

EDUA/EDSR 4306

Survey of Exceptional Children

Fall 2025 Syllabus



Instructor Information:

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Adjunct Professor of Education

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Office Hours: Please email me if you have any questions

Meeting Times: Tuesday 7:00-9:00 PM



Course Description

A survey of exceptional children involving categorical identification, learning characteristics, instructional intervention, and adjustment needs.



Required Text

Hunt, N. & Marshall, K. (2013). *Exceptional Children and Youth*. Cengage Learning. ISBN: 9781111833428, 1111833427 5th edition

Student Learning Outcomes

- SLO 1- Students will design and deliver comprehensive lesson plans that align with learning standards, incorporate differentiated instruction, and demonstrate effective teaching strategies, as measured by a rubric-based evaluation of submitted lesson plans and observed teaching demonstrations.
- SLO 2- Students will be able to identify, explain, and apply a variety of evidence-based instructional strategies to support diverse learners, as demonstrated through lesson plan development, peer teaching, and reflective analysis.
- SLO 3- Students will demonstrate the ability to design, implement, and analyze a variety of formative and summative assessments aligned with learning objectives, using data to inform instructional decisions and support diverse learners.
- SLO 4- Students will demonstrate knowledge of effective classroom management principles by designing a comprehensive classroom management plan.

Course Learning Outcomes

CLO 1: Describe the major categories of exceptionalities and the associated learning characteristics and needs of students within each category.

CLO 2: Analyze the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional adjustment needs of exceptional learners across diverse educational settings.

CLO 3: Design lesson components that incorporate differentiated instruction and support inclusive practices for exceptional learners.

CLO 4: Demonstrate understanding of classroom management strategies that support the inclusion and success of students with exceptionalities.

Marketable Skills

- 1. Candidates will acquire public speaking skills to a variety of audiences.**
 - 2. Candidates will acquire writing skills for lesson plans and other scholarly documents.**
 - 3. Candidates will acquire organizational skills to effectively manage time and meet deadlines.**
 - 4. Candidates understand human growth and development.**
 - 5. Candidates recognize the influence of diverse social-cultural factors.**
 - 6. Candidates utilize multiple methods and strategies to achieve a goal.**
 - 7. Candidates effectively use technology.**
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Course Format

This is a hybrid course, meaning there is live instruction and asynchronous work. ALL students will attend class via Blackboard Collaborate for live instruction once a week. You will find all course information and assignments in Blackboard. The course contains module readings, videos, discussions, quizzes, and written assignments. Instruction will be delivered through lecture notes, Blackboard collaboration, and individual/group discussions.

Course Expectations

The instructor will:

- Provide weekly communication and check-ins with students via announcements, videos, or email.**
- Be available during office hours posted in syllabus.**
- Respond to student emails within 24-48 hours of receipt during the hours of 9:00AM-5:00PM, Monday-Friday. Weekend communication will occur as available.**
- Provide grades/feedback to assignments within one week of the submission due date.**
- Provide clear and concise instructions on how to complete the online course requirements. Rubrics will be provided when they apply.**
- Provide a range of opportunities to engage in the course content in a meaningful way.**
- Listen to student feedback and adjust the course as needed to meet the needs of the students.**

The successful student:



- Will familiarize themselves with the course syllabus, policies, assessments, evaluation, grading criteria, and course design.
- Will complete all coursework on assigned due date. If work cannot be completed by the due date due to illness, injury, family emergencies, etc., the student will make arrangements with the professor prior to the due date.
- Will engage in the course, with their peers, and the instructor with open communication and active participation.
- Will be respectful in their communication with the professor and classmates.
- Will respond to professor communication in a timely manner.
- Will not plagiarize and will demonstrate integrity in all their work.
- Will be proactive and resourceful to problem solve in case of internet or technical issues.

