



**Exceptional Children
CLDP/PSY/SPAU 3342
Section 501
Fall 2016**

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Office hours:	Monday, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., by appt.
Classroom:	FN 2.102
Class time:	Monday, 7:00 – 9:45 p.m.
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Course description: This course is intended to: 1) educate you on the policies related to children with special needs; 2) assist you in understanding the definitions and etiologies of various exceptionalities as well as the evaluation, education, and interventions of and for children with special needs; and 3) help you use this information in order to be able to effectively intervene with children and families with special needs.

Pre-requisite: CLDP/PSY 2314, 3310, or 3339

- 1.1 Describe and explain the nature of psychology as a specific discipline (within the context of special education);*
- 2.1 Compare and contrast major perspectives (e.g., behavioral, biological, cognitive, and sociocultural) and describe advantages and limitations of each;
- 2.2 Explain the overarching themes of: (1) the interaction of heredity and environments, (2) variability and continuity of behavior and mental processes across development, 3) and the significance of contexts of development (family, peers, school, culture/SES/ethnicity);
- 3.2 Demonstrate how psychological principles can explain and inform clinical issues, social issues, organizational issues, educational issues, and public policy;*
- 5.3 Develop meaningful professional direction for life after graduation.*

* Denotes *program-level* learning objectives

Textbook: Gargiulo, Richard M. (2015). *Special Education in Contemporary Society (Fifth Edition)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage (ISBN 978-1-4522-1677-5).

Organization of class, attendance, and classroom environment: This course will emphasize information provided by the textbook. However, we will occasionally view short video pieces in class and have guest presenters who will provide supplemental information on various topics. During the lectures, I will emphasize key pieces of information important for you to know. In addition, I will frequently add my own contributions based on my applied experience and knowledge of current research findings. Your knowledge and understanding of the information from all of these sources will be assessed through the scheduled exams. Therefore, it is imperative that you attend class. If for some reason you are unable to attend class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes for that lecture from one of your classmates. I will not provide lecture notes for anyone who is unable to attend class, regardless of the reason for missing class.

I will record attendance frequently but will not determine whether absences are excused/unexcused (except in the case of a missed exam). While your attendance does not necessarily have a direct bearing on your final course grade, it will have an impact when I make decisions about marginal point totals (defined as within 1 or 2 [of 400] points of the next higher letter grade). Students who have been recorded absent from lectures once (or none) will have the opportunity to earn the next higher letter grade, in those cases of marginal point totals. No extra credit opportunities will be offered at any point.

The reading assignments for each class are indicated below. It will be important for you to have read the assignment *prior to* each class in order to get the most out of the lectures and discussions. I encourage your active participation in class discussions. Please be on time to class. Exams may not be handed out later than 15 minutes past the time the exam begins. If you arrive late to class or need to leave before the end of class, please do so discretely. Be aware that important key pieces of information may be covered towards the end of class, so it is in your best interest not to leave early.

eLearning will be used throughout the semester for recording your grades, making class announcements, and providing supplemental materials. It is your responsibility to make sure you have access to eLearning.

Please do not make still image, video, and/or audio recordings of the lecture or visual supplements without permission. Still image, video, and/or audio recordings of class sessions made with or without permission may not be distributed in any way. This includes but is not limited to postings on the internet, websites, eLearning, or email.

Exams (75% of final grade): There will be three non-cumulative, equally weighted exams (each counting for 25% of your final grade). All exams will be in multiple choice and/or short-essay formats. For each exam, you must bring a Scantron Form 229630, a #2 pencil, and your UT Dallas Comet Card for identification. You will be *required* to show your Comet Card at each exam. All students are expected to take the exams at the scheduled times. Make-up exams will be given *only in the event of serious illness or some type of emergency situation* (e.g., death of a family member, car accident, etc.). In the event of such a serious illness or emergency situation, you are expected to contact me *prior* to the scheduled exam (or as soon afterwards as possible, given the circumstances) to notify me of your situation and to schedule a make-up exam. Documented evidence (e.g., doctor's note, copy of accident report, etc.) may be required. Whether or not a make-up exam will be allowed will ultimately be left to my discretion. Make-up exams will likely be in long-essay format. If you miss a scheduled exam, you will be required to take the make-up exam within one week of the originally scheduled exam time, although the make-up exam will likely be scheduled for as soon after the scheduled exam as possible.

