and other web-based instructional tools. See Technology Requirements listed below.

### **Instructional Methods**

This course is a web-based class with four virtual seminars that will take place via Zoom. The instructor has also included various forms of instructional tools in the D2L course such as videos, helpful websites/resources, scholarly articles, and discussion topics. Assignments should be submitted in the D2L.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

Enrolled students are responsible for attending seminars and completing assignments on time. The instructor may post announcements in the D2L that need to be seen and responded to in a timely manner. Additionally, please be aware that you should be spending the equivalent of three hours a week of class time (listening to lectures/accessing class materials) on a three-hour course, with additional time being required to complete assignments.

## **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

### **Assignments**

1. **Alphabet Soup and Disability Match (10 pts.)** - Students will use the info in Module 1 to complete these activities. The point of these assignments is to become familiar with the disability categories served in special education and common acronyms.

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2. **Parent/Family Interview:** Interview a parent of a student with a documented disability. This activity is intended to help you understand how to better collaborate with families of students with special needs. **Bold and underline parent responses**. The questions you will need to answer in your write-up are as follows:

Parent Interview Questions and Rubric	POINTS
<b>Introduction</b> —Disability(ies), Age, Grade, Additional Pertinent and/or Historically Relevant Information about Child—Refer to <a href="#">TAC 89.1040</a> for listing of disabilities.—3 <i>professionally written sentences</i>	/2
<b>Question 1</b> —(a) How/when/where were you informed your child has a disability(ies)? (b) Based upon this experience, recommend effective strategies for informing parents of the disability(ies) of their child.—3 <i>professionally written sentences</i>	/2
<b>Question 2</b> —Summarize your response/reaction upon learning your child has a disability(ies), including any adjustments in your response/reaction through the years.—2 <i>professionally written sentences</i>	/2
<b>Question 3</b> —Describe reactions/responses siblings may have had (or may have) with a brother/sister with a disability.—2 <i>professionally written sentences</i>	/2
<b>Question 4</b> —Elaborate on positive and/or negative changes in your family as a result of having a child with a disability.—2 <i>professionally written sentences</i>	/2
<b>Question 5</b> —Compare changes (positive and/or negative) that may have occurred with extended family members, with friends, in the community as a result of your having a child with a disability.—2 <i>professionally written sentences</i>	/2
<b>Question 6</b> —Identify services your child is receiving/has received. When did services begin? Where?—2 <i>professionally written sentences</i>	/2
<b>Question 7</b> —Critique your satisfaction level with your participation in the planning process for services for your child.— 2 <i>professionally written sentences</i>	/2
<b>Question 8</b> —If I were the teacher of your child, point out steps I may take (a) to effectively teach your son/daughter, (b) to effectively build bridges with you, the parent.—3 <i>professionally written sentences</i>	/2
<b>Reflection of Student Enrolled in Sped 480</b> —Pause for a while. Consider the impact of this Interview on you—your awareness of students with disabilities, your empathy and compassion for parents of children with disabilities, your classroom.—3 <i>professionally written sentences</i>	/2
<b>TOTAL POINTS SCORED OF TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS</b>	<b>/20</b>

3. **ARD/IEP Meeting (20 pts.):** Observe an ARD meeting this semester. Your campus administrator or educational diagnostician can help you arrange this. A

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reflection piece is to be completed after the ARD and should address the following areas (**be sure to include the questions in your reflection and make it clear which answer corresponds to which question**): Each of the following questions are worth two points each and the remaining two points are for professionalism (type-written, proper grammar, and spelling)

1. Who attended the ARD? (identify individual by position, not by name)
2. Who led the ARD?
3. What was the purpose of the ARD (Admission, Review, or Dismissal)?
4. What kind of information (assessment, instructional, behavioral, etc.) was shared by each committee member?
5. Specifically, what appeared to be the general educator's role and responsibility as a committee member?
6. How were educational goals and objectives determined?
7. How did the committee arrive at decisions concerning the student's least restrictive environment (LRE)?
8. Were there conflicts or disagreements in the ARD? If so, how were they handled?
9. Was there anything about the process that surprised you or about which you still have questions?

***\*\*\*If you are unable to attend an ARD, interview your mentor or a special education teacher about an ARD he/she has attended. Write that person's responses to the reflection questions.\*\*\****

4. **IEP Scavenger Hunt (10 pts. total):** Students will use a sample IEP document to locate crucial components and answer questions related to the document.
5. **Evidence of Accommodations/Modifications and Collaboration (20 pts. total):** Review the IEPs of the students served in your general education setting. Note the format of the documents and how mandated components are addressed. Particularly, what accommodations or modifications are specified for use in general education? **Develop a table (i.e., Excel, Word, etc.) that will allow you to have all the accommodations or modifications for each student you are serving in one accessible document.** If any of your students have a behavior intervention plan (BIP) in place, note the reinforcers and consequences outlined and how they are to be administered. **Your assignment is to submit the following:**
  - A. **Submit a copy of the accommodations/modifications table you developed** (remember to maintain student confidentiality) **(10 pts.)**.
  - B. **Submit answers to these two questions (10 points):**
    - a. Is there currently a system in place to track the effectiveness of identified accommodations and/or modifications?
    - b. How do the general and special educators communicate regarding IEPs and student success?

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**Note:** If there is not a student with an identified disability in your classroom, check with the special education teacher or educational diagnostician on your campus to review forms that are used to create a student's IEP. Don't forget that Rtl and 504 committees develop accommodations and/or interventions for struggling students. Talk about what you are doing to ensure the success of all students (so that a referral is not needed).