Grading Policy

No late work accepted without prior approval from the instructor. If you have a dyer emergency and cannot get your work in by the deadline, please email me as soon as possible, so we can discuss the ramifications. ALL late work grades will be reduced and will not receive the full grade/points. If there is no communication about the late work, the grade will be a 0.

Course Grading

Grading Scale

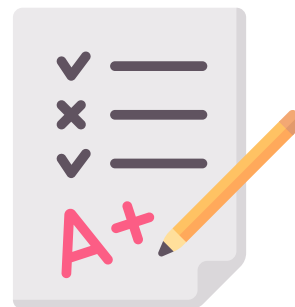
A= 90-100%

B= 80- 89%

C= 70- 79%

D= 60- 69%

F= less than 69%



Course Assignments

All assignments are due at 11:59pm on Monday



Class Participation 100 points: Students are expected to attend class meetings and participate in class discussions. The candidate will demonstrate excellent participation, offer analysis and synthesis of article readings, and add to the development of ideas.

Attendance 100 points: Attendance will be part of your grade. Students are required to **TURN ON** their Cameras at all times except during break intervals. If Camera is not kept on throughout the whole class you will not receive FULL credit for that day. I will be taking Attendance at the end of class.

All Written Assignments: To comply with course standards and requirements all written assignments should reflect all aspects of the project, be free of grammatical errors, well organized, and *typed double-spaced using a 12-point Times New Roman font*. All written assignments that contain references should follow the guidelines indicated by the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th edition).

Discussion Boards (5@20 points each =100 points): Students will engage in five discussion boards based on textbook or article content. Students will respond to a prompt of a minimum of 150-word max 400 words written response. Students will then respond to at least one classmates' post extending the conversation. In writing your response, strive to have a conversation, a beneficial exchange between professional colleagues. Ask questions, offer suggestions, make comments, give your opinions, and generally react to what your classmates have written. You will not be credited for simply agreeing with someone or telling them how much you like what they wrote. Look critically for the opportunity to share your knowledge and fill in misunderstandings.

Netiquette: The course environment is a collaborative space. Innocent remarks typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words. Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.

Quizzes/ Check for Understanding 100 points: There are quizzes or checks for understanding in some Modules over the content provided. Questions will be in essay format and multiple choice. Questions are pulled from module assessments and readings.

Flip through Journal 100 points: Students are required to turn in a journal reflection on the notes they have taken throughout the course. Students will then submit a short flip through video explaining their journal. You will not receive full credit if journal is not organized.

Disability Pamphlet (100 points): Students will research a disability and then create a pamphlet that would aid parents in understanding the disability. The pamphlet should include the following: definition of the disability, characteristics of the disability, accommodations and/or modifications for the disability, tips for parents, and any other information you feel would be important for parents to know.

Special Education Vignette (100 points): Students will read a case study vignette about a student with an IEP. Students will then answer a variety of questions based on the case study vignette. Answers should be detailed and written in complete sentences.

Research Paper (100 points): Students will write a 4-8 research paper in APA style. Students will choose one of the 13 recognized learning disabilities examining their characteristics, underlying neurological factors, and the impact they have on learning and academic achievement.

Council for Exceptional Students Activity (5@20 Points each): Each student will be required to read and review articles regarding exceptional children, disabilities, and/or inclusion, etc and will answer the reflection questions of the activity.

Creating an IEP (100 points each): You must create an IEP (intervention) plan using the CASE STUDY document provided. Make a plan for each section under the Intervention Plan. Explain the type of activity you would plan for him, accommodations/modifications, etc.

Midterm 100 Points: The midterm will include material covered in the first half of this class. The exam will be multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The exam will be timed and live. You must be present and turn your camera ON DURING THE EXAM.

Final Exam (100 points): Student will take a comprehensive final exam over course material same rules apply as the midterm exam.

