

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS AND INSTRUCTOR PLAN

INTRODUCTION TO SPECIAL POPULATIONS

EDUC_2301_F1

Dr. Kayla Willis

NOTE: This is an 8-week online course

Fully Online

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-

management/coronavirus-updates/index.html on any changes to these guidelines.

EDUC_2301_F1

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

SPRING 2023

Course Description:

EDUC 2301 Introduction to Special Populations is an enriched, integrated pre-service course and content experience that provides an overview of schooling and classrooms from the perspectives of language, gender, socioeconomic status, ethnic and academic diversity, and equity with an emphasis on factors that facilitate learning. This course provides students with opportunities to participate in 16 hours of early field observations of EC-12 special populations. Semester Hours 3 (3 led/lab).

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

No Prerequisites Required

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

This course will provide foundational and occupational insight into the field of education, especially within the various groups considered special populations. Students will be provided opportunities to observe teaching in action with the mandated 16 hours of observation/laboratory experience, case studies, and supplemental assignments. Students will gain an understanding of the various groups that compose a school culture and climate among a multitude of distinct populations (culturally diverse, learning diverse, and socioeconomically diverse).

Please check your MCC student email and Brightspace daily. I will use these methods to communicate with you often. Please sign up for MyAlert (information can be found on MCC homepage). The College uses this system to communicate important information to students.

This is an 8-week course. It is fast and intense. Please make arrangements to ensure you have adequate time to complete all assignments, activities, and observation hours each week. Contact a PK-12 school as soon as possible to schedule your 16 hours of observation. If you have extenuating circumstances which prevent you from being able to observe in a PK-12 school, please reach out to me and let me know so we can come up with a plan to meet the observation requirements for this course.

EDUC_2301_F1

I am here to help you succeed. Please use me as a resource. If you need help, don't understand something, or just need to talk, I'm here for you.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Kayla Willis, EdD MCC Email: kmwillis@mclennan.edu
Office Phone Number: 254-299-8788

Cell Phone: 254-826-6101 (When using this form of communication, text messages are

preferred. Note that I will not respond after 9:00 PM or before 7:00 AM)

Zoom ID: 254 299 0000

Office Location: CSC (in the Child Development Center lobby area)

Drop In Office/Teacher Conference Hours: Mondays: 8:15-9:15 AM

Mondays: 12:00-2:00 PM (via Zoom)

Tuesdays: 8:15-9:15 AM

Tuesdays: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Thursday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Required Text & Materials:

Title: Human Exceptionality: School, Community, and Family (12th Edition)

Author: Michael L. Hardman, M. Winston Egan, and Clifford J. Drew

Edition: 12th Edition Publisher: Cengage

ISBN: 978-1-305-50097-6 (Hardcover) or 978-1-305-63956-0 (Looseleaf)

MCC Bookstore Website: http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

- Online lectures
- Reading assignments
- Online discussion boards

^{**}Other days/times available by appointment. We can meet in-person or via Zoom.

EDUC_2301_F1

- Online quizzes
- Small and large group collaboration
- PK-12 Observation Hours
- Lab Journals
- Review of relevant research
- Research
- Reflection
- Use of digital media

You will be expected to complete the weekly reading, view the weekly lesson, participate in weekly activities (discussions, quizzes, or lab journals as assigned), complete a research project and presentation, complete 16 hours of observation in a PK-12 educational environment, maintain regular participation, and complete all assigned activities.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

By the end of this course, you will

- 1. Describe public laws and their significance to individuals with exceptionalities.
- 2. Identify characteristics of individuals with special needs.
- 3. Identify appropriate interventions and services for children with exceptionalities.
- 4. Explain the professional characteristics of an educator working with children with exceptionalities.
- 5. Understand appropriate communication when working with children and families with special needs.
- 6. Discuss the significance of perception and its role in attitude and adjustment of life skills.
- 7. Discuss ethical and legal issues facing educators.
- 8. Identify current trends and issues in special education with application.
- 9. Assess your own feelings concerning persons with special needs by gaining a better understanding of special populations and the challenges they face.
- 10. Complete 16 hours of field observations/laboratory experiences specific to EC-12 with various and diverse populations.



