

SPED 5305/EDUC 4337, Exceptional Learners
Fall 2023

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

October 23, 2023-December 15,2023

This is an online, independent study course that meets from 10/23/2023-12/15/2023, 2023 It uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Theresa Garcia

Office: WH 332Q

Phone: 254-258-6404

Email: tgarcia122@tmauct.edu

Office Hours

Office hours will be in person on Monday or Wednesday from 9:30-11:00 or if you prefer we can arrange to meet over the Teams or WebX by scheduling an appointment.

Student-instructor interaction

You can meet with me during scheduled office hours or by appointment. Often, multiple students ask the same questions via email. In these instances, I typically respond through Canvas in the Announcement tab of your course to clarify concerns for the entire class. I respond to emails within 24 hours. Whether texting or leaving a voice mail, please tell me your name and which class you are taking. I usually respond to phone calls or text messages the same day, unless in a meeting or out of town at a conference.

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

SAFEZONE. SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the [SafeZone](http://www.safezoneapp.com) website [www.safezoneapp.com].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:
 - [iPhone/iPad](https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756): [<https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756>]
 - [Android Phone / Tablet](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp)
[<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp>]
2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)

3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

For updates on COVID information, please monitor the University [website](https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/)
[https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/]

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and description

The characteristics of exceptional learners and educational programs for individuals with disabilities are surveyed. Additional course content includes the legislation and court cases related to special education and the referral, diagnosis, and placement of exceptional learners.

Course Objective or Goal

Preservice teachers will develop an awareness of legal aspects of special education as well as the students who receive special education services and an overview of those services.

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes: The candidates will

1. Define, characterize, and analyze teaching strategies of students diagnosed with disabilities identified by IDEA.
2. Define and describe students with gifts and talents and students who are twice exceptional.
3. Articulate the basic principles of PL 94 -142, PL 99-457, PL 101-476, the Reauthorizations of IDEA, ADA, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
4. Describe the prereferral (RTI) and referral process.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the IEP, (ARD) Committee, due process, reasonable accommodations, and modifications, and LRE.
6. Differentiate high and low tech assistive technology and the need of each to reach all students.
7. Identify evidenced-based strategies that address learning needs and differences.

Competency Goals Statements (certification or standards) *If included in your course.*

Required Reading and Textbook(s)

Hallahan, D. P., Kauffman, J. M., & Pullen, P. C. (2019). *Exceptional learners: An introduction to special education* (14th ed.). Pearson.

TEA Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators

for this class, more than half of them will be connected to some form of written work (e.g., essay questions, journals, drafts, literature review). Since learning to revise your writing is fundamental to improving writing skills, I will give you detailed feedback that includes specific strategies for how to improve your writing.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Inclusive Classroom Design 100 points (SLO,1,6,7)

Students will design an inclusive classroom environment that caters to both exceptional learners and general education students. They should:

- Create a physical layout of the classroom that promotes accessibility and collaboration.
- Explain how Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles will be incorporated into instructional materials and activities.
- Describe strategies to foster a positive and supportive classroom community for all students, regardless of their abilities.

Assignment: Creating Inclusive Learning Environments for Elementary Students (100 points) SLO, 1, 2,3,4,5,7

Objective: Demonstrate understanding of modifications and accommodations in the context of elementary education and develop strategies for creating inclusive learning environments. You will be assigned a specific disability for this assignment.

Instructions:

1. Research the concepts of modifications and accommodations in the context of elementary education.
2. Consider the diverse needs of elementary students and the importance of creating an inclusive classroom.
3. Create a comprehensive assignment that addresses the following components:

Part A: Understanding Modifications and Accommodations

- Define and explain the concepts of modifications and accommodations in the context of elementary education.

Part B: Identifying Diverse Learning Needs

- Identify and describe various types of diverse learners commonly found in elementary classrooms (e.g., students with learning disabilities, English language learners, gifted students).

Part C: Strategies for Modifications and Accommodations

- Develop a list of modifications and accommodations that cater to the diverse learning needs of elementary students.
- Provide specific examples of how each strategy can be applied across subjects and activities.

Evidence-Based Strategies Application Lesson Plan 100 points SLO, 1, 2,3,4,5,6,7

Objective: Identify evidence-based strategies that address learning needs and differences.

Students will:

- Research and compile a list of evidence-based teaching strategies that address diverse learning needs and exceptionalities.
- Your student's disability will be the same as the previous lesson.
- Select a specific learning need or exceptional category (e.g., ADHD, autism).

