

**SPED 346 - Introduction to Exceptional Children
Summer 2 (2012)
Online**

Instructor: Lauren Maloney, Ph.D.
Office Hours: by appointment
Email: Lauren_Maloney@tamuc.edu

Course Description:

This course will provide a survey of populations with exceptionalities. Attention will be given to the causes of these deviations and their effect upon the individual's development. Professional roles of the special education team member as well as policies and regulations applicable to special education programs in general will be covered.

Text:

Hallahan, D. P., Kauffman, J. M., & Pullen, P. C. (2012). *Exceptional Learners: An Introduction to Special Education* (11th Ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc. (ISBN: 0137033702 or 9780137033706)

Course Competencies/Objectives:

Competency 001	The educator understands and applies knowledge of the characteristics and needs of students with disabilities,
Competency 004	The educator understands and applies knowledge of procedures for managing the teaching and learning environment, including procedures related to the use of assistive technology,
Competency 010	The educator understands the philosophical, historical, and legal foundations of special education, and
Competency 012	The educator knows how to communicate and collaborate effectively in a variety of professional settings.

Class Assignments:

Discussion Forum Participation: Students are expected to participate actively in weekly discussion fora (plural for forum). Each week, there will be a discussion forum. For each discussion forum, you are to contribute at least one original thought (of at least 3 sentences) regarding a topic related to the chapter readings for the week. The topic will be provided under the "discussion" tab each week. You may respond or add-on to others' posts for your contribution, but this is not required. If you do respond to someone else's post, make sure to include your own original thoughts (not simply, "I agree" or "I disagree"). Discussion contributions for each week are due by Sunday evening at 11:59pm.

Drop-Box Assignments: Each week you will have an assignment to submit to the drop-box. These assignments are due by Sunday evening at 11:59pm. Instructions for each week's drop-box assignment can be found under the "assignments" tab for each week.

Quizzes: Each week you will have a test. The weekly tests will cover all chapters that were covered that week. The weekly tests will be open for the entire week, but will close on **Sunday evening at 11:59 PM** of that week. You will only be allowed to take the tests once. These tests are open book, but are timed, so you will need to have a good general understanding of all the material in the chapters to be able to complete it in time.

Grading:

Discussion Forum Participation	20% of final grade
Drop-box Assignments	40% of final grade
Weekly Tests	40% of final grade

Point Distribution:

Grade

A	90 – 100%
B	80 - 89%
C	70 - 79%
D	60 - 69%
F	0 - 59%

Communication and Support:

If you have a question that others in the class may also have, please post those questions to my Virtual Office on eCollege. Please consult virtual office to see if a question has already been answered before sending me an email. Please note that I will not respond to posts or emails during the weekends or holidays. If you have any questions or need clarification on any aspect of the course, post to the virtual office or email me early in the week. I will try my best to answer all questions in a timely manner, and will do so within 48 hours of your post/email.

Technology Requirements:

This course will be conducted within eCollege, which works best within a Microsoft Windows environment, and requires a high speed internet connection (not dial-up). This means you should use a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0). The course will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari (2.0 or better). eCollege also supports the Firefox/Mozilla (3.0 or better) on both Windows and Mac operating systems. It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to eCollege, click on the “myCourses” tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>. You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu.

Contacting eCollege for Technical Support:

The following support options are available 24 hours a day / 7 days a week

- **Help:** Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc.)
- **Chat Support:** Click on 'Live Support' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- **Email:** helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support

Representative.

Other Important Notes:

- Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Gee Library, Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

- All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*)
- All assignments must be turned in on the assigned due date. ***Points will be deducted for late assignments at the rate of one letter grade per day.***
- Ensure that the assignment scoring guidelines presented in the syllabus and classes are followed. It is important that all assignments are organized according to the guidelines. ***Failure to do so will result in an ungraded assignment or a lower evaluation.***
- Please note that the following schedule is tentative and may change at any time and as many times as necessary during the semester. In case of any changes, you will be informed in a timely manner. ***It is your responsibility to regularly check your email and eCollege for announcements regarding the course.***
- As a student enrolled at Texas A&M University-Commerce, you have access to an email account via MyLeo - all class emails from your instructors will be sent from eCollege (and all other university emails) will go to this account, so ***please be sure to check it regularly.***