Individual project #1 (10% of final grade): You will be expected to complete one of the following individual projects listed below. The projects are designed to be enriching, educational, and perspective-widening. This project will involve two due dates, the first for you to hand in your project idea and the second for you to submit a two- to three-page summary of your project experience (see below for due dates). Please complete this project *individually*. While some of you may choose the same project option as some of your classmates, do not use the same specific source that one of your classmates uses (e.g., interviewing the same person, observing the exact same classroom, viewing the same film together, etc.). If you would like to complete this project using a unique idea that is not listed below, please obtain my approval first. Failure to do so could jeopardize the grade you receive for this project.

Project Options:

- A. Interview an individual with a disability or the parent of an exceptional child. Your summary should include the date of the interview, the nature of the person's exceptionality, the questions you asked, the person's responses, and any final reflections of your own. Please be respectful of issues of sensitivity and confidentiality.
- B. Attend a meeting of a local or state organization concerned with services to and/or the rights of persons with disabilities (e.g., The Arc, Dallas Dyslexia Information Group, etc.). Your summary should include the name of the organization, the date and location of the meeting, and your observations and reflections.
- C. Serve as a volunteer for recreational services or a similar program for persons with disabilities (e.g., The Arc, Momentous Institute, H.E.R.O.E.S., etc.). Your summary should include the date(s) and location(s) of the services, the type of service provided, and your observations and reflections on your experience.
- D. Watch a film that focuses on issues related to those who are affected by exceptionalities (e.g., *My Left Foot*, *Children of a Lesser God*, *I Am Sam*, *The Mighty*, *Radio*, *Rain Man*, *Mask*, *Adam*, etc.). Your summary should include the title of the film viewed, a summary of the plot, and your reflections on the film.
- E. Observe in a classroom or clinic setting for a minimum of one hour in which one or more disabled children are present. Your summary should include the date and time of the observation, the location of the observations, and your observations and reflections. Please be respectful of issues of confidentiality.
- F. Interview a professional who provides services to persons with disabilities (e.g., special education teacher, teacher at a school for children with learning differences, school counselor or psychologist, speech-language therapist, etc.). Your summary should include the name of the person you interviewed, the date of the interview, the nature of the person's work, the questions you asked, the person's responses, and any final reflections of your own.

Individual project #2 (15% of final grade): Each student is required to select a single area of exceptionality, research that exceptionality, and write a 4 to 6 page paper covering that research. The following points should be covered:

- A. Define the characteristics of the exceptionality
- B. Discuss the assessment and classification of the exceptionality
- C. Give prevalence information
- D. Discuss etiologies
- E. Discuss educational and/or non-educational interventions
- F. Discuss current topics related to the exceptionality

You may use information from your textbook as well as outside sources. You are *required* to use information from *at least two current research articles (published since January 2011) and incorporate that information into your paper. Research articles should come from academic/scientific peer-reviewed journals*. A short list of references used will also be

required. You may use basic APA format when citing and listing references. Additional guidance will be provided in class. Also, a detailed rubric will be available on eLearning throughout the semester to help guide you in your approach to this paper.

*All assignments are due **by the start of class time (7:00 p.m.)** on the dates on which they're due.* While the idea page for individual project #1 is to be submitted in hard copy format in class, the summary of individual project #1 and the paper for individual project #2 are to be submitted via www.turnitin.com. The turnitin.com Class ID and enrollment password will be given in class. Late papers will be penalized by 10% for each day they are late, starting at 7:00 p.m. on the relevant due date. Papers will be considered the first day late after that time on each due date. Papers will not be accepted via email or in hard copy form in person. Students are advised to submit the papers via turnitin.com with ample time to work through any potential technical difficulties (or otherwise) that may be encountered. Such difficulties will not be accepted as a reason the paper is late, and late penalties will apply.

