

TENTATIVE—SUBJECT TO CHANGES
The University Of Texas at Tyler
School of Education
Course Syllabus Fall 2021
Seminar-Learning and Neurological Disabilities
EDSP 5360
University of Texas at Tyler School of Education

Course: EDSP 5360
Semester & Year: Fall 2021
Time & Days: Online
Location: Online

Instructor Information:

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<https://uttyler.zoom.us/j/4154056690>

It is my desire that each of you profits from this course. I believe in open communication so we can all learn from each other. Please use the Coffee & Conversations discussion board in Canvas so we may practice open dialogue.

I also welcome you to visit with me in email if you need assistance or schedule a Zoom conference if you wish to discuss your grades or class performance.

Course Catalog Description

This course provides a study of the behavioral, motor, and learning characteristics of individuals with learning and neurological disabilities.

Major area: **Special Education – Educational Diagnostician**

Student Learning Outcomes:

The following student learning outcomes are aligned with the standards as delineated by the specific learning outcomes of the Educational Diagnostician State Board for Educator

Certification (SBEC) and the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Advanced Specialty Set:
Educational Diagnostician Specialist Standards.

Objectives/Learning Outcomes	Standards: <u>SBEC</u> <u>CEC</u>
Demonstrate an understanding of learning disabilities and ADHD to include characteristics, legal issues and philosophical issues	<u>Domain II-Standard IV</u> <u>SEDS.3.K1</u> <u>SEDS.5.K1</u> <u>ACSI.K3</u>
Demonstrate critical thinking, independent inquiry, analysis, and scholarly writing.	<u>Domain IV-Standard I, II</u> <u>SEDS.6.S3</u> <u>SEDS.6.S5</u>
Demonstrate understanding of the evolution of theories and practices within the field of learning disabilities.	<u>Domain I-Standard V</u> <u>ACSI.3.K2</u> <u>SEDS.5.K2</u> <u>SEDS.5.K4</u>
Demonstrate understanding and critical thinking regarding future trends in the field of learning disabilities	<u>Domain IV-Standard I, II</u> <u>SEDS.5.K2</u> <u>SEDS.5.K4</u>
Demonstrate understanding of least restrictive environment for student with learning disabilities, placement options, and decisions and the procedures for determining least restrictive environment and home and family guidance.	<u>Domain II-Standard IV</u> <u>ACSI.3.K3</u> <u>ACSI.3.K5</u>
Demonstrate understanding of specific areas of learning disabilities, instructional strategies, and remedial and accommodating approaches.	<u>Domain III-Standard X</u> <u>ACSI.3.K4</u> <u>ACSI.3.K6</u> <u>SEDS.1.S6</u>

Evaluation and Grading

Your grade will be determined based on your performance on particular assignments and/or category of assignments, which are weighted according to the percentage specified.

Percentage of Weight by Assignment

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Exams | 5% |
| 2. Quizzes | 5% |
| 3. Article Reviews | 10% |
| 4. Discussion Board Conversations | 30% |
| 5. Online Class Sessions (RTGM/Zoom) | 30% |
| 6. Professional Development Certificates & Reflection | 10% |
| 7. Embracing Dyslexia Critique | 10% |

- A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%

F = 59% and below

There are three specific grading policies that you need to be aware of.

1. It is my policy not to round grades at the end of the semester. The percentage you earn is the letter grade that will be recorded. For example, a percentage of 89.5 to 89.9 will be recorded as a B and a percentage of 79.5 to 79.9 will be recorded as a C.
2. It is also my policy not to extend extra credit or additional assignments/activities at the end of the semester.
3. Finally, it is my policy not to discuss grades via email. If you need to discuss grade issues, please email me to schedule a zoom conference. This will allow us time to review your concern and allow me to give you my undivided attention.

