



**EDU203 Introduction to Special Education  
Spring 2012 Syllabus**

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Start date: 03/26/2012		End date: 05/16/2012
Venue: WNC Fallon, Room TBA Time: Monday & Wednesday 5:30PM - 6:45PM		
<p>This is a fast pace, highly intensive, eight-week, three credit course. To successfully complete this course you must have access to a computer and the internet. The WNC Libraries have computers and internet access available for WNC student use. This course uses the traditional classroom and the Moodle 2.X Learning Management System (LMS). You are strongly encouraged to visit the <a href="#">WNC Moodle Student Resources</a> site to understand the mechanics of the Moodle LMS prior to the course start date. You are responsible for activating your online Moodle component prior to our first classroom session. Although this course starts 5:30PM Monday 03/26/2012 the online Moodle component access commences 8AM Monday 01/23/2012 via the <a href="#">WNC Online</a> (E-Learning) venue for course review.</p> <p>Course prerequisites none. However, to succeed in this course, you must have course linkage skills; such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Informational technology skills, including computer skills, beyond the basic level;</li> <li>✓ College skills in reading, writing, and verbal communications;</li> <li>✓ Critical thinking skills.</li> </ul>		
WNC Fallon	Office: VGH 318	Office Hours: By Appointment

**Transferability within the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE).** This course is designed to apply toward a WNC degree and/or transfer to other schools within the Nevada System of Higher Education, depending on the degree chosen and other courses completed. It may transfer to colleges and universities outside Nevada. For information about how this course can transfer and apply to your program of study, please contact a counselor.

**Course Description per the WNC catalog.** Surveys the various types of exceptionalities. Emphasizes etiology, physical and educational characteristics.

**Course Objectives per the WNC catalog.** This course serves as an introduction to special education and public school students with special needs. Students examine the social forces involved in the inclusion of such students in the regular classroom, thus impacting the classroom teacher, the other students, the family, and the community. This course is also intended to help students understand the laws and court cases affecting special education as well as the range of special education services inside and outside the school. This course gives both prospective special education teachers and regular classroom teachers a contextual base from which to serve exceptional students and families more effectively.

**Textbook.** *Characteristics of and Strategies for Teaching Students with Mild Disabilities, Sixth Edition.* Martin Henley, Roberta S. Ramsey, & Robert F. Algozzine. Published 2008. Allyn & Bacon. ISBN-13: 978-0205608386; ISBN-10: 0205608388. The textbook is available at the WNC Bookstores and via the WNC [online](#) bookstore.

**Other Material.** Access to a scanner to copy/convert documents into Adobe PDF files. The WNC Libraries have scanners for WNC student use.

**Course Organization.** This course includes: classroom lectures, classroom discussions, classroom participation both individual and group, quizzes, projects to be completed outside of class, and an ***in-class final based upon the classroom lectures***. The in-class final will be taken on the last day of class, Wednesday 05/16/2012. The course schedule table outlines the course structure.

Course Schedule Table			
WK	Date	Classroom Activity	Quiz Textbook Readings
01	03/26/12 & 03/28/11	Lectures & Discussions	
02	04/02/12 & 04/04/12	Lectures & Discussions	
03	04/09/12 & 04/11/12	Lectures & Discussions Simulation 1 on Monday/Quiz 1 on Wednesday	Chapters 02 & 03
04	04/16/12 & 04/18/12	Lectures & Discussions Simulation 2 on Monday/Quiz 2 on Wednesday	Chapters 04 & 05
05	04/23/12 & 04/25/12	Lectures & Discussions Simulation 3 on Monday/Quiz 3 on Wednesday	Chapters 06 & 07
06	04/30/12 & 05/02/12	Lectures & Discussions Simulation 4 on Monday/Quiz 4 on Wednesday	Chapters 08 & 09
07	05/07/12 & 05/09/12	Lectures & Discussions Simulation 5 on Monday/Quiz 5 on Wednesday	Chapters 10 & 11
08	05/14/12 & 05/16/12	Practicum/Field Experience due NLT 5:30PM Monday 05/14/2012 Simulation 6 on Monday - Course review on Monday In-class final on Wednesday	

**Class Attendance.** This is a fast-pace, intensive, eight-week course rather than a traditional 16-week course. Therefore, you must attend classes and you must participate in classroom activities. There are 16 class meetings. Missed classes and/or lack of participation will result in points being deducted. Students who miss four or more classes will be officially withdrawn from the class and receive a “W” for grade.