Grading: Final grades are based on the following breakdown:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Total Possible Points</u>	<u>Percentage of Final Grade</u>	<u>Final Letter Grade</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
Exam 1	100	25%	A+	386-400
Exam 2	100	25%	A	373-385
Exam 3	100	25%	A-	360-372
Individual project #1	40	10%	B+	346-359
Individual project #2	60	15%	B	333-345
			B-	320-332
Final grade	400	100%	C+	306-319
			C	293-305
			C-	280-292
			D+	266-279
			D	253-265
			D-	240-252
			F	<240

Class schedule and reading assignments:

8/22	Introduction to Class; Special Education in Context	Chapter 1
8/29	Policies, Practices, and Programs	Chapter 2
9/5	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS	
9/12	Parents and Families INDIVIDUAL PROJECT #1 IDEA DUE	Chapter 4
9/19	Cultural and Linguistic Diversity	Chapter 3
9/26	EXAM 1	
10/3	Intellectual Disability	Chapter 6
10/10	Autism Spectrum Disorders	Chapter 10
10/17	Speech and Language Impairments	Chapter 11
10/24	Hearing and Visual Impairments	Chapters 12 and 13
10/31	EXAM 2	
11/7	Learning Disabilities and ADHD INDIVIDUAL PROJECT #1 SUMMARY DUE	Chapters 7 and 8
11/14	Emotional or Behavioral Disorders	Chapter 9
11/21	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS	
11/28	Physical Disabilities, Health Disabilities, and Related Low-Incidence Disabilities INDIVIDUAL PROJECT #2 DUE	Chapter 14
12/5	Gifted and Talented	Chapter 15
12/12	EXAM 3 (time and location TBD)	

Sharing Confidential Information

Students considering sharing personal information in email, in person, or within assignments or exams should be aware that faculty members and teaching/research assistants are required by UT Dallas policy to report information about sexual misconduct to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Per university policy, faculty have been informed that they must identify the student to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Students who wish to have confidential discussions of incidents related to sexual harassment or sexual misconduct should contact the Student Counseling Center (972-883-2527 or after hours 972-UTD-TALK or 972-883-8255), the Women's Center (972-883-8255), a health care provider in the Student Health Center (972-883-2747), the clergy person (or other legally recognized religious advisor) of their choice, or an off-campus resource (i.e., rape crisis center, doctor, psychologist). Students who are sexually assaulted, harassed, or victims of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, or stalking, are encouraged to directly report these incidents to the UT Dallas Police Department at 972-883-2222 or to the Title IX Coordinator at 972-883-2218. Additional information and resources may be found at <http://www.utdallas.edu/oiec/title-ix/resources>.

Technical Support

If you experience any issues with your UT Dallas account, contact the UT Dallas Information Resources Help Desk: assist@utdallas.edu or call 972-883-2911.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The services include a toll free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service. Please use this link to access the UTD eLearning Support Center: <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp>.

Student Conduct and Discipline

The University of Texas System (Regents' Rule 50101) and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UT Dallas online catalogs (<http://catalog.utdallas.edu>).

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the Student Discipline and Conduct, UTDSP5003 (<http://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5003>). Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SSB 4.400, 972-883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/deanofstudents>.

A student at the University neither loses their rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating its standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Academic dishonesty can occur in relation to any type of work submitted for academic credit or as a requirement for a class. It can include individual work or a group project. Academic dishonesty includes, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and collaboration/collusion. In order to avoid academic dishonesty, it is important for students to fully understand the expectations of their professors. This is best accomplished through asking clarifying questions if an individual does not completely understand the requirements of an assignment.

Additional information related to academic dishonesty and tips on how to avoid dishonesty may be found here: <http://www.utdallas.edu/deanofstudents/maintain>.