Last Day to Withdraw from Class: November 1, 2021

Description of Course Assignments, Evaluation, and Grading:

1. **Exams:** Exams are one way in which you can demonstrate your knowledge and skills over the semester. Your exams may cover textbook readings, online modules assignments and activities, and may be objective or short answer responses or a combination of both (50 points each).
2. **Quizzes:** After you have completed the module activities, you will take a quiz as noted on the course schedule. Items and learning activities contained in the module are potential questions for quizzes. For example -- chapter readings, outside reading assignments, articles, video clips, video lectures, assignments/activities, etc. (10 points each).
3. **Article Reviews:** Reading outside journal articles facilitates deeper understanding of the topics presented. A template for article reviews and scoring rubric will be posted on Canvas (20 points each).
4. **Real Time Group Meetings (RTGM):** RTGM are held via Zoom. During these meetings, you and your group members (I will organize groups) will set up zoom conference times to discuss specified topics (40 points).
5. **Professional Development:** As a diagnostician, you will need to keep your assessment knowledge and skills current. To that end, you are required to attend a minimum of 2 professional development sessions on assessment consisting of one hour each (a total of 2 hours for the semester). At the end of the semester, you will submit copies of attendance and will write a reflection of what you learned (20 points). *You can only earn credit if professional development trainings are related to assessment of students with disabilities.*
6. **Discussion Board:** Throughout the semester, you will have the opportunity to discuss case study scenarios involving students with varied learning disabilities via the

Discussion Board. The purpose is on the Statement of Eligibility and the thinking that goes into making these critical decisions.

Original posts to the Discussion Board topic must be made during the Open Period (Monday at 6:00 a.m. to Friday at 8:00 a.m.) to be awarded credit. After the Open Period closes, the Response Period will open from Friday at 8:01 a.m. to Sunday at 11:59 p.m. During the Response Period, you will post responses to each other posts. You will not receive credit for the Discussion board if an original post is made after the Open Period closes.

In this class Discussion Board posts and responses are formal assignments and should be approached as such. That is well-thought out and detailed responses to posts are required to earn credit. Posts will be graded according to the Discussion Board Scoring Rubric (27 points each).

7. **Embracing Dyslexia Movie Critique:** Reflecting upon the main ideas and themes presented in this documentary is one way that you can connect to students who struggle with reading disabilities. Points will be based on the Movie Critique Rubric (20 points).
8. **Zoom Class Sessions:** You will have the opportunity to participate in Zoom Conferences throughout the semester. The primary purpose of these class sessions is to facilitate conversations about assessment and course assignments/activities. The secondary purpose is to build an on-line community of learners **(75 points)**.

Teaching Strategies

The following instructional strategies will be employed during this class: video lectures, YouTube video clips/lectures, Canvas activities, multimedia and simulations.

Required Text and Related Readings

Mather, N. & Wendling (2011). *Essentials of dyslexia assessment and intervention*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

Swanson, H. L., Harris, K. R., & Graham, S. (Eds.). (2013) *Handbook of learning disabilities* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Guilford Press.

Recommended

Dehn, M. (2014). *Essentials of processing assessment* (2nd ed.). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

***NOTE:** A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.*

There will be other readings as assigned in class. You will access all of our class notes, assignments, grades, and course information through Canvas. Any changes made to the course schedule, schedule of assignments, or any special assignments will be posted to Canvas.

Course Policies:

- **People First Language/Class Etiquette:** Our language reflects 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 child.”
- **Safe Zone:** I consider this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being - regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is my expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.
- **Communication:** You’ll need to log in to Canvas regularly (at least once a week) to view that week’s assignments and check announcements and the Coffee & Conversations discussion board – this is a forum in Canvas that is for you to pose questions and general musings about the course. Before emailing me with questions, please post them here because 1) your classmates will respond more quickly with an answer, and 2) everyone in the class has the benefit of that answer. My goal is to check this board periodically and answer any questions that have not been answered by your classmates or that still seems to be unclear. However, I reserve the right to respond or not respond to any question that is posed. That said, I encourage you to use Coffee and Conversations as an environment to interact with and support one another throughout the semester.

If you need to email me privately, I normally respond to emails within 24 hours during the week, and up to 48 hours on a weekend. If you email me over a weekend, holiday break, or semester break, there may be a longer response time.

Also, it is my policy to discuss grades in a live, one-on-one meeting so that we can clearly communicate and I can hear your perspective and you can hear mine as this promotes open dialogue. If you have questions about grades or your performance in this class, I’m happy to meet with you in a Zoom conference.

