

PSYC 5389-115, SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW

Summer 2021

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

This course meets face-to-face from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, August 7, in Founders Hall Room 314 with supplemental materials made available through the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Michael Novotny, Ed.D.

Office: 254-947-6905

Mobile: 254-913-5203

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

Office Hours: By appointment – 601 North Main Street, Salado

Student-instructor interaction:

You are welcome to contact me via e-mail, phone, or text message. You should expect a response within 24 hours.

WARRIOR SHIELD

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

Warrior Shield 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 Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

Course Objective or Goal

This course will require the student to analyze the constitutional provisions, statutory laws, court decisions, and regulations governing special education with special reference to Texas and federal relationships of these laws and how they impact the day to day decisions and practices of Licensed Specialists in School Psychology (LSSPs).

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will engage in reading, discussion and research concerning the following topics:

- Constitutional, Statutory, Administrative and Judicial Sources of Law
- Structure and Governance of the Texas School System
- Foundational/ Enrichment Programs and Accountability/Student Groups

- Special Education and Discipline (Chapter 37)
- Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act
- Due Process Hearings

Competency Goals Statements (certification or standards)

Upon successful completion of this course, the pre-service Licensed Specialist in School Psychology will be able to:

1. Research legal issues related to the public schools.
2. Read and comprehend federal and state court cases.
3. Analyze and discuss legal concepts related to the public schools.
4. Apply legal concepts to the public school setting.
5. Critically analyze special education activities for compliance with public school laws.
6. Discuss the system of public school governance and its relation to the levels of courts.
7. Abide by the federal statutory and regulatory framework for the laws protecting the student with special needs.
8. Abide by the state statutory and regulatory framework for the laws protecting individuals with disabilities.
9. Facilitate judicial interpretation in the areas of identification and assessment; placement; due process, discipline; diseases; costs; least restrictive environment; residential and private schools; remedies; related services.

Required Reading and Textbook(s)

Yell, Mitchell L. (2019). *The Law and Special Education. 5th Edition*. New York, NY: Pearson.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

CANVAS PARTICIPATION

(10 X 20 = 200 Points)

Students will participate in Bb discussion sessions by answering questions, posing questions, making comments, and citing court cases relative to class discussions and assigned reading material.

QUIZZES

(4 X 50 = 200 Points)

Students will be administered quizzes to assess knowledge of the material outlined in the required course text, including legal terminology and relative court cases.

COURT CASE PRESENTATIONS

(200 Points)

Each student will prepare two presentations regarding key court cases impacting education. A handout developed by the student providing a summary of the court case is to be distributed to the instructor and the students.

TOPIC PRESENTATION

(100 Points)

Each student will prepare a presentation over an assigned legal topic impacting education. The project will be evaluated on content, creativity, style, knowledge of material. A handout outlining the key elements of the topic should be provided to students and the instructor.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE AND REFLECTION

(100 Points)

Each student will attend one school board meeting in a district of their choice and provide a brief written reflection of their experience.

FINAL EXAM

(200 Points)

Each student will complete a final exam to be submitted to the instructor prior to the last day of class.

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

The instructor will determine grades for the course assignments and assessments through the use the assignment criteria and assessment rubrics outlined in this syllabus. Rubrics may be found on the next page. Instructor, self, and peer evaluation will be utilized as means of assessing growth and learning.

To earn the grade of A, students must earn a total of 90% on the following learning activities/items. For a grade of B, a total of 80% must be earned. Maximum points for each assignment are in ().

- Canvas discussion participation (10 X 20 =200 points)
- Quizzes (4 X 50 = 200 points)
- Two Court Case Presentations (100 x 2 =200 points)
- Topic Presentation (100 points)
- School Board Meeting Attendance/Reflection (100 points)
- Final Exam (200 points)

Posting of Grades

Grades will be posted in Canvas within one week.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR**Complete Course Calendar**

COURSE CALENDAR TOPIC KEY
Topic I: Introduction to the American Legal System
Topic II: Legal Research
Topic III: The History of the Law and Children with Disabilities
Topic IV: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
Topic V: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Topic VI: The Americans with Disabilities Act
Topic VII: The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015
Topic VIII: Free Appropriate Public Education
Topic IX: Identification, Assessment, and Evaluation

Topic X: The Individualized Education Program
Topic XI: Placing Students in the Least Restrictive Environment
Topic XII: Procedural Safeguards
Topic XIII: Disciplining Students with Disabilities
Topic XIV: Additional Issues: Bullying, Charter Schools, Response to Intervention, Educational Records, and Liability for Student Injury

Topic	Timeframe	Learning Assignment	Due
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June 12 - Class Orientation (8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

6.12-6.25 e-learn 1			
I – IV	6/12-6/25	Read Chapters 1 through 4 in <i>The Law and Special Education</i>	6/25
I – IV	6/12-6/25	Complete assigned cases for Chapters 1 through 4	6/25
I – IV	6/12-6/25	Complete assigned topic presentations for Chapters 1 through 4	6/25
I – IV	6/12-6/25	Participate in online discussions	6/25

June 26 - Class Session (8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

6.26-7.9 e-learn 2			
V – VII	6/26-7/9	Read Chapters 5 through 7 in <i>The Law and Special Education</i>	7/9
V – VII	6/26-7/9	Complete assigned cases for Chapters 5 through 7	7/9
V – VII	6/26-7/9	Complete assigned topic presentations for Chapters 5 through 7	7/9
V – VII	6/26-7/9	Participate in online discussions	7/9

July 10 - Class Session (8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

7.10-7.23 e-learn 3			
VIII – XI	7/10-7/23	Read Chapters 8 through 11 in <i>The Law and Special Education</i>	7/23
VIII – XI	7/10-7/23	Complete assigned cases for Chapters 8 through 11	7/23
VIII – XI	7/10-7/23	Complete assigned topic presentations for Chapters 8 through 11	7/23
VIII – XI	7/10-7/23	Participate in online discussions	7/23

July 24 - Class Session (8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

7.24-8.6 e-learn 4			
XII-XIV	7/24-8/7	Read Chapters 12 through 14 in <i>The Law and Special Education</i>	8/6
XII-XIV	7/24-8/7	Complete assigned cases for Chapters 12 through 14	8/6
XII-XIV	7/24-8/7	Complete assigned topic presentations for Chapters 12 through 14	8/6
XII-XIV	7/24-8/7	Participate in online discussions	8/6

August 7 - Class Session (8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

Specific instructions for each E-Learning unit are outlined within Canvas. This course outline and calendar serves as a broad overview. For successful completion of this course, students will need to follow the calendar for readings and assignments. Additional course readings, videos, Web content, etc., will be provided in Canvas and will be essential to course objectives.

Important University Dates

<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email 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 instructor.

Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

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>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2Fsubmit%2FForm%2Fstart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed 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. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html),
[https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0),
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

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 Office 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 Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required)
[https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related 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. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. 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 Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University’s Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Summer 2021 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. 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. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

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 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 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 24 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 virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams 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](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

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 Wellness and 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/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](#) website for

more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.
