



Low Incidence Disabilities

SPED 468, 84648, Section 01E

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Belinda Rudinger, EdD, Assistant Professor
Office Location: Henderson Hall, 235
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9:00am-2:00pm, on Zoom
University Email Address: Belinda.Rudinger@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: University Email
Communication Response Time: within 72 hours, weekdays

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Instruction of Students with Severe Disabilities, 9th edition Brown, Fredda, E. et al.

Course Description

This course explores characteristics of low incidence disabilities. Best practice and policies related to low incidence disabilities will be examined. Addressing instructional needs, placement, and accommodations will be a focus. (Hours: 3)

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes	§235.131. Special Education Standards: Early Childhood-Grade 6	§235.133. Special Education Standards: Grades 6-12
Students will demonstrate understanding and will apply knowledge of diverse methods and modalities for accessing content	(f)(10) create opportunities for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills using different modalities and allow every individual to advance as he or she demonstrates understanding; (f) (17) apply knowledge of the Universal Design for Learning Guidelines to create and incorporate strategies for making content and instruction accessible and challenging for individuals with all support needs;	(f) (10) create opportunities for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skill using different modalities and allow every individual to advance as they demonstrate their understanding (f) (17) apply knowledge of the Universal Design for Learning Guidelines to create and incorporate strategies for making content and instruction accessible and challenging for individuals with high support needs;
Students will demonstrate understanding and will apply knowledge of alternative methods for receptive and expressive communication	(f)(1) demonstrate knowledge of how to plan instruction according to the requirements of an IEP, including supplements, assistive technology, and related services;	(f)(1) demonstrate knowledge of how to plan instruction according to the requirements of an IEP, including use of supplements, technology, assistive technology, and related services;
Students will demonstrate understanding and will apply knowledge of working in an multi-disciplinary team to support a student with diverse needs	(c) (8) demonstrate knowledge of a variety of assistive technologies to support individual developmental and learning needs; (h) (12) collaborate and consult with multi-disciplinary teams to plan and implement instruction in accordance with a student's IEP;	(c) (8) demonstrate knowledge of a variety of assistive technologies to support individual developmental and learning needs; (h) (11) collaborate and consult with multi-disciplinary teams, including career and technical education, electives, and extracurriculars, to plan and implement instruction in accordance with a student's IEP;
Students will demonstrate understanding and will apply knowledge of functional and	(d)(13) demonstrate knowledge of specialized curricula that may include curriculum for social	(d) (11) demonstrate knowledge of specialized curricula that may include curriculum for social

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related needs for students with low-incidence disabilities	skills, life skills, transition, orientation and mobility, independence, and self-advocacy;	skills, life skills, transition, orientation and mobility, independence curricula, and self-advocacy;
Students will demonstrate understanding and will apply knowledge of the types of assistive technology that may be used by students with low-incidence disabilities	(f)(4) plan for strategic integration of assistive technology into daily teaching practices based on student developmental and learning needs;	(f) (4) plan for strategic integration of technology and assistive technology into daily teaching practices based on student developmental and learning needs;

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

To be successful in this course, you will need to know how to access and navigate (a) Desire2Learn, (b) Microsoft Word, and (c) Microsoft Excel

Instructional Methods

The course will be taught face to face, with mandatory course meetings on campus on Tuesdays from 5:00-7:50pm. It will be important to keep up with the course work, as you will be required to participate in class discussions and activities that have specific time frames associated with them.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

In addition to attending class, you will need to regularly log into the course website (weekly/daily) to complete all required assignments/assessments by the due date. You may complete the assignments/assessments before the due date if they are open for you to do so.

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

Quiz 1	75
Quiz 2	75
Quiz 3	75
Adapted Activity Demo	75
Low Incidence Presentation	75

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Braille Project	75
Sign Language Dictionary	75

Total 525

***Students who miss 6 or more classes will have their grade lowered by one full grade.** In effect, if a student has an 'A' in the class but has missed 6 or more classes, the final grade in the class will be a 'B.'

Course Outline/Calendar

Calendar: Please note that the calendar is tentative and may change at any time and as many times as necessary during the semester. In case of any changes, you will be informed in a timely manner. **It is your responsibility to regularly check your email and D2L for announcements regarding the course.**

Module	Topic	Related Assignments
Module 1	Overview of Low Incidence Disabilities	Quiz 1 Adapted Activity Demo
Module 2	Sensory Disabilities	LID Presentation
Module 3	Significant Cognitive Impairments	Braille Project Quiz 2
Module 4	It's Complicated	Sign Language Dictionary Quiz 3

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 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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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@etamu.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, an ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

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>

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

CWID and Password

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@etamu.edu.

Technology-Related Issues

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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

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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:

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

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 on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
- Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
- Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
- Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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.

Student Conduct

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

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

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

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of 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 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

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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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Services](#)

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 ETAMU 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.

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

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students.

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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

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.



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