6. **Discussions (14 pts).** - There are discussions included in each module of the course.

**Course Evaluation & Grading:**

<b>Alphabet Soup</b>	<b>5 pts.</b>
<b>Disability Match</b>	<b>5 pts.</b>
<b>Parent Interview</b>	<b>20 pts.</b>
<b>ARD/IEP Meeting</b>	<b>20 pts.</b>
<b>IEP Scavenger Hunt</b>	<b>10 pts.</b>
<b>Evidence of Accommodations/Modifications and Collaboration Discussions</b>	<b>20 pts.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Getting to Know You (2)</b></li> <li>● <b>Special Education Students at a Glance (4)</b></li> <li>● <b>Which Accommodations Would You Choose? (4)</b></li> <li>● <b>Assistive Technology (4)</b></li> </ul>	<b>14 pts.</b>
<b>Seminar Attendance</b>	<b>6 pts</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 pts</b>

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

**LMS**

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

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## 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](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all coursework 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.

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

### Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have a question that you feel others in the class would benefit from the answer to, please post your question in the virtual office. **For all other inquiries, email is my preferred method of communication. Please give me 48 hours to respond to your emails before resending. However, please note that I do not purposely not answer emails, and if you haven't gotten a response, it is likely just an oversight-- please resend the email with a gentle reminder. In addition, please be aware that I will not respond to emails on Saturday or Sunday, and emails received on Friday could potentially be responded to the following Monday.**

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures/Policies

All assignments/discussions must be turned in on the assigned due date. ***Partial credit MAY be given for late assignments at the discretion of the instructor.***

**A note about timeliness:** it is highly advised that you DO NOT wait until the deadline for turning in an assignment. I have set the deadlines for assignments

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**to be Sunday nights to give you the weekends for completion. If you wait until 11:00 pm on Sunday to turn in an assignment due at midnight and the electricity goes out, you have missed the deadline and will NOT get credit for the assignment. You need to plan ahead for questions/completion of assignments.**

Ensure that the assignment guidelines presented in the syllabus are followed. It is important that all assignments are organized according to headings and subheadings delineated in the guidelines. ***Failure to do so will result in an ungraded assignment or a lower evaluation.***

**Please always submit your assignments in a Word document (NOT as a picture), so that I can use track changes to provide comments if so needed. In other words, don't submit a whole assignment in D2L by simply cutting and pasting. Always attach your assignments as their own file.**

**Written Assignments.** Written assignments MUST be typed using double-spaced lines, include your name, and have page numbers. In addition, work submitted should reflect a professional quality in terms of scope, depth, writing mechanics, and appearance that would be expected of students at a prestigious university. Proofread all assignments as only materials with minimal or no errors will receive high scores.

**Person First Language:** Our language is a reflection of our attitudes. Always refer to persons with disabilities with respect. ***Degrading terminology will not be tolerated.*** In this class, we will strive to use “people first” language at all times. “People First” language always refers to the person first and not as a label or a category. For example, refer to “a student with autism” and not “an autistic” or “students with disabilities” and not “disabled students”. In addition, avoid such stigmatizing terminology as “confined to a wheelchair” (say “uses a wheelchair” instead).

*If you have suggestions, comments, questions, or concerns about the class or the assignments, please call or see the instructor. Please do not save your suggestions for the evaluation at the end of the term when it is too late to implement your suggestions.*

### **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**

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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 can be found at <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-code-of-conduct/>.

If you believe someone has engaged in behaviors that do not align with the Code of Student Conduct or you have other concerns, please visit the File a Report page at <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at East Texas A&M University 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:

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Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Graduate student academic dishonesty policy:

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy, please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage.

### **Artificial Intelligence**

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, Chatbots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor

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of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided, the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

## **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

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 Services  
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

**Phone (903) 886-5930**

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

**Website:** <http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx>

## **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



## **East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room

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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](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903- 886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Section and Weeks	Topics	Assignments and Due Date
<p style="text-align: center;">Seminar 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Date/time: TBD</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Zoom link</a> <i>Passcode: sped</i></p>	<p>Overview of Syllabus/Course Assignments Introduction to Special Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Alphabet Soup</b></li> <li>● <b>Disability Match</b></li> <li>● <b>Getting to Know You (Discussion)</b></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Seminar Attendance)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Assignments Due By 2/1</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Seminar 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Date/time: TBD</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Zoom link</a> <i>Passcode: sped</i></p>	<p>The SPED Process, RTI, and Collaboration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Parent/Family Interview</b></li> <li>● <b>Special Education Students at a Glance (Discussion)</b></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Seminar Attendance)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Assignments Due by 3/1</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Seminar 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Date/time: TBD</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Zoom link</a> <i>Passcode: sped</i></p>	<p>IEPs and Accommodations/Modifications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>IEP Scavenger Hunt</b></li> <li>● <b>Evidence of Accommodations/Modifications Assignment</b></li> <li>● <b>Which Accommodations Would You Choose? (Discussion)</b></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Seminar Attendance)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Assignments Due by 4/5</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Seminar 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Date/time: TBD</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Zoom link</a> <i>Passcode: sped</i></p>	<p>Selecting Interventions that are Evidence-Based and Assistive Technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>ARD/IEP Meeting Reflection</b></li> <li>● <b>AT Discussion</b></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Seminar Attendance)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Assignments Due by 5/3</b></p>

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