EDUC_2301_F1

Course Outline or Schedule:

The course is arranged in learning modules based on the chapters of the textbook. The following is a TENTATIVE schedule of the chapters, the primary topic for each, and due dates for assignments. This schedule is subject to change. If changes are necessary, they will be announced in Brightspace on the course home page and/or through the MCC email system.

Dates &	Due	Chapter &	Activities to Complete by the Due Date (see the checklist in each module for more information)		
Module	Date(s)	Class Topic			
3/13-3/19 Module 1	3/19 at 11:59 PM	Course Information and Welcome Chapter 1: Understanding Exceptionalities	 Read Chapter 1. Complete Discussion 1. Complete "A Plan for Lab Hours" assignment. Complete "Choosing a Disability to Research and Present" assignment. Complete Module 1. 		
3/20-3/26 Module 2	3/26 at 11:59 PM	Chapter 2: Education for All Chapter 3: Inclusion in Early Childhood and Elementary Education	 Read Chapters 2 & 3. Complete Quiz 1. Begin research for Disability Research Project/Presentation. Complete Lab Journal 1. Complete Module 2. 		
3/27-4/2	4/2 at	Chapter 4: Inclusion in Secondary Education Chapter 5: Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Chapter 6: Exceptionalities and Families	 Read Chapters 4, 5, & 6. Complete Discussion 2. Complete Quiz 2. Continue research for Disability		
Module 3	11:59 PM		Research Project/ Presentation. Complete Module 3		

Dates &	Due	Chapter &	Activities to Complete by the Due Date (see the checklist in each module for more information)	
Module	Date(s)	Class Topic		
4/3-4/9	4/9 at	Chapter 7: Learning Disabilities Chapter 8: Emotional and Behavioral Disorders Chapter 9: Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	 Read Chapters 7, 8, & 9. Complete Quiz 3. Complete Lab Journal 3. Continue research for Disability	
Module 4	11:59 PM		Research Project/ Presentation. Complete Module 4.	
4/10-4/16	4/16 at	Chapter 10: Communication Disorders Chapter 11: Autism Spectrum Disorders Chapter 12: Severe and Multiple Disabilities	 Read Chapters 10, 11, & 12. Complete Discussion 3. Complete Quiz 4. Continue research for Disability	
Module 5	11:59 PM		Research Project/ Presentation. Complete Module 5.	
4/17-4/23 Module 6	4/23 at 11:59 PM	Chapter 13: Sensory Disabilities Chapter 14: Physical Disabilities Chapter 15: Gifted, Creative, and Talented Individuals	 Read Chapters 13, 14, & 15. Complete Discussion 4. Complete Quiz 5. Complete Lab Journal 3. Complete Module 6. 	
4/24-4/30 Module 7	4/30 at 11:59 PM	Sharing Your Research Final Exam Preparation	 Submit Research Project Presentation. Complete Discussion 5. Complete Lab Journal 4. Complete Thank You Note Activity. 	

Dates &	Due	Chapter &	Activities to Complete by the Due Date (see the checklist in each module for more information)	
Module	Date(s)	Class Topic		
5/1-5/4 Module 8	5/2 at 11:59 PM	Final Reflection Final Exam	 Complete Final Reflection. Submit the Final Exam by 5/2 at 11:59 PM. 	

Weekly modules will run from Monday (at 12:01 AM) until Sunday (at 11:59 PM). All assignments, activities, discussions, journals, quizzes, etc. are due by Sunday night at 11:59 PM. All work will be submitted through Brightspace (see supported file types here). Please check Brightspace or the Course Schedule for due dates on specific assignments and activities.

Course Grading Information:

Assignment Category	Percentage of Total Grade		
Discussions	25%		
Quizzes	25%		
Lab Journals/Observation Hours	25%		
Disability Research Project Presentation	25%		

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Α	В	С	D	F
Total	90-100	80-89	70-79	60-69	59 or below
Average					

Please note that the grade you receive is the grade you earned. All work in this course should be **your own**. You are working toward a professional degree or career, and that professionalism starts now. Cheating and academic dishonesty are taken seriously. The first offense will result in a failing grade on the assignment and a discipline referral. The second offense will result in a failing grade for the course and another discipline referral.