- **Course Organization and Frequent Logins:** This course is organized into learning modules. The modules will open Mondays at 6:00 a.m. and close Sundays at 11:59 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Because this is an online course, on-campus attendance is not

applicable. However, you must demonstrate self-motivation and be disciplined to complete the course activities and assignments in a timely manner. Thus, frequent (not less than once a week) logins to the course are expected.

- **Late assignments:** Because this is an online class, you have a lot of flexibility in where and when you complete many of your assignments. You have many opportunities to submit the assignment on time throughout the week. *You will need to be proactive and plan ahead to submit assignments on time even if you are temporarily unavailable or your student/client is temporarily unavailable (i.e. illness, vacations, family emergency, weddings, funerals, etc.).* At the end of this program, you will be an educational diagnostician. Special education directors are very firm about due dates. The consequences of not meeting due dates are serious and can be cause for contracts not being renewed.

Assignments are due Sundays at 11:59 p.m. as determined by the course schedule. The submission link expires at 11:59 p.m. so you will need to make plans to submit prior to this time. If you wait until 11:59 p.m. the submission link will have expired and you will not be able to submit your assignment. *Late assignments will not be accepted unless you have made prior arrangements with me 48 hours in advance of the due date/time.* Assignments and due dates are noted on the course schedule located in the syllabus.

There will be NO make-up activities or exams for this course unless there is an extended emergency that encompasses more than the time allowed in the module. Relevant documentation must be submitted (i.e. doctor's note) in the event of a make-up activity to receive full credit.

- **Assignment Submissions:** Assignments will only be accepted via the designated submission links/sites that are specifically noted in each module. I do not accept assignments via email. If the submission link and/or time have expired you have lost the opportunity to submit your assignment.
- **Zoom Conferences:** Zoom conferences are face-to-face class meetings. Thus, face-to-face class etiquette will apply. Please create a distraction free environment while in our meeting. Zoom Conferences will begin at the time scheduled and will last approximately 30 to 45 minutes. To earn points for the Zoom conference you are expected to be in attendance for the duration of the meeting and actively contribute to the conversation.

You will not earn points if the environment is inappropriate for the conference, you are absent, you are late to sign in, you exit the conference early, you leave the conference and reenter even if you are only gone for a minute or two, or there are significant interruptions during the meeting.

Please take note of the following guidelines:

- a. Create an environment that is conducive for participating in Zoom conferences. For example, this could be your office at home, kitchen table, etc. as long as it is

distraction free. Participating in Zoom conferences in your car while driving or riding as a passenger or while engaged in activities not related to the conference will be considered as an inappropriate environment and you will not receive credit for attendance.

- b. Once you are logged into the Zoom conference, you should be seated in an appropriate environment and remain seated for the entire time. You are to refrain from getting up and moving about during the Zoom meeting.
 - c. Please no eating or drinking during our conference.
 - d. Being on time, means that you have logged in and are ready to begin the Zoom conference when it is scheduled or within 1 to 3 minutes of the scheduled start of the conference. *Logging in after 3 minutes of the start time will be considered a late log in and points cannot be awarded even if you attend the entire meeting.*
 - e. Please make sure that you have access to a web-cam. We want to see your bright smiling face. 😊
 - f. Make plans to sign in early and have your technology working before the start of the meeting.
 - g. If you have family members and or children in the home, please inform them that Zoom conferences are face-to-face class sessions and that you are expected to actively participate and contribute to the discussion without interruptions.
 - h. Make plans to attend the entire Zoom conference and contribute to the meeting. That is, have your commute and errands completed, family activities, obligations, and childcare taken care of before signing in for the meeting.
- **Resubmissions:** It is my policy that once an assignment is submitted that it is considered your best work and is the final draft. Therefore, I do not allow for assignments to be resubmitted even when you do not obtain a passing grade.
 - **UniCheck:** All written assignments will be submitted via the Canvas submission link that utilizes UniCheck. UniCheck is a plagiarism detection device. A similarity match of 25% or greater indicates that you may have engaged in unethical behavior and a meeting with me will be scheduled.
 - **Written assignments:** Possessing the ability to clearly communicate in writing is an essential skill in our jobs as educational diagnosticians for the children and families we serve. Therefore, written assignments must be typed using double spacing lines and have page numbers. In addition, work submitted must reflect a professional quality in terms of scope, depth, writing mechanics, and appearance. Proofread all assignments as only materials with minimal or no errors will receive high scores. **All written assignments must be submitted via Word – (NO PDFs).**
 - **Canvas:** You will access class lectures, assignments, grades, and course information through Canvas. Any changes to the course schedule, schedule of assignments, or any special assignments will be posted on Canvas.
 - **Technology:** Because this is an online course, you are expected to possess basic technology skills. However, if you are struggling with technology, please post your

questions on coffee and conversations, or in many cases you can find answers to your question on Google or other search engines.