University and Course Policies

ADA Statement:

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director or Ronnie Harris, LPC, Counselor, at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@sulross.edu or ronnie.harris@sulross.edu. RGC students can also contact Alejandra Valdez, at 830-758-5006 or email alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

Counseling:

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](https://www.timelycare.com/srsu). The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

Library Information:

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires logging in with your Lobold and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

SRSU Distance Education Statement :

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

Academic Integrity :

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and applications (including ChatGPT, etc) to produce content for course assignments is a violation of academic integrity.

Classroom Climate of Respect:

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Supportive Statement:

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports various perspectives and experiences. I understand that the recent pandemic, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events may impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create a supportive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

Attendance Policy:

Students missing 20% of lectures may be dropped from the class per the SRSU catalog. Any student dropped for excessive absences will receive an F for the course grade. Students are expected to attend every class. Please notify your instructor BEFORE missing class for authorized activities, death in the family, or illness. Assignments missed for any reason must be made up within one week of the originally scheduled date. REGARDLESS OF WHY AN ABSENCE OCCURS, YOU MAY BE GIVEN AN F FOR THE COURSE GRADE IF YOU ACCUMULATE SIX ABSENCES. Attendance is part of your grade. Students are expected to log in to class ON TIME. If tardiness becomes a problem, then it will affect your attendance final grade. If tardiness occurs then you will get half credit for attendance on that day.

Lecture Courtesy:

The general rules of classroom etiquette are below.

- 1) Please do not talk to others in class while the instructor is lecturing. If you have a question, ask the instructor, that is what I am here for.
- 2) Please turn cell phones to silent while in class. They are disruptive to the entire class, and detract from learning.
- 3) For remote connections, please attend class as professionally as one would do in person (ie. wearing proper clothes, not being disruptive or disrespectful to your peers, minimizing interruptions etc.)

Course Schedule

Date	Class Activity
Week 1: August 26 Module 1	Class Introductions, Syllabus, Course Description - Introduction to Disabilities Module 1: .An Introduction to Special Education Quiz Module 1 Discussion #1
Week 2: September 2 Module 1 & 2	Module 1: Cont. An Introduction to Special Education Module 2: Making Special Education Work Quiz Module 1 & 2 CES Activity #1
Week 3: September 9 Module 2 & 3	Module 2: Cont. Making Special Education Work Module 3: Risk Factors and Early Intervention Quiz Module 2 & 3 Discussion Topic #2
Week 4: September 16 Module 4	Module 4: Families of Children with Disabilities Quiz Module 4 CES Activity #2
Week 5: September 23 Module 5	Module 5: Children with Learning Disabilities Quiz Module 5 Discussion #3 Special Education Vignette due by Monday Sept. 22 by 11:59 PM
Week 6: September 30 Module 6	Module 6: Children with Intellectual Disabilities Quiz Module 6 CES Activity #3
Week 7: October 7 Module 7	Module 7: Children with Severe Disabilities Quiz Module 7 Discussion #4 Disability Pamphlet Due Monday Oct. 6 by 11:59 PM

Week 8: October 14 Module 8	Module 8: Children with Behavior Disorders Midterm Review
Week 9: October 21	Midterm Exam
Week 10: October 28 Module 9 & 10	Module 9: Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders Module 10: Children with Communication Disorders Create a Personal IEP due by Monday Oct. 27 by 11:59 PM Quiz Module 9 & 10
Week 11: November 4 Module 11	Module 11: Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing Quiz Module 11 CES Activity #4
Week 12: November 11 Module 12	Module 12: Children who are Blind or have Low Vision Quiz Module 12 Discussion #5
Week 13: November 18 Module 13	Module 13: Children with Physical Disabilities and Health Impairments Research Paper Due Monday Nov. 17 11:59 PM Quiz Module 13
Week 14: December 2 Module 14	Module 14: Children who are Gifted and Talented Flip Through Journal due by Monday Dec. 1 by 11:59 PM CES Activity #5 Quiz Module 14
Week 15: December 9	Final Exam

Change to Syllabus:

This syllabus is intended to give the student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the professor reserves the right to modify, supplement and make changes as the course needs arise.