

SPED 5305-110 EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS

Spring 2018

Texas A&M University - Central Texas

PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Professor: Dr. Michael Novotny

Office: 601 North Main Street, Salado

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Email: michael.novotny@saladoisd.org or m.novotny@tamuct.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Mode of instruction and course access:

This course is face-to-face utilizing web-enhanced instruction. The majority of the course activities will take place in the classroom (WH 314). The class will meet Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. This course utilizes TAMUCT Canvas Learning Management System: [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

Student-Professor interaction:

The best learning environment is a result of the efforts of both graduate students and the professor. We can all learn a lot from one another, but we must each recognize our responsibilities to the group and our work this semester. You can reach me at any time during my office hours, by email, or by phone. If you would like to request a conference, please email me and I will get back to you with available times. Additionally, please do not email me through Canvas.

911 Cellular:

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas

911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911 Cellular through their myCT email account.

Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and Description:

Study learner characteristics and an examination of instructional techniques that promote academic, personal, and social growth in exceptional learners also examination of the process and procedures relating to the services provided to learners with disabilities.

Course Objective:

This course is designed to enhance teaching practices and strategies in the areas of planning, selecting, and organizing teaching materials based on existing classroom environments and “best practice” research. Students will develop a solid knowledge base of learning and instruction theories designed to meet the needs of diverse learners that compose today’s classrooms.

Prerequisite(s):

18 hours of professional education, certification, or admission to the graduate teacher certification program.

Course Objective:

Students will develop an awareness of the legal aspects of special education as well as students who

receive special education services and those services.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The student will

- Identify the types, characteristics, and strategies of and for students with disabilities.
- Identify the role of related services in the education of students with disabilities.
- Identify federal and state laws and rules related to special education.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the development and implementation of IEP's for students with disabilities.
- Analyze environmental influences on students' achievement and socialization.
- Demonstrate knowledge of critical issues in special education.

Resources:

Turnbull, A., Turnbull, R., Wehmeyer, M., & Shogren, K. (2016). *Exceptional lives: Special education in today's schools, Eighth Edition*. Boston, MA: Pearson.

Assessment Components:

Quizzes: (15) SPED STDS I, II, IV, VI, VII, VIII, IX, & X

Disability lesson: (1) SPED STDS IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, X, XI, XII

Plus/Minus Points:

The instructor may add or subtract points from your final grade according to the professional dispositions. These will be discussed in class.

Grading Criteria:

Quizzes	75 points
Disability lesson	25 points
TOTAL	100 points

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Complete Course Calendar:

Date	Time	Location	Assignment/Activity	Assessment
Tuesday January 23	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	WH 314	Syllabus, Expectations Chapter 1: Overview of Today's Special Education	
Tuesday January 30	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	WH 314	Chapter 2: Ensuring Progress in the General Education Curriculum: Universal Design for Learning and Inclusion	Quiz #1, Quiz #2
Tuesday February 6	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	WH 314	Chapter 3: Today's Multicultural, Bilingual, and Diverse Schools	Quiz #3
Tuesday February 13	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	WH 314	Chapter 4: Today's Families and Their Partnerships with Professionals	Quiz #4
Tuesday February 20	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	WH 314	Chapter 5: Understanding Students with Learning Disabilities	Quiz #5
Tuesday February 27	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	WH 314	Chapter 6: Understanding Students with Communication Disorders	Quiz #6
Tuesday March 6	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	WH 314	Chapter 7: Understanding Students with Emotional or Behavioral Disorders	Quiz #7
Tuesday March 13			Spring Break	
Tuesday March 20	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	WH 314	Chapter 8: Understanding Students with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	Quiz #8
Tuesday March 27	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	WH 314	Chapter 9: Understanding Students with Intellectual Disability	Quiz #9
Tuesday April 3	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	WH 314	Chapter 10: Understanding Students with Autism	Quiz #10
Tuesday April 10	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	WH 314	Chapter 11: Understanding Students with Multiple Disabilities	Quiz #11
Tuesday April 17	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	WH 314	Chapter 12: Understanding Students with Physical Disabilities and Other Health Impairments	Quiz #12
Tuesday April 24	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	WH 314	Chapter 13: Understanding Students with Traumatic Brain Injury	Quiz #13
Tuesday May 1	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	WH 314	Chapter 14: Understanding Students with Hearing Loss	Quiz #14
Tuesday May 8	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	WH 314	Chapter 15: Understanding Students with Visual Impairments, Including Blindness	Quiz #15

PROFESSOR POLICIES

Attendance.

Your commitment as a graduate student includes regular, timely attendance and participation. Professional behavior during class is an expectation. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Each unexcused absence will result in a 10 point deduction from your overall grade at the end of the semester. It is NOT possible to make up the work missed during the class period since it involves the interactions between the students and professor related to course content objectives and reading.

Late work will not be accepted unless given prior approval by the professor. In most situations, a doctor's note or legal documentation will be required. In the event of an excused absence (via doctor's note), you are responsible for asking a classmate to take notes and gather handouts or class information for you. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed.

Being prepared to participate includes completing assigned reading and bringing necessary materials and assignments to class or posting in Canvas.

Cell Phones.

Cell phones must be silenced during class. The use of cell phones, smart phones, or other mobile communication devices is disruptive and is therefore prohibited during class. Except in:

1. emergency situations - please make prior arrangements with the professor
2. acceptable use - the professor will direct you to utilize your cell phone, smart phone, or other mobile device for educational purposes

Copyright Notice.

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course professor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

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1001 Leadership Place, Killeen, TX 76549; 254-519-5400; Fax 254-519-5786; m.novotny@tamuct.edu

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements.

This course will use the TAMUCT Instructure Canvas learning management system.

Logon to TAMUCT Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>]

Username: Your MyCT username

(xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)

Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select "Chat with Canvas Support," submit a support request through "Report a Problem," or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your professor.

Other Technology Support.

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): <http://hdc.tamu.edu>.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy.

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity.

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your professor before taking a course of action.

Academic Accommodations.

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.departments/index.php>. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender – including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Division of Student Affairs at 254-501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

Tutoring.

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

The University Writing Center.

Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10am-5pm Monday-Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library on Monday-Thursday from 6:00-9:00pm. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WCOOnline at](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu to schedule an online tutoring session. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process.

While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu.

University Library.

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](https://tamuct.libguides.com/) [https://tamuct.libguides.com/].