STATE BOARD FOR EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION (SBEC) STANDARDS FOR EDUCATIONAL DIAGNOSTICIANS

Standard I: The educational diagnostician understands and applies knowledge of the purpose, philosophy, and legal foundations of evaluation and special education.

Standard II: The educational diagnostician understands and applies knowledge of ethical and professional practices, roles, and responsibilities.

Standard III: The educational diagnostician develops collaborative relationships with families, educators, the school, the community, outside agencies, and related service personnel.

Standard IV: The educational diagnostician understands and applies knowledge of student assessment and evaluation, program planning, and instructional decision making.

Standard V: The educational diagnostician knows eligibility criteria and procedures for identifying students with disabilities and determining the presence of an educational need.

Standard VI: The educational diagnostician selects, administers, and interprets appropriate formal and informal assessments and evaluations.

Standard VII: The educational diagnostician understands and applies knowledge of ethnic, linguistic, cultural, and socioeconomic diversity and the significance of student diversity for evaluation, planning, and instruction.

Standard VIII: The educational diagnostician knows and demonstrates skills necessary for scheduling, time management, and organization.

Standard IX: The educational diagnostician addresses students' behavioral and social interaction skills through appropriate assessment, evaluation, planning, and instructional strategies.

Standard X: The educational diagnostician knows and understands appropriate curricula and instructional strategies for individuals with disabilities.

CEC ADVANCED SPECIALTY SET: EDUCATIONAL DIAGNOSTICIAN SPECIALIST STANDARDS Adopted July 2020

Advanced Standard 1 – Assessment. Educational diagnosticians demonstrate best practices of assessment, procedures, and report writing. It is critical that nonbiased assessment procedures are used in the selection of instruments, methods, and procedures for individuals with exceptional learning needs. Educational diagnosticians apply their knowledge and skill to all stages and purposes of evaluation including: prereferral and screening, recommendations for special education eligibility, monitoring and reporting learning progress in the general education curriculum, and other individualized educational program goals.

Advanced Standard 2 – Curricular Content Knowledge. Educational diagnosticians seek to deepen their professional knowledge and expand their expertise with instructional technologies, curriculum standards, effective teaching strategies, and assistive technologies to support access to learning.

Advanced Standard 3 – Programs, Services, and Outcomes. Educational diagnosticians apply their knowledge of cognitive science, learning theory, and instructional technologies to improve instructional programs. They advocate for a continuum of program options and services to ensure the appropriate instructional supports for individuals with exceptional learning needs.

Advanced Standard 4 – Research and Inquiry. Educational diagnosticians know models, theories, and philosophies, and research methods that form the basis for evidence-based practices in special education. They use educational research to improve instructional techniques, intervention strategies, and curricular materials.

Advanced Standard 5 – Leadership and Policy. Educational diagnosticians learn to use their deep understanding of the history of special education, current legal and ethical standards, and emerging issues to provide leadership. They promote high professional self-expectations and help others understand the needs of individuals with exceptional learning needs.

Advanced Standard 6 – Professional and Ethical Practice. Educational diagnosticians are guided by the professional ethics and practice standards. They have responsibility for promoting the success of individuals with exceptional learning needs, their families, and colleagues. They create supportive environments that safeguard the legal rights of students and their families. They model and promote ethical and professional practice.

Advanced Standard 7 – Collaboration. Educational diagnosticians have a deep understanding of the centrality and importance of consultation and collaboration to the roles within special education and use this deep understanding to integrate services for individuals with exceptional learning needs. They also understand the significance of the role of collaboration for both internal and external stakeholders, and apply their skill to promote understanding, resolve conflicts, and build consensus among both internal and external stakeholders to provide service to individuals with exceptional learning needs and their families.