



Course Syllabus: Teaching Special Needs in an Inclusive Setting

Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education
and Professional Studies
SPED 3623 Section 201
Spring 2025

Bridwell Hall, Rm 209; Tuesday & Thursday 8 – 9:20 am

Contact Information

Instructor: April Crutcher

Office: Bridwell 313

Office hours: Tues / Thurs 9:30 am – 11 am; Wed 10 am – 12 pm; by
appointment

Office phone: (940) 397-4816

E-mail: april.crutcher@msutexas.edu

Instructor Response Policy

The best way to contact me is via email. I will check my email daily between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm Monday – Friday. Every effort will be made to respond within 24 hours; however, this does not apply to weekends or holidays. I will be available during the office hours listed above or we can set up another time to meet either in person or virtually.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Vaughn, S. R., Bos, C. S., & Schumm, S. S. (2024). Teaching students who are exceptional, diverse, and at risk in the general education classroom. 8th Ed.

Course Description

A study of the etiology of and concepts relating to teaching students with special needs in inclusive settings.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

The student:

1. Understands the differences that parents of children with disabilities face, including the effects on the family, and interventions for parents.
2. Understands and applies principles and strategies for communicating effectively in varied teaching and learning contexts.

a. Communicates directions, explanations and procedures effectively and uses strategies for adjusting communication to enhance student understanding (e.g., by providing examples, simplifying complex ideas, using appropriate communication tools). (TExES Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC-12 Domain 2, Competency 007C)

3. Understands and applies knowledge of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and socioeconomic diversity and the significance of individual diversity for evaluation, planning and instruction.

a. Demonstrate knowledge of issues related to the identification of disabilities in individuals from ethnically, culturally, linguistically and/or socioeconomically diverse backgrounds.

b. Recognize how the ethnic, cultural and environmental background of students and their families, including linguistic and socioeconomic diversity, may affect evaluation, planning and instruction.

c. Demonstrate awareness of issues related to the representation in special education of populations that are culturally and linguistically diverse.

4. Engaging in Professional understanding of students' instructional and behavioral needs. (CEC Initial Preparation Standard 7.0, Component 7.1)

5. Supporting Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Growth (CEC Initial Preparation Standard 6.0)

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

I am more than happy to meet with you during office hours. If those times do not work for you, do not hesitate to email me or speak to me before or after class to set up another time. I am available to help in any way that I can!

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading/Assessment

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignment	Points
Projects (5 at 50 pts each)	250

Assignment	Points
Dyslexia Module	100
Accommodated Lesson Plan	100
Chapter Quizzes (6 at 25 pts each)	150
Chapter Window Notes (6 at 25 pts each)	150
In Class Participation / Activities	250
Total	1000

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	900
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Projects

You will complete 5 Projects in this course. Projects include short essays (1-2 pages) and presentations. All details related to projects can be found in D2L.

Quizzes

A quiz will be completed for 6 chapters. The quiz will be due before the chapter is covered in class. You will be allowed to retake it until the following Monday after we have covered the material in class if you want to improve your grade. I think it is important for you to take the quiz at least once before class so that you are aware of what will be covered in class and so that you can contribute to the class discussion. The quizzes will be open book.

Window Notes

Window Notes will be completed for 6 chapters of the book. The Window Notes will be due before the chapter is covered in class. See D2L for information regarding Window Notes.

Exams

Exam details should be provided: how many, their point values or percentage of the overall grade, when, and whether or not they are timed. These will appear on the Course Schedule in more detail.

Additional Assignments

You will be required to complete the Dyslexia Module through TEA website. The certificate must be uploaded to D2L and TK20 once completed.

You will also complete the Accommodated Lesson Plan assignment. All information related to this assignment can be found in D2L.

Participation

During class each day, participation points will be earned through being present in class, group work, short writing assignments, and other various activities.

Mid-Term Exam

There will be no mid-term exam in this course.

Final Exam

There will be no final exam in this course.

Extra Credit

There is no planned extra credit for this course, however, there may be opportunities that arise for extra credit during the semester.

Late Work

All assignments are expected to be submitted on the day they are due. You will be penalized five points for every day an assignment is late. Please contact me if extenuating circumstances arise that result in your inability to submit an assignment on time.

