SPED 4040Lab
SPECIAL EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY LAB
Spring 2007

Instructor: John Langone, Ph.D.
Office: 573 Aderhold Hall
Phone: 542-4588
Office Hours: By Appointment
E-mail: jlangone@uga.edu

Lab Goal

The lab that accompanies SPED 4040 is a one credit hour course that is designed to provide participants with skills required to effectively use assistive technology and to integrate the technology into curriculum for students with disabilities.

Course Requirements

SPED 4040 Lab is a **one credit hour course** that will require participants to commit practice activities outside of class. Specifically, each participant will spend time outside of class practicing and becoming proficient in assigned software packages and/or assistive technology tools. Practice activities may occur on home/school computers or will need to occur in Aderhold.

In addition, all participants will develop a project over the course of the semester. This project includes several components that will culminate in the development of an instructional plan targeting a small group of students with high incidence disabilities who require instruction in academic skills. This project will also demonstrate the participants' ability to measure the effectiveness of that instruction. Further information about this project will be presented in class.

Project: AT for Students with High Incidence Disabilities (75 points).

This assignment results in a unit of instruction that will be designed to teach one academic skill area (e.g., social studies, science) while demonstrating how assistive technology can be used to increase student learning and motivation. The unit must also include the opportunity for students to enhance both their reading and math skills. This assignment involves group planning and it will be developed and completed in stages. Although the project involves group planning and interaction, each student will receive individual grades for their projects.

Includes:

- Demonstration that learning characteristics of students with high incidence disabilities have been considered in the design of the unit

- Demonstration that elements of high quality design are considered when designing instruction

- Demonstration of anchored instruction to provide students and teachers with shared experiences

- Lesson plans demonstrating the integration of technology (e.g., FM amplification systems, screen readers, talking calculators, educational software)

- Presentation program designed to allow students practice of skills targeted for instruction during the unit

- Artifacts of student projects using Inspiration, Draft-Builder, Write Out Loud, and Co-Writer, Microsoft Excel)

Lab Participation (25 points)

As stated in the class syllabus, a hallmark of effective teachers is a strong work ethic. Therefore, the quality of participation in lab related activities is a willingness to work hard and put in the time outside of class without supervision of the instruction. This category of behaviors requires a subjective judgment of your work. To guide the instructor during this ongoing evaluative process participants' work ethic will be judged throughout the semester. To evaluate these behaviors the instructor will ask the following questions while observing class and lab activities:

- Does she/he participate in school-based activities and do so in a professional manner?
- Does she/he work as hard on those assignments that are not graded as on the graded ones?
- Does she/he complete assignments on time?
- Does she/he pursue additional resources and information beyond what is considered basic to the completion of the assignment?
- Does she/he put in the necessary work (hours on task) outside of class to learn the nuisances of the computer operating system, assistive technology (hardware and software) authoring software such as PowerPoint, and to complete both group and individual projects in a timely fashion?

Grading

The grade for SPED 4040 Lab will be separate from the grade earned in SPED 4040.

100-90 = A
89-77 = B
76-67 = C
66-57 = D
56 and Below = F

Lab Requirements

Assignments Related to Pre-requisite Skills (No Credit)

Students will enter this course and this lab with different levels of skill in relation to technology. The mechanics of how to use productivity software (e.g. MS Word, PowerPoint etc) are not the focus of this course but familiarity and the ability to use these applications will be required for to succeed in this course as well as in other graduate courses and as a teacher. A majority of students entering this class will already be proficient with these software applications. To make sure that all students begin with at least the most basic skills with these applications, will allow faster progress through other aspects of the course.

Taking class time to teach basic tools such as PowerPoint or WORD would not only frustrate those who are skilled with the software, but it would also frustrate those who are new to the software by having to ask basic questions in class. Therefore, students are directed to take advantage of instructional opportunities offered by UGA for all faculty, staff and students. Specifically, The University of Georgia offers on-line training for most Microsoft office tools through *element k*, a series of sophisticated online tutorials. These tutorials generally involve 3 to 3.5 hr self paced lessons on how to use a software tool. If a student is unfamiliar with Word or Power Point, I strongly recommend you at least complete their basic courses on these programs. If students are fairly well versed in these software programs, they may also find the more advanced tutorials useful. Log in to your "myuga" account and click on *element k.* You will be able to find that you need from there.

In order to assess that all participants in this class have at least a basic working knowledge of WORD and Power Point, the following homework assignment is mandatory. The assignment as outlined below is due via email attachment ONLY (from a UGA email ONLY) by 5:00 pm on Friday, August 25, 2006:

Skills Evaluation Homework Assignment

WORD:

1) Create a new document
2) Set the margins to 1 inch all the way around
3) Type a paragraph of text about yourself (special ed interests, where you teach/have taught etc---the content is not important but will let me get to know you).
    a. in 12 pt font (Times New Roman)

b. double spaced (not by hitting return twice but by setting double space as the line spacing option.
c. Bold face one word
d. Italicize another word
e. Put the first word in Ariel font (words are sometimes put in "sans serif fonts like Arial when they are used as figure captions)

4) Insert a bulleted list of the special ed course you have taken (if you have not taken any, insert a bulleted list of the last 4 or 5 courses you took in your undergrad major
5) Insert a table with 2 columns and five rows
    a. In the first column insert the following information in successive rows: "Advisor," "Undergrad major", "Teaching experience", "High/Low Incidence" and "Age range"
    b. In the second column, type in the information to "answer" the first column…name of your advisor, your undergrad degree (and from where), whether you are a high incidence (LD, BD, MID) or low incidence (moderate to severe ID, autism) person, and what age range you teach or intend to teach.
6) Name this file: Lastname_Firstname_word.doc (fill in your info where appropriate)

PowerPoint

1) Create a new presentation as an introduction to a current event
2) Create 10 slides including at least:
    a. One title slide
    b. 1 bulleted list
    c. One with a title and an open text box (can be a formatted as a bulleted if you like)
    d. 1 slide with a title and image
3) Go to CNN home page
4) Find an interesting headline
    a. Put that headline as the title on the first slide
    b. On the next slide title it something interesting and make 3 bulleted statements about the article
    c. On the next slide, title it "Hot Link" and copy and paste the URL as a hot link into the slide (i.e. if I click on it, it should take me to the article
    d. On the next slide, copy and paste an image from the story
5) Save as Lastname_firstname_powerpoint.ppt

<u>Software and Hardware Practice</u> (No Credit)

Assignments will be made in class and related to activities presented on a weekly basis.