Copyright Notice

It is the policy of the University of Texas at Dallas to adhere to the requirements of the United States Copyright Law of 1976, as amended, (*Title 17, United States Code*), including ensuring that the restrictions that apply to the reproduction of software are adhered to and that the bounds of copying permissible under the fair use doctrine are not exceeded. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted material may infringe upon the copyright owner's rights. Unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing, may subject students to appropriate disciplinary action as well as civil and criminal penalties. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. For more information about the fair use exemption, see <http://copyright.lib.utexas.edu/copypol2.html>. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to

follow UT Dallas' copyright policy (UTDPP1043 at <http://policy.utdallas.edu/utdpp1043>) and the UT System's policy at <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copyrighthome.htm>.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. All official student email correspondence will be sent only to a student's UT Dallas email address and UT Dallas will only consider email requests originating from an official UT Dallas student email account. This allows the University to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of each individual's corresponding via email and the security of the transmitted information. The University of Texas at Dallas furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources provides a method for students to have their UT Dallas mail forwarded to other email accounts. To activate a student UT Dallas computer account and forward email to another account, go to <http://netid.utdallas.edu>.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration at UT Dallas has established deadlines for withdrawal from any course. These dates and times are published in the Comet Calendar (<http://www.utdallas.edu/calendar>) and in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.utdallas.edu/academiccalendar>). It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, a professor or other instructor cannot drop or withdraw any student unless there is an administrative drop such as the following:

- Have not met the prerequisites for a specific course
- Have not satisfied the academic probationary requirements resulting in suspension
- Judicial affairs request
- Have not made appropriate tuition and fee payments
- Enrollment is in violation of academic policy
- Was not admitted for the term in which they registered

It is the student's responsibility to complete and submit the appropriate forms to the Registrar's Office and ensure that he or she will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if he or she chooses not to attend the class after being enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in university policy UTDSP5005 (<http://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5005>). In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding disputes over grades, application of degree plan, graduation/degree program requirements, and thesis and dissertation committee, advisor actions and/or decisions, evaluations, and/or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originated.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades may be given, at the discretion of the instructor of record for a course, when a student has completed at least 70% of the required course material but cannot complete all requirements by the end of the semester. An incomplete course grade (grade of 'I') must be resolved completed within the time period specified by the instructor, not to exceed eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. Upon completion of the required work, the symbol 'I' may be converted into a letter grade (A through F). If the grade of Incomplete is not removed by the end of the specified period, it will automatically be changed to F.

AccessAbility Services

It is the policy and practice of The University of Texas at Dallas to make reasonable disability-related accommodations and/or services for students with documented disabilities. However, written notification from the Office of Student AccessAbility (OSA) is required (see <http://www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess>). If you are eligible to receive disability-related accommodations and/or services and to ensure accommodations will be in place when the academic semester begins, students are encouraged to submit documentation four to six weeks in advance. Students who have questions about receiving accommodations, or those who have, or think they may have, a disability (mobility, sensory, health, psychological, learning, etc.) are invited to contact the Office of Student AccessAbility for a confidential discussion.

The Office of Student AccessAbility provides: academic accommodations for eligible students with a documented permanent physical, mental or sensory disability; facilitation of non-academic and environmental accommodations and services; and resources and referral information, and advocacy support as necessary and appropriate.

OSA is located in the Student Services Building, suite 3.200. They can be reached by phone at 972-883-2098, or by email at studentaccess@utdallas.edu.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities, including examinations and travel time for the observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, of the *Texas Tax Code*.

Students are encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment.

Excused students will be allowed to take missed exams or complete assignments within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the President of UT Dallas or from the President's designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of *Texas Education Code*

51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

Resources to Help You Succeed

The Office of Student Success operates the Student Success Center (SSC, <http://www.utdallas.edu/studentsuccess>), which offers assistance to students in the areas of writing, mathematics, communication, multiple science fields, reading, study skills, and other academic disciplines. These services are available through individual and small group appointments, workshops, short courses, and a variety of online and instructional technologies. All students enrolled at UT Dallas are eligible for these services.

The **Writing Center** offers a collaborative learning environment for one-to-one and small group assistance with general and advanced writing assignments and overall writing skills. Scheduling an appointment is strongly recommended, but walk in appointments are possible if a tutor is available.

Success Coaches are available for individual student appointments to discuss study skills, time management, note taking, test taking and preparation, and other success strategies.

The Student Success Center's main office is located in the McDermott Library Building and can be contacted by calling 972-883-6707 or by sending an email to ssc@utdallas.edu.