EDCI 506 Nature and Needs of Gifted Students
Course Syllabus

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Course Description
This course is a survey of the major facets of gifted education: characteristics of the gifted, identification of the gifted, curricular and instructional strategies appropriate in teaching the gifted, personnel for the gifted and evaluation (Three (3) credit hours).

General Course Objective
This course is designed to provide opportunities for exploring the various aspects of gifted and talented education. Students should become conversant with concepts, problems, issues, and answers in addressing the needs of the gifted student. In addition, students should develop more positive perceptions of gifted students.

Specific Course Objectives

Upon conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

Trace the historical development of gifted education.

Identify the nature of gifted students and the characteristics of giftedness.

Discuss the issue of defining giftedness.

List and discuss at least three (3) different techniques that can be used in identifying giftedness.
List and describe curricular models and instructional strategies appropriate in serving gifted and talented students. Students should have specific knowledge of models by Hilda Taba, Benjamin Bloom, Joe Renzulli, Lawrence Kohlberg, Calvin Taylor, and others.

Discuss creativity and use the Creative Thinking Skills.

Discuss problems areas encountered in addressing the needs of the gifted student:
- Identification of the culturally different student
- Identification of the dual language/gifted student
- Programming for the gifted and talented student
- Personnel
- Differentiation

Describe procedural concepts in the evaluation of gifted programs.

**Major Topics to be Addressed**

- Historical development of gifted education
- Characteristics, nature and needs of the gifted
- Problems and Issues in the Identification of the Gifted
- Strategies for Teaching the Gifted
- Creativity
- Affective Needs of the Gifted
- Moral Development Needs of the Gifted
- Learning Styles of the Gifted
- The Gifted Underachiever

**Textbook Resources:**

Steven Levitt, Stephen Dubner, *Freakonomics*, 2005

Malcolm Gladwell, *Outliers*, (audio and hard back versions are available).


Clark, Barbara, *Growing Up Gifted.*

**Course Activities**

This course consists of 10 units. Students will complete the assignments associated with at least two (2) units per week. All assignments will be due at the end of the week on Sunday. The instructor will check for completion of all assignments after midnight on Sunday.
Students are to work consistently and regularly throughout the week in the completion of course assignments. The instructor will check periodically for the presence and activity of students in the course.

Students will participate in the following activities related to the following topics:

- Historical Development: Studies and Events
- Definitions/Characteristics of Gifted
- Identification of the Gifted
- Programming for the Gifted
- Creativity
- Differentiation and the Gifted
- The Gifted Underachiever
- Problems/Myths in Education of the Gifted
- Culturally Different and Dual Language Gifted

Each student will read extensively from professional journals, newspapers, popular publications articles specifically addressing in the article title and content the GIFTED student and write summary/reactions to each article.

Each student will select and research a topic related to the gifted student and present the project by means of a PowerPoint presentation that can be used with gifted students, parents or teachers of the gifted or in educating others regarding dimensions of giftedness. **Students should choose a project from those offered in the class under Doc Sharing.**

Each student will complete a final examination.

**Course Evaluation Procedures**

Student assignments will be evaluated using the following point system. Students are expected to complete all of the assignments. No assignments are optional.
Ten (10) Summary/Reaction articles 100 points
Eight (8) Website Reviews 80 points
Case Study of A School District 10 points
Identification Simulation 10 points
What Would You Do? 10 Points
Daily Postings 100 points
Course Project 100 points
Final Examination 80 points

Grading Criteria:

485 -- 490 A
479 – 484 B
474 -- 478 C

Class Online Presence

Students are expected to be consistently present in the online class posting to the discussion topics, submitting summary/reaction articles, completing other activities. Necessary absences should be reported to the instructor. Prepare for at least three Required Class Live Pro Sessions during the class. The dates will be announced during the 1st telephone conference call. The 1st Class Live Pro session will be at the beginning of the class; the 2nd Class Live Pro session will be before the midterm exam and the final Class Live Pro session will be at the end of the class.

Academic Honesty

“Graduate students at Texas A & M University- Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their academic work. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty are defined as academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing assignments) and abuse…” (TAMU-C University Catalog).
Twenty-four hour (24) online Help is available by calling 1-866-656—5511 or by emailing helpdesk@online.tamu-c.org.

Instructor:

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Hardware
- Both Macintosh and Windows systems are acceptable. Students do not need to purchase a new system to begin online learning at the university.
  - Windows 98/NT/2000/ME/XP
- Pentium (2 GHz or greater)
- 128 megabytes (MB) random access memory (RAM)
- 2 GB or greater hard drive
  - Macintosh
- OS 9.1 to OS X; G3, G4, or higher
- 128 megabytes (MB) random access memory (RAM)
- 2 GB or greater hard drive

Software
- Word Processor - Microsoft Word is required. Microsoft Works, WordPerfect, and AppleWorks are not acceptable.

Connectivity
- Reliable Internet access through an established Internet service provider (ISP) is key to the online learning experience. Students should choose a DSL or cable-modem service where high speed internet is available.

Email
- Access to a reliable email service through an established Internet service provider (ISP) is critical to the online learning experience.

Web Browser
- Internet Explorer (version 6.0 or greater) or Netscape (version 7.0 or greater) is required. These browsers are available for free in the download areas at www.microsoft.com and www.netscape.com, respectively.
- Note: Browsers that are part of the MSN and AOL software are not acceptable, because they include proprietary modifications that may not work correctly with resources. Students may continue to use AOL or MSN...
as their Internet service provider, but once connected to the Internet, they should minimize the AOL or MSN window and launch Internet Explorer or Netscape.