- Create a lesson plan for a core subject (e.g., math, language arts) that incorporates at least two evidence-based strategies to address the chosen learning need. You may use any lesson plan format you feel comfortable with for this assignment. **If you are using a previous lesson plan you submitted for a previous class, you will need my permission.** It will need to be adjusted for this class to reflect the needs of special needs students.
- You will need to list any accommodations or modification that is required for your students that require them. You will also need to include any assistive technology.

Midterm- 100 points SLO 1,2,3,4,5,6,7

You will take a midterm exam over the first half of the course. This will be a proctored exam on Canvas. This requires you to have a camera on your computer. If you do not have a camera on your computer, you will need to make arrangement with the test center and take the exam TAMUCT.

Final- 100 Points SLO 1,2,3,4,5,6,7

Your final will be over the final chapters of the book. This will be a proctored exam on Canvas. This requires you to have a camera on your computer. If you do not have a camera on your computer, you will need to make arrangement with the test center and take the exam TAMUCT.

Attendance and Participation 100 Points SLO 1, 2,3,4,5,6,7

**Attendance and Participation
(100 points)**

At this point in each student’s professional development, the College of Education and Human Development expects pre-service candidates to demonstrate a wide range of professional dispositions, to include attendance, punctuality, class participation, adherence to professional ethics, collaboration, commitment to diversity, initiative, responsibility, responsiveness to professional feedback, self-reflection, and student focus. Even though this is 100% online it expected that you will log on to the course and complete the modules provided. This will determine your grade for participation and attendance.

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Classroom Design	100 points
Inclusive Learning Environments	100 points
Lesson Plan	100 points
Midterm	100 points
Final	100 points
Participation	<u>100 points</u>
Total	600 points

To determine your grade, take your points earned and divide by the number of points possible. Letter grades for the course will be determined as follows:

- 90-100% = A
- 80-89% = B
- 70-79% = C
- 60-69% = D
- Below 60% = F

Posting of Grades

Grades from assessments will be posted within seven working days, unless it is a major assignment. Posting of major assessment grades will be discussed in class.

Grading Policies

Missed exams may only be re-scheduled in cases of excused absences and must be made up within 2 weeks of the original date. Late work will be accepted for no penalty for university-excused absences. For other late work due to extenuating circumstances, please speak with the professor privately.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Week of:	Topics-	Homework assignments	Assignments Due
October 23	1. Exceptionality of Special Education Children 2. Current Practices 3. Multicultural and Bilingual Aspects	Read chapters. 1-3	
October 30	1. Parents and Families 2. Learners with LD 3. Learning Disabilities	Read chapters 4-6	Classroom Design Nov 5 th
November 6	1. ADHD 2. Students with Ed 3. Behavioral Disorders	Read Chapters 7-9	
November 13	1. Autism Spectrum disorders	Read Chapters 10	Midterm by Midnight November 19 th
November 20	1. Communication disorders 2. Deaf and or hard of hearing 3	Read Chapters 11-12	
November 27	1. Low-Incidence, Multiple, and Severe Disabilities	Read Chapters 13-14	Inclusive Learning Environments

	2. Physical Disabilities and Other Health Impairments		
December 4	Learners with Special Gifts and Talents	Read Chapters 15	
December 11 th	Final review complete lesson plan		Final December 15 th Lesson Plan December 13 th

Important University Dates

http://catalog.tamuct.edu/undergraduate_catalog/general-information/academic20calendars20and20final20exam20schedule/

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

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.**

You will need a computer or another device that has a camera for this online class.

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari browsers. Canvas will run on Windows, Mac, Linus, iOS, android, or any other device with a modern web browser. **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/] by clicking on the "TAMUCT Online Canvas" tile. You will then log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help tab, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can search the support articles or use the Email, Call, or Chat buttons at the bottom of the support pop-up to contact the Canvas Help Desk.

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

Online Proctored Testing

Texas A&M University-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 requires use of the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in installed.

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

Warrior Center for Student Success

The Warrior Center for Student Success is a comprehensive academic support department at A&M-Central Texas, dedicated to fostering an environment of excellence and empowerment among its student body. The center offers a wide range of programs and services to ensure every student reaches their full potential, and is a haven for students seeking guidance, resources, and a strong support network to excel in their educational journey.

ADA Access and Accommodations: Texas A&M University-Central Texas ensures that students with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities by providing appropriate accommodations and support services. If you believe you have a physical, learning or socio-emotional disability requiring reasonable accommodations, please visit [Access and Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html>] for more details or contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential.

Success Coaching and Peer Mentoring: Our experienced Success Coaches work one-on-one with students to develop personalized action plans, set academic goals, and build effective study strategies, time management skills, and resilience. Our Peer Mentors provide a valuable support system, offering guidance, encouragement, and a relatable perspective to help students navigate their academic and personal challenges. For more details call 254-501-5836 or 254-501-5928 or visit [Academic Support](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html>]. Click the link to schedule a session (virtual or in-person) with a success coach bit.ly/3q7uB50 or visit WH, 111.

