

SPED 3040
INTRODUCTION TO INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Instructor:

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Contact me if you need help in this course. I am usually available immediately before and after class. I am also available at other times by appointment.

Course Description

The characteristics of individuals with special needs, including mental retardation, behavior disorders, and learning disabilities. Emphasis is on school-related issues, such as the eligibility and placement of students in appropriate programs, including the development of individualized education programs; and life-long adjustment problems. (4 semester hours of credit)

Prerequisite: SPED 2000, SPED 2000L and permission of department

This course begins your journey to become an exemplary and reflective special educator. The objectives for SPED 3040 are attached to this syllabus. These objectives specify the knowledge and skills you will master this semester, along with the type of instruction and evaluation required for each standard.

SPED 3040 is divided into five parts: philosophy, mental retardation, behavior disorders, learning disabilities, and IEP development (especially placement). We will spend about three weeks on each part. As we start work on each part, you will receive a study guide. Each study guide will outline required course activities.

Course Requirements and Grading

Quizzes	½ of your grade
Assignments	½ of your grade

A	90%	Note: Late work automatically loses 5% of its possible value per day. This rule applies to all course requirements. Work is due <u>promptly</u> at the beginning of class.
B	80%	
C	70%	
D	60%	
F	Below 60%	

Course Requirements and Grading (continued)

You have the option of taking a comprehensive final exam. This exam will be administered at 8:00am on December 11th. If taken, the exam will account for 1/3 of your course grade.

Class attendance is mandatory. I will not tolerate you missing class or coming in late. I will drop you from the course if you are a habitual offender. You are entitled to three absences (excused and/or unexcused) during the semester. Being late for class counts as an absence. Your fourth absence will reduce your final grade by one letter. Your fifth absence will result in you being dropped from the course.

This course requires you to sign an agreement specifying that you agree to adhere to the academic honesty policy of the University of Georgia.

This course requires you to produce quality work. The content and style of your work will be evaluated. You will lose points for wrong answers and poor composition (e.g., spelling and grammar errors). Based on the performance of previous undergraduate students, I am confident that most of you will make an A or B. If you qualify for a course accommodation, please give me a copy of your letter from disability services. I will be happy to help.

Textbooks

Mental Retardation and Development Disabilities, edited by P. McLaughlin and P. Wehman.

This textbook is a comprehensive and straightforward introduction to mental retardation and developmental disabilities, including behavior disorders and learning disabilities. The text uses case studies to describe success-proven interventions and services from classroom and field work.

Self-Esteem Teacher, Robert Brooks

This book emphasizes the lifelong impact teachers have on students and the importance of empathy in understanding their world. The book presents a framework for fostering motivation, self-esteem, self-discipline, responsibility, and resilience in our students.

I use these two books to present a complete picture of students with disabilities. That is, our students have problems, very serious problems. However, if we only look at the problems these students have, we run the risk of not seeing these students as individuals. One of our goals as special educators is to not let the problems define and engulf our students.

Final Note

The key to a successful semester is to keep current. Again, contact me if you need help in this course. (I am being paid to help you.)

SPED 3040

NAME:

PHONE: and/or E-MAIL: (optional)

Quizzes

Average Score =

1. Philosophy
2. MR
3. MR
4. BD
5. BD
6. LD
7. LD

Assignments

Average Score =

1. Philosophy
2. MR
3. MR
4. BD
5. BD
6. LD
7. LD
8. IEP
9. IEP

Absence and/or Tardy: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.

Optional Final Exam Score =