Make Up Work/Tests

Make up work/tests may be accepted if cleared with me prior to the due date or within 48 hours of due date in the case of illness or an emergency. Please contact me ASAP to work out a plan in these situations.

AI / Chat GPT

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism.

You may type a question into ChatGPT, however, you may not exactly copy and paste its response, and turn it in as your own. If you use ChatGPT, you must disclose this somewhere in your assignment. If you use ChatGPT or any AI, please use it in ways that are ethical, accurate, and useful.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: February 3rd

Deadline to file for graduation: February 17th

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 30th at 4:00 PM

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general

course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Submitted Work

Correct spelling and use of appropriate grammatical skills are expected on each written assignment or project. Assignments/projects will be typed and will utilize an appropriate style (Times New Roman, 12-point font, double spaced). Unacceptable work will be returned un-graded or lead to a reduction in grade. In addition, plagiarized or copied work will receive a grade of ZERO with no make-up allowed.

Attendance

I expect you to attend every class, to arrive on time, and to participate in all class activities and discussions. Throughout the semester, you will be accumulating participation points based on your presence in class and your participation in various activities during that class period. Three absences can be used at your discretion and will not result in a loss of participation points. If you must miss class for a legitimate reason, please notify me in advance, if possible. Missed work should be completed and may be subject to penalties if late.

There are a few dates on the calendar when I will be out of town and therefore we will not meet for class. However, there will be assignments due on these dates that you must complete and submit to D2L to receive attendance credit for that date.

Online Computer Requirements

This course requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ***Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Inclement Weather

In the case of campus closure due to inclement weather, please check D2L for updates and possible changes to assignment due dates.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the [Schedule of Classes](#) each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees

are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight." which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick
Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213

laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at [Online Reporting Form](#)

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information

on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit [Title IX Website](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule

Week	Tuesday	Thursday	Due Dates
Week 1 – Jan 21	Intro to course	People First Language	
Week 2 – Jan 28	Chapter 1	Chapter 1 cont'd	Chapter 1 Quiz Due 1/28
Week 3 – Feb 4	No Class Finish SPED Timeline and Chapter 2 Quiz	Chapter 2	Chapter 2 Quiz due 2/6
Week 4 – Feb 11	Chapter 3	Chapter 3 cont'd	SPED Timeline Due 2/10 Chapter 3 Quiz due 2/11
Week 5 – Feb 18	Chapter 4	Chapter 4 cont'd No class IRIS Module	Chapter 4 Quiz due 2/18
Week 6 – Feb 25	Chapter 5	Chapter 5 cont'd	IRIS Module Due 2/24 Chapter 5 Quiz due 2/25
Week 7 – Mar 4	Chapter 6 Specific Learning Disability	Chapter 6 cont'd Specific Learning Disability	Intervention Central Project due 3/3 Chapter 6 Window Notes due 3/4
Week 8 – Mar 10	Spring Break – No class	Spring Break – No class	F.A.T. City Project due 3/10

Week	Tuesday	Thursday	Due Dates
Week 9 – Mar 18	Chapter 6 cont’d. OHI - ADHD	No class Dyslexia Module	
Week 10 – Mar 25	Chapter 7 Communication Disorders / Speech Impairment	Chapter 7 cont’d Developmental Delay	Dyslexia Module due 3/24 Chapter 7 Window Notes due 3/25
Week 11 – April 1	Chapter 8 Emotional Disability	Chapter 8 cont’d Emotional Disability	Chapter 8 Window Notes due 4/1
Week 12 – April 8	Chapter 9 Autism	Chapter 9 cont’d Autism	Chapter 9 Window Notes due 4/8
Week 13 – April 15	Chapter 10 Intellectual Disability	Easter Break No class	Chapter 10 Window Notes due 4/15
Week 14 – April 22	Chapter 10 cont’d. Intellectual Disability	Chapter 11	Educating Peter Project Due 4/21 Chapter 11 Window Notes due 4/24
Week 15 – April 29	Chapter 11 cont’d.	Chapter 12	Chapter 12 Quiz Due 5/1
Week 16 – May 6	Chapter 12 cont’d.	Accommodated Lesson Plan	Accommodated Lesson Plan due 5/9