

PS 405/ED 645**Working with Exceptional Children**

Semester: Spring, 2015
Dates: May 19-23, 2015
Days: 9am till 4pm
Room: TBD

Number of credits: 4

Prerequisite:

Instructor: Alma Fourie
Email: fouriealma@yahoo.com
Phone: 403-827-3226

Course Description:

This course will focus on the characteristics and presentation of different types of special needs children. Appropriate practices and techniques for working with individual children's needs will be explored. Other topics include, working with the family and advocacy for services. There will be the opportunity to apply learning within your area of practice.

Further Course Information:

The different types of special needs children, will be covered under:

Definition and classification; characteristics and presentation; education; advocacy; spirituality; attitude towards special needs; inclusion; working with the family; practices and techniques.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

It is the aim of the course that students acquire the following skills:

1. Develop a better understanding of different types of special needs children.
2. Develop skills in working with different types of special needs children.
3. Develop skills in advocating for the different types of special needs children.

Important Dates:

First day of classes: 19 May 2015
Last day of classes: 23 May 2015

Final Exam: There is no final exam. Grading is based on assignments and class participation.

Outline:

The following topics will be covered:

Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Spina Bifida, ADHD, Autism, Asperger's, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Students who are at risk.

Requirements:

Class attendance and participation = 20%

Students are expected to attend each class meeting and to arrive on time to class. Attendance is required because students' understanding and integration of the material occurs during class sessions. It is also expected of students to participate in individual as well as group experiential activities.

Classroom Etiquette:

It is expected that professors will come to each class well read and prepared to engage students on the topic at hand, giving students the utmost attention and respect. In turn, it is expected that students will take an active role in the learning process. This includes: (a) regular class attendance, (b) reading course material in advance of class, (c) showing up to class on time, and (d) attentively and proactively being "present" at class (i.e., not on the internet, not texting, not conversing with the person beside you). Committing to this type of "active learning" significantly increases the learning experience for both teacher and student, and reflects the Christian ethos of excellence and respect that lies at the heart of the Ambrose educational experience.

Assignments (2 Assignments x 40% each)

It is expected that you will use your handouts and other resources to assist you in completing these assignments. Students are expected to hand in completed assignments on the day they are due.

Assignment I (40%)

Information Package:

Choose one exceptionality of interest to explore and locate resources and services. Describe the services and outline the components offered. Include any forms, information pamphlets, handouts, list of training and workshops, accessible funding sources and other family or in-home support available, as well as any other relevant component. Also, include information specifically pertinent to your area of practice if any.

- Due date: Monday 15 June 2015

Assignment II (40%)

Application Paper:

Choose one exceptionality of interest and apply to your preferred area of practice. Provide an overview of the nature of the exceptionality, the challenges within your setting, practices and techniques that could be incorporated to enhance involvement and learning. Make sure to consider all components of your chosen setting.

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- Due date: Monday 15 June 2015

Examinations

There is no final examination. Grading is based on class attendance and participation, supervision as well as assignments.

Submission of Assignments:

Assignments should be submitted in paper copy on due date as determined.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend each class meeting and to arrive on time to class. Learning is an active and interactive process, a joint venture between student and teacher and between student and student (i.e., learning is not just “downloading” information from teacher to student). Therefore, it is expected that professors will come to each class well read and prepared to engage students on the topic at hand, giving students the utmost attention and respect. In turn, it is expected that students will take an active role in the learning process. This includes: (a) regular class attendance, (b) reading course material in advance of class, (c) showing up to class on time, and (d) attentively and proactively being “present” at class (i.e., not on the internet, not texting, not conversing with the person beside you). Committing to this type of "active learning" significantly increases the learning experience for both teacher and student, and reflects the Christian ethos of excellence and respect that lies at the heart of the Ambrose educational experience

Evaluation:

Class attendance and participation = 20%

Assignment I = 40%

Assignment II – 40%

Grade Summary:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Grade Point Weights</u>
96-100	A+		4.00
91-95	A	Excellent	4.00
86-90	A-		3.70
82-85	B+		3.30
75-81	B	Good	3.00
72-74	B-		2.70
68-71	C+	Satisfactory	2.30
63-67	C		2.00
60-62	C-		1.70
56-59	D+	Poor	1.30
50-55	D	Minimal Pass	1.00
0-49	F	Failure	0.00

Textbooks:

There is no textbook

Policies:

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (Cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, it is highly recommended that they forward all messages from the Ambrose account to the other account.

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may to enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty. These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a Request to Withdraw from a Course by the **Withdrawal Deadline**, please consult the List of Important Dates. Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. A grade of "W" will appear on the student's transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a **Revised Examination** Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to engage in electronically-enabled activities unrelated to the class during a class session. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Please do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "**Course Extension**" from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control".

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Other

Any added features in the syllabus are optional. You may or may not wish to include elements such as a bibliography, reading list, schedule of lectures/topics, or reporting form.