Testing Services: We offer a secure and comfortable environment for students and members of the community to take courses and distance learning exams, as well as placement tests and professional certification exams. Our Testing Service also offers resources and support referrals for testing related challenges (test anxiety, learning disabilities, etc.) and supports all approved ADA accommodations. Call (254) 519-5830 or visit the [Testing Center](https://www.tamuct.edu/testing-center/) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/testing-center/>].

Tutoring and Supplemental Instruction Services: Our team of qualified Tutors and Supplemental Instructors assist students in various non-writing subjects, promoting academic

comprehension and enhancing learning outcomes. Click the link to schedule a tutoring session with a TAMUCT tutor (virtual or in-person) or view tutor availability bit.ly/43Q6wNz. You may also chat live with a remote tutor 24/7 for a variety of subjects through our partnership with Tutor.com, an online tutoring platform that is free to all TAMUCT students. To learn more please visit [Tutoring Services](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html#tutoring) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html#tutoring] or call (254) 501-5836 or visit the Tutoring Hub in Warrior Hall, 111.

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 Student Conduct Office. 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 referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas), [https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas].

Drop Policy

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

[https://federation.ngwebsolutions.com/sp/startSSO.ping?PartnerIdpid=https://eis-prod.ec.tamuct.edu:443/samlssso&SpSessionAuthnAdapterId=tamuctDF&TargetResource=https%3a%2f%2fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2fSubmit%2fStart%2f53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Records and Admissions Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Records and Admissions 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 Records and Admissions 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.

Pregnant and/or Parenting Students Rights and Accommodations

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of [Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights](#), the Associate

Dean in the Division of Student Affairs, (254) 501-5909, can assist students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting by provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodations. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible through the [Pregnancy & Parenting webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. 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]. 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](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.html) specifically prohibits discrimination against a student based on pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from any of these conditions [https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.html].

Students experiencing any form of discrimination due to any of these conditions are encouraged to reach out to the Title IX Coordinator, 254.519.5716, titleix@tamuct.edu, Founders Hall 317B, or the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, 254.501.5909, Warrior Hall 105.

Title IX Rights and Reporting Responsibilities

Texas A&M University-Central Texas is committed to creating a safe and open learning environment for all students. If you or another student has experienced any form of gender discrimination or sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and/or sex-based stalking, help and support are available. Our university strongly encourages all members of our campus community to report incidents and seek support for gender discrimination and sexual misconduct through the Title IX Office. You may contact the Title IX Office at 254.519.5716, titleix@tamuct.edu, Founders Hall 317B, or learn more by visiting the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Please be aware that that under [Title IX](https://policies.tamus.edu/08-01-01.pdf), [Texas Senate Bill 212](https://policies.tamus.edu/08-01-01.pdf), and [System Regulation 08.01.01](https://policies.tamus.edu/08-01-01.pdf), [https://policies.tamus.edu/08-01-01.pdf] all university employees are mandated reporters and are required to disclose information about suspected or alleged violations as listed above and defined in System Regulation 08.01.01. If the Title IX Office receives information about an incident, they will reach out to offer information about resources, rights, and procedural options as a member of the campus community. Although I have an obligation to report, you will, in most cases, control how your case will be handled. When working with the Title IX Office you will have access to resources and accommodations but also have the opportunity to express if you wish to move forward with an investigation. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the options available to you as a student. Community members are not required to respond to this outreach.

If you or another student wishes to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the [Student Wellness & Counseling Center](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-counseling.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-counseling.html], 254.501.5955, or swacc@tamuct.edu, located in Warrior Hall Room 207L or the Student Support Advocate, 254.501.5978 or ssa@tamuct.edu, located in founder Hall Room 317D.

University Library & Archives

The University Library & Archives provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 350 electronic databases containing approximately 1,203,947 eBooks and 134,750 journals, in addition to the 96,879 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. [Schedule an appointment here](#)

[<https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments>]. 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 workspaces, 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/index>]

University Writing Center

Located in Warrior Hall 416 and online, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. The face-to-face hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday and Thursday in Warrior Hall 416. Online tutoring is available Monday thru Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 12:00-3:00 p.m.

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 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 [WConline](#) [<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, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

OTHER POLICY STATEMENTS

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](#) online

[<https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas>].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](#) website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/bit>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

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 instructor. 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.

Copyright. (2023) by (*Theresa Garcia*) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas, 1001 Leadership Place, Killeen, TX 76549;); tgarcia122@tamuct.edu