**Plug-ins**
- **Adobe Acrobat Reader**
  - Available at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com), this free program (Adobe Reader 8) allows you to view and print many forms and some full-text documents from online library databases.
- **Adobe Flash Player 9.0**
  - Available at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). This allows you to view any content delivered in Flash.
- **Quicktime Video Player**
- **RealPlayer**
  - Available at [www.real.com](http://www.real.com)
- **Windows MediaPlayer 11.0**
- **Java Applet**
  - Since the online classroom is interactive and dynamic, it is important that students' Internet browser be Java-enabled. The Java Virtual Machine can be downloaded for free at [http://java.com/en/index.jsp](http://java.com/en/index.jsp).

**Virus Protection**
- Viruses can be transmitted to computers as email attachments. Once a virus is resident on a computer, it can hinder performance, crash the computer, or damage files and hard drives - permanently. To protect their systems, students should purchase up-to-date antivirus software from a local computer store and regularly check their computers for viruses.
- Note: Students should keep their antivirus software current by downloading updates from the software company's Web site. Antivirus software is usually licensed for one year, with free updates. Most antivirus software can be configured to download virus definitions (or updates) automatically when the computer connects to the Internet. Students should download virus updates weekly or more frequently. Commercially available programs such as Norton Antivirus or McAfee can be configured to update virus definitions automatically at least once a week.

**ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**
Online Activity will be assigned at the direction of the instructor.

**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**
Services for Students with Disabilities (903) 886-5835
Each division within the University recognizes the needs of students with disabilities and is ready and willing to work with each student to solve problems as they arise. The Director of Disability Resources and Services is located in the Halladay Student Services Building, third floor. Services for those with disabilities are provided through the Student Support Services/Trio Program (tutoring, mobility assistants, readers, interpreters), the Counseling Center, the Communication Skills Center, the Mathematics Skills Center, and Disability Resources and Services. Students with learning disabilities must file an application during the first semester of enrollment at the university for eligibility for assignment to the Academic Support Committee. Applications are available through the Trio Program, Disability Resources and Services, and Advisement Services. Other campus services are available to the disabled through the Department of Housing, the University Police Department, the Clarence G. Allen Student Health Center, the James G. Gee Library, and the Student Recreation Center. In addition, the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and the Texas Commission for the Blind work closely with the university to offer support to students who qualify. (TAMUC, 2008-2009)

Standards of Conduct
This policy defines good standing for graduate students enrolled at Texas A&M Commerce. Entering students who have been fully admitted (without any type of probationary admission, provisional admission, or other restriction) will be considered in good standing. A student will remain in good standing if, and only if, he or she has a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 and is free of the following holds: holds indicating delinquent financial indebtedness, academic suspension, academic probation, provisional status, and disciplinary suspension. Students who are not in good standing are not eligible to graduate until good standing has been achieved. (TAMUC, 2008-2009)

Academic Honesty
Graduate students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. Faculty are expected to uphold and support student integrity and honesty by maintaining conditions that encourage and enforce academic honesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academically dishonest. “Academic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of ideas or works of another and passing them off as one’s own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments) and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. If a student is accused of academic dishonesty, the faculty member making the accusation is responsible for initiating disciplinary proceedings. The penalty assessed should be related to the severity of the infraction. If the student and faculty member agree on the penalty, assessment of the penalty concludes the disciplinary action. However, certain violations of academic honesty, such as plagiarism, infringe upon the academic community’s basic tenets of scholarly inquiry. Therefore, if a faculty member believes the infraction is severe enough to warrant further action and/or if the problem may be cumulative, occurring in other classes in which the student is enrolled, the faculty member may file a report of the infraction with the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. The student must be notified that the report has been filed with the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research to allow the student the opportunity to file a
response. If a faculty member believes the infraction is so severe that a penalty greater than failure on a project and/or course is warranted, the faculty member may recommend to the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research through the department head and academic dean that the student be suspended or expelled. If the student disagrees with the charge or level of penalty, he/she is entitled to due process in accordance with the University policy for student appeals. The appeal process for this policy is through the following channels: department head, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, and the Administration Committee of the Graduate Council, which will present its recommendation to the full Graduate Council for final disposition of the appeal. Final jurisdiction on graduate student appeals is the Graduate Council. In addition, international students must comply with current Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) regulations. (TAMUC,2008-2009)

Policy for Assignment of an Incomplete Grade
Students, who because of circumstances beyond their control are unable to attend classes during finals week or the preceding three weeks will, upon approval of their instructor, receive a mark of “X” (incomplete) in all courses in which they were maintaining passing grades. When an “X” is given for a grade in a course, the credit hours are not included for one semester (exclusive of summer) in calculating the grade point average. Grades of “X” earned during the spring or summer are to be completed by the end of the following fall semester. If the “X” is not removed by that time, the grade becomes an F, and the hours are included in the number of hours attempted. Recording a grade of “X” requires the filing of a plan for completion. The plan will be submitted with the official grade record sent to the department head who will forward it to the Dean of the College.

The plan will include why the grade was given and steps necessary for the student to receive the final grade. A grade of “IP” (in progress) will be used for courses that are scheduled over more than one semester. The grade of IP will not be computed in the grade point average and will be removed when the final grade is filed by the instructor. A grade of “I” will be given for courses in dissertation and thesis (including undergraduate honors thesis) for all registrations prior to the semester in which the final document is completed. The time limit imposed on the grade of “X” (one semester) does not apply for these courses. (TAMUC,2008-2009)
ADA Statement
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
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
Student Disability Resources & Services
Student Conduct
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).

The online course calendar begins on June 8 and ends on July 9, 2015.