

MORAVIAN COLLEGE
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

INCLUDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Educ. 244

Fall Term 2012

Mrs. Camie Modjadidi

PPHAC 323

Home Phone: 610-866-8475

Office Phone: 610-861-1473

E-mail: mecam01@moravian.edu

Prerequisite: 2.7 overall grade point average required

I am available to meet with you by appointment. Please contact me to make arrangements.

I have come to the frightening conclusion. I am the decisive element in the classroom. It is my personal approach that creates the climate. It is my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher I possess tremendous power to make a child's life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or deescalated, and a child humanized or dehumanized.

Between Teacher and Child

Dr. Hiam Ginott

All children can learn. It is where the student enters, the size of the learning set and the pace of instruction which varies and must be adjusted to form an instructional match for the student.

Basic Principle of the Instructional Support Process

Including Students with Disabilities will use the seminar format. The purpose of the course is to familiarize students with special education laws, state and federal definitions, best teaching practices, inclusionary practices, ethical issues, and current topics regarding special education services as they relate to students with disabilities, their families, and general education.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will identify and use special education terminology in class discussions and written assignments.
2. Students will identify and explain recognized exceptionalities, assessment techniques, referral procedures, identification criteria, and delivery formats.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the legal and ethical issues regarding special education in relationship to their roles as general education teachers.
4. Students will identify issues pertaining to current trends, best practices, and inclusionary practices as they relate to general education and special education.
5. Students will identify and reflect on their belief systems regarding special education issues and their teaching practices.

6. Students will demonstrate their understanding of special education issues in their written work and by active participation in class discussions and activities.
7. Students will demonstrate their understanding of their roles in assessing and teaching diverse learners in their written work and by active participation in class discussions and activities.

Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Competencies that address the academic needs and adaptations for Students with Disabilities in an Inclusive Setting discussed in this course are:

I. Types of Disabilities and Implications for Learning

Candidates will be able to:

- A. Demonstrate an understanding of and ability to plan for: type, identification and characteristics of different types of disabilities, as well as effective, evidence-based instructional practices and adaptations.
- B. Demonstrate an understanding of the legal rights and responsibilities of the teacher related to special education referral and evaluation and the rights and procedural safeguards that students are guaranteed.
- C. Demonstrate an understanding of possible causes and implications of over-representation of minorities in special education to avoid misinterpretation of behaviors that represent cultural, linguistic differences as indicative of learning problems.

II. Cognitive Skill Development to Ensure Achievement of Students with Disabilities in Standards Aligned System to include All School Environments

- A. Cognitive—Delineate how individuals acquire and process information.
- B. Physical—Recognize patterns of typical physical developmental milestones and how patterns of students with disabilities may be different, and plan effectively for possible accommodations and/or modifications which may be necessary to implement effective instructional practices.
- C. Social—Initiate, maintain and manage positive social relationships with a range of people in a range of contexts.
- D. Behavioral—Recognize patterns of typical behavioral milestones and how patterns of students with disabilities may be different, and plan effectively for positive teaching of appropriate behaviors that facilitate learning.
- E. Language—Apply reading predictors, analyzing the effect of individual differences in specific perceptual, linguistic, and cognitive skills and how they affect a child's ability to read.
- F. Positive Environments for Learning for Students with Disabilities
- G. Collaboration and Communication

III. Assessments

Candidates will be able to:

- A. Identify, administer, interpret, and plan instruction based on each of the following assessment components in a standards aligned system.
 1. **Authentic** – A form of assessment in which, students are asked to perform real-world tasks that demonstrate meaningful application of essential knowledge and skills. The assessment usually includes a task for students to perform, and a rubric is used to evaluate their performance.
 2. **Screening**- Screening assessments are used to determine which students may be at risk. Poor performance on the screening assessment identifies those students needing additional, in-depth

assessment of strengths and weaknesses. The primary purpose of screening assessments is to identify children early who need additional instructional (or behavioral) intervention. An essential element of using a screening assessment is implementing additional identified intervention(s) (instructional, behavioral, or medical).

3. **Diagnostic** – The purpose of diagnostic assessments is to ascertain, prior to instruction, each student's strengths, weaknesses, knowledge, and skills. Using diagnostic assessments enable the instructor to remediate students and adjust the curriculum to meet each pupil's unique needs. (Examples of diagnostic assessments are: DRA's; Running Records; GRADE; GMADE)

4. **Formative**- Pennsylvania defines formative assessments are classroom based assessments that allow teachers to monitor and adjust their instructional practice in order to meet the individual needs of their students. Formative assessments can consist of formal instruments or informal observations. The key is how the results are used. Results should be used to shape teaching and learning. Black and William (1998) define formative assessments broadly to include instructional