INSTRUCTOR:
Dr. Lois Hogan
lois.hogan@tamuc.edu
Office hours: M & W: 12:00 – 1:00 and by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this course is to familiarize the participants with the characteristics and learning differences of students with exceptionalities. Legal mandates regarding special education will be discussed. Course participants will develop an understanding of the identification process and educational options for students with exceptionalities. Accommodations and modifications that may be considered to assist students with disabilities in general education settings will be explored.


STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES/Standard Course Objectives: Students will demonstrate understanding and apply knowledge of:
- special education terminology and definitions,
- the characteristics and needs of students with disabilities,
- diversity in students with exceptionalities,
- procedures for managing the teaching and learning environment, including procedures related to the use of assistive technology,
- the philosophical, historical, and legal foundations of special education, and
- how to communicate and collaborate effectively in a variety of professional settings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
1. Attendance and Assignments. Professional behavior includes being punctual and attending all class sessions. Activities and discussions in class will be utilized to promote understanding of course content. Students are expected to attend ALL classes. Excessive absences will result in course failure or in being dropped from class. Assignments should be typed and are due on the date indicated; late assignments will have points deducted.

2. Exams. Three exams will be given during the semester. Each will be worth 100 pts. (300 pts. total)

3. Cultural Responsiveness. Students will be provided an article and a selection of cultural stories in doc share to read. Questions will be provided to help consider and reflect on the content of the article and stories read. The assignment is to respond to multicultural discussion questions based on the story and article read and the information covered in our text. (due 7/15, 50 pts.)
4. **Misunderstood Minds Reflection.** Students are to watch a 9 part (chapters 1 - 8.1) video series titled *Misunderstood Minds* and write a $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 page reflection on the video clips. Your reflection could be about what you learned, what surprised you, or what agrees or disagrees with your experiences, etc. To find the clips go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search "Misunderstood Minds." (due 7/22, 50 pts.)

5. **Disability Project/Presentation.** Students will complete a project and develop a presentation consisting of information that is critical for teachers (or administrators or educational diagnosticians) to know concerning disabilities and strategies and techniques, including assistive technology, that typically help children experience success in educational settings. The presentation will be shared in class and a copy will be uploaded to doc-share. (due Week 5, 100 pts.)

Possible Project/Presentation topics: LD, ID, ADHD, E/BD, ASD

**GRADING:** Grades for the course will be determined using the following scale:

- **A** = 450 - 500 pts.
- **B** = 400 - 449 pts.
- **C** = 350 - 399 pts.
- **D** = 300 - 349 pts.
- **F** = below 300 pts.

**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**
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

**CONDUCT:**
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

**USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Common courtesy and professional behavior prohibit the use of electronic devices, including cell phones, during class. It is expected that all cell phones and other electronic devices 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.

PROPOSED CALENDAR:

- Week 1 - chapters 1, 2, 14, 3, 4
- Week 2 - exam 1; chapters 5, 6, 7
- Week 3 - chapters 8, 12, quiz 2
- Week 4 - chapters 9, 10, 11, 13, quiz 3
- Week 5 - presentations