SpEd 553.001 – Fall, 2012
Cognition, Learning, and Development

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Office Hours: Monday 12:00-2:30, Tuesday 1:30-4:00, or by appointment

Course Description:
This course is designed for professionals providing learning and transition services to students with special needs. Consideration will be given to cognitive abilities, cognitive styles, information processing, memory, and development.


Course Objectives:
1) To understand and apply information processing theory,
2) To recognize the impact of belief systems on cognitive functioning,
3) To identify means of fostering cognitive growth,
4) To apply knowledge of cognitive processes to instruction in classroom content areas.

Associated TExES Competencies--Generic Certification
The special education teacher…
002 understands formal and informal assessment procedures and knows how to evaluate student competencies to make instructional decisions.
003 understands and applies knowledge of procedures for planning instruction for individuals with disabilities.
005 knows how to promote students’ educational performance in all content areas by facilitating their achievement in a variety of settings and situations.
008 promotes students’ performance in English language arts and reading.

Associated TExES Competencies--Educational Diagnostician
The educational diagnostician…
003 understands and applies knowledge of student assessment and evaluation, program planning, and instructional decision making. (light emphasis)
005 applies skills for interpreting formal and informal assessments and evaluations.
006 understands appropriate curricula and instructional strategies for students with disabilities.
007 understands the use of appropriate assessment, evaluation, planning, and instructional strategies for developing students' behavioral and social skills.

Anticipated Schedule:
Aug. 28-Sept. 25 Review course syllabus and requirements; Highlight chapters 1-5
Oct. 2 Exam 1
Oct. 9-Nov. 6 Review Exam 1; Highlight chapters 6-10
Nov. 13 Exam 2
Nov. 20 Review Exam 2; Chapter 11 & 12 presentations
Nov. 27 Chapter 13 & 14 presentations
Dec. 4 Chapter 15 presentation; Discuss and submit research reports
**Course Requirements:**

*Exams*: Two exams will be given on the scheduled dates. Each exam will consist of some combination of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay items.

*Research Report*: One research report will be required. This report is intended to enhance some element of the course objectives and topics must be approved by the instructor. Reports should follow APA style and be from five to seven pages in length. Students should plan to share the results of their research in a roundtable discussion in class on December 4. Written reports are also due on this date.

*Chapter Presentations*: Individually or in pairs, you will select one of the last five chapters in the text. In a 45-60 minute presentation, highlight the *key information* from the chapter for the class. You do not have to cover all of the details in the chapter, but do *make as many practical connections* to Chs. 1-10 as possible when applying your learning to these different content areas. A sign-up sheet will be provided.

**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2 @ 100 points each)</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Presentation</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Report and Discussion</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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</tbody>
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Total Possible Points 350

**Point Distribution:**

- **A** 314-350
- **B** 279-313
- **C** 244-278
- **D** 209-243
- **F** 208 or lower

**Important Notes:**

*All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student’s Guidebook)*

*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@tamu-commerce.edu

*Use of Cell Phones: Common courtesy and professional behavior prohibit the use of cell phones (including for texting) during class. It is expected that all cell phones will be turned “off” during class time. If there is a personal emergency that necessitates keeping your cell phone on “vibrate” during class, notify the instructor prior to class that you may receive a call during the class period.*