EDUC_2301_F1

Late Work and Make Up Work Policies:

I know that life happens, and for that reason, I **do** accept late work. Please note that you *may* lose points on an assignment if it is turned in late (unless you have communicated with me and let me know ahead of time that you need an extension and I have approved that extension or if you have some sort of emergency/other important life happening and communicate that information to me).

Communication is very important! If you are experiencing extenuating circumstances, please reach out to me so we can develop a plan for you to be successful. I'm here to help you and I want you to succeed! Always feel free to reach out to me via text message (254-826-6101), phone (254-299-8788), or email (kmwillis@mclennan.edu). If you've read this far, send me an email and include the code word "sprinkles." You'll earn extra credit just for doing this!

Attendance

Weekly activities (discussion, quiz, or lab journal) found within each module will be used to take attendance for online classes. Failure to complete the week's discussion, quiz, or lab journal will result in you being marked absent for that week. Once you have accumulated 4 absences, you may be dropped for the course for attendance purposes. If you are withdrawn or dropped from the course before the official drop date, you will receive a grade of "W." If you are dropped or withdrawn from the course after the official drop date, you will receive an F in the course. Consult the MCC Attendance Policy (shown below) for more information.

Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy

(https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

It is very important that you complete your assignments on time and thoroughly. All responses and reflections should be respectful and should appropriately address the

EDUC_2301_F1

topic of the prompt/activity. Please pay attention to normal conventions of writing (use capitalization, punctuation, and correct spelling) so your thoughts are clear to me (the professor) and other students. All observations and lab experience should be kept confidential to abide by Family Educational Right to Privacy requirements.

In both the face-to-face and online environments, all students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes: (a) respect for other students and the instructor, (b) prompt and regular attendance, and (c) an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity.

While honest discussion and debate of topics is expected and encouraged, such interactions should not involve aggressive or derogatory comments or hostile behaviors (verbal or otherwise). This class is a safe space to share ideas and opinions. Please be respectful of those who may have an opinion that is different from your own. I (as the instructor) reserve the right to act to protect the decorum of the learning environment and the image of MCC.

If you are using Zoom to meet with me, other students, or other professors, please ensure that you are dressed appropriately and are in a location where you can focus on your responsibilities as a student. Example: It is not appropriate to attend a Zoom meeting while lying in bed and/or half dressed. Please be respectful of others and mute yourself if background noise will be a problem.

Ethics:

Cheating will not be tolerated. Any student found cheating will be subject to grade reduction, receiving a zero on assignments that involve cheating/plagiarism, and/or dismissal from the course.

Examples of cheating include but are not limited to:

- Copying the work of another student.
- Seeking excused absences/tardiness under false pretenses.
- Plagiarism (claiming the work of another as your own)

This course will teach you to think critically. Critical thinking is one of the top work skills in the *Future of Job* reports. Please maintain your integrity and do you own work. There is no reason to cheat in this class (or in any other class). Remember, I'm here to help you and we have many resources available to help if you are struggling with the course content.



Updated 11/04/2022



ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu 254-2998122 Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the acting Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling, Dr. Claudette
Jackson, (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom from 7:30 am - 6:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 7:30 am - 5:00 pm on Friday. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom (https://mclennan.zoom.us/j/2542998500) or email (ast@mclennan.edu) during the above mentioned times.

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing crew@mclennan.edu or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Both are located in the Completion Center located on the second floor of the Student Services Center (SSC) which is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to https://mclennan.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_07byXd7eB8iTqJg. Both the Completion Center and Paulanne's Pantry are located on the second floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to

https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency Grant Application.pdf.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to <u>www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity</u> for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/FacultyandStaffCommons/requirements.html for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/studentemail.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication

method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

Email Setup for iPhones and

iPads

Email Setup for Androids

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.



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