**Class Conduct.** Disruptive behavior which includes but is not limited to eating during class, coming to class late, leaving class early, and side conversations, will be cause for reduction in grade points. One warning will be issued and then the second warning will warrant point removal. For further information about WNC student conduct you are strongly encouraged to review [WNC Policy 3-4-4](#).

**Practicum/Field Experience.** *To pass the class you are required to complete a mandatory ten hour practicum/field experience module in an elementary or an early childhood classroom.* A minimum of two hours must be in a self-contained special needs classroom. The other eight hours may be in a general classroom *that includes students with disabilities*. You may choose to do all the ten hours in a self-contained special needs classroom. This is a Nevada Department of Education requirement. The public elementary classroom teacher(s) will validate your practicum/field experience module and complete an evaluation form at the conclusion of the practicum/field experience module. The evaluation will provide feedback about your professional conduct and attitude while in the classroom. This evaluation will become a part of your Teacher Education portfolio. Instructions, procedures, and protocols are posted on the WNC Online EDU203 homepage on how to do this project.

**Simulation.** Students will simulate an experience with a disability in order to “walk a mile” in someone else’s shoes. This is an in-class simulation module. You will involve the entire class or have your fellow classmates experience your simulation one at a time. Depending on class size, the class will be divided into either two or three student member teams to design, and implement a classroom simulation. Simulations will be performed once a week at the beginning of the class— starting Monday of Week 3. Time limit 20 to 30 minutes. Instructions, procedures, and protocols are posted on the WNC Online EDU203 homepage on how to do this project.

**Quiz Composition/Management.** This is a group project module. Students will be assigned to groups. Each group will develop an objective quiz from specific textbook chapters. On the assigned due date, the applicable group will conduct a “classroom testing session” by having their fellow students, not in the applicable group, take the quiz for grade. The objectives of the Quiz Composition/Management project are for students to gain experience in developing testing materials and to learn practical classroom management techniques. The objective of the quizzes is to validate that students have read and understand the textbook readings. Instructions, procedures, and protocols are posted on the WNC Online EDU203 homepage on how to do this project.

**Points to Grades.** Classroom activities and modules have point values. The maximum points for the class are 650. A missed due date for any classroom activity and/or module results in zero points for that (applicable) activity and/or module. There are no make-ups. There is no extra credit.

Activity - Module	Points	Total	%
Class Attendance/Participation (Class 1 – 15 graded)	15 classes @ 10 points per class	150	23.0%
Quiz Composition/Management	1 QCM @ 100 points	100	15.4%
Quiz	5 quizzes @ 20 point per quiz	100	15.4%
Practicum/Field Experience	10 hours @ 10 points per hour	100	15.4%
Simulation	1 Simulation @ 100 points	100	15.4%
In-Class Final Based Upon Class Lectures	1 In-Class Final Exam @ 100 points	100	15.4%

Total Points to Letter Grade Scale		
	A (93%) = 650 - 604	A- (90%) = 603 – 585
B+ (87%) = 584 – 565	B (83%) = 564 – 539	B- (80%) = 538 – 520
C+ (77%) = 519 – 500	C (73%) = 499 – 474	C- (70%) = 473 – 455
D+ (67%) = 454 – 435	D (63%) = 434 – 409	D- (60%) = 408 – 390
F = 389 and below. F for academic dishonesty.		
Review the WNC Policy on Academic Integrity for what is " <a href="#">academic dishonesty</a> ".		
W = Official Withdrawal [Must be initiated by student. Professor may initiate on last day of course for failing student(s).]		

**Disability Support Services.** If you have a disability for which you will need to request an accommodation please contact the WNC Disability Support Services office (WNC Carson City Bristlecone building, Room 103) at (775) 445-3266 or (775) 445-3275 as soon as possible to arrange for the appropriate accommodation.

**Communications Protocols.** Outside of classroom hours, if you need to contact me please phone my WNC Fallon campus number (775-423-7565 X2262) or email me at my WNC email address ([blacks@wnc.edu](mailto:blacks@wnc.edu)). I will respond to you, by the same venue, within 24 to 36 hours except weekends. I will respond to communications sent to me on weekends (voice mail – email) either on the upcoming Monday, or Tuesday, at the latest.