

## Course Syllabus

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|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Course:</b>       | <b>EDZU 9819 <u>Understanding Learning Disabilities</u></b> |
| <b>Credit Hours:</b> | 3.0 credits / 45 hours                                      |
| <b>Instructor:</b>   | Andrea Kempster                                             |

### Course Description

This course will provide all educators with an understanding of and successful strategies for working with the learning disabled student. Symptoms, types of learning disabilities, evaluation, classification, and methods of instruction are just a few of the areas covered in the course. It is a must for any educator who comes in contact with learning disabled students. (K-12)

### Course Goals

#### To Know

1. types of learning disabilities and their symptoms.
2. who can diagnose LDs and/or AD/HD.
3. what Response to Intervention (RTI) is and the role it plays in working with students with learning disabilities.
4. accommodations and modifications available for the LD student.

#### To Understand

1. how learning disabilities are diagnosed.
2. how and why Response to Intervention helps students with learning disabilities succeed academically.
3. how the special education process works to protect the rights of students with special learning needs.

#### and To Be Able To

1. assist in the identification of learning disabilities.
2. use Response to Intervention as a pre-referral intervention.
3. apply modifications, accommodations, and strategies for students with learning disabilities into their daily lessons, classroom management systems, etc.
4. assist parents with information regarding strategies that could be used at home with their learning disabled child.

## Course Outline:

- I. What is a Learning Disability?
  - a. Symptoms of learning disabilities
  - b. Learning Disabilities: signs, symptoms, and strategies
- II. Types of Learning Disabilities
  - a. General information about Learning Disabilities - input, integration, memory, output
  - b. Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dysgraphia, Dyspraxia,
  - c. Processing disabilities - CAPD
  - d. Nonverbal learning disabilities
  - e. Language Disorders
  - f. AD/HD - Is it considered a learning disability
- III. Who can Diagnose LD and/or AD/HD
  - a. Diagnosis of LD
- IV. The Special Education Process
  - a. Stages of the assessment process
  - b. 504
  - c. IDEA
- V. Helping Parents Deal with the Fact that Their Child has a Disability
  - a. Successful strategies for parents
  - b. Targeting home
- VI. Response to Intervention (RTI)
  - a. Three stages of RTI
  - b. Research based interventions
- VII. Successful Strategies for Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities
  - a. Checklists for teachers
  - b. Accommodations/Strategies for students with learning disabilities
  - c. Differentiated instruction
  - d. Cooperative/Collaborative Learning

## Methods of Instruction

Teachers enrolled in this course will evaluate primary and secondary sources. They will communicate with other teachers around the state and country to share success stories and gain insights into best practices in instruction. They will complete assignments that assess their understanding of the assigned readings.

*Students will connect with each other throughout the course within forums and various other types of online feedback options built into each class.*

## Methods of Assessment

*In order to earn an A in class, a student must complete all of the assigned readings and assignments, participate in all discussion forums, and compete all assigned tasks.*

*In order to earn a B in class, a student must complete all of the assigned readings and assignments, participate in all discussion forums, and complete two graduate level papers.*

*Instructors are online each day of the course and correspond with students through the course itself, feedback on assignments, e-mail, and by phone.*

### **Time Validation**

| <b>Assignment</b>                                                     | <b>Time<br/>(in hours)</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Assignment 01 - Bio - 1.0 hour</b>                                 | 1.00                       |
| <b>Assignment 02 - Defining a Learning Disability - 2.5 hours</b>     | 2.50                       |
| <b>Assignment 03 - Close Completion - 2.5 hours</b>                   | 2.50                       |
| <b>Assignment 04 - Different Types of Disabilities - 2.0 hours</b>    | 2.00                       |
| <b>Assignment 05 - AD/HD - 2.5 hours</b>                              | 2.50                       |
| <b>Assignment 06 - Processing Deficits - 2.0 hours</b>                | 2.00                       |
| <b>Assignment 07 - Nonverbal Learning Disability - 2.0 hours</b>      | 2.00                       |
| <b>Assignment 08 - CSE Process - 3.0 hours</b>                        | 3.00                       |
| <b>Assignment 09 - Stages of Adjustment - 2.0 hours</b>               | 2.00                       |
| <b>Assignment 10 - Tip Sheet - 2.0 hours</b>                          | 2.00                       |
| <b>Assignment 11 - RTI - 3.0 hours</b>                                | 3.00                       |
| <b>Assignment 12 - 504 vs. IDEA - 3.0 hours</b>                       | 3.00                       |
| <b>Assignment 13 - Strategies and Accommodations - 2.0 hours</b>      | 2.00                       |
| <b>Assignment 14 - Differentiated Instruction - 3.0 hours</b>         | 3.00                       |
| <b>Assignment 15 - Cooperative/Collaborative Learning - 3.0 hours</b> | 3.00                       |
| <b>Assignment 16 - Final Project - 5.0 hours</b>                      | 5.00                       |
| <b>Dyslexia Quiz - 2.0 hours</b>                                      | 2.00                       |
| <b>Forum - Strategies - 0.5 hour</b>                                  | 0.50                       |
| <b>Forum - Inclusion vs. Small Class - 0.5 hour</b>                   | 0.50                       |
| <b>Forum - Stages of Adjustment - 0.5 hour</b>                        | 0.50                       |
| <b>Forum - Research Based Interventions - 0.5 hour</b>                | 0.50                       |
| <b>Forum - Situation - 0.5 hour</b>                                   | 0.50                       |
| <b>Total Time</b>                                                     | <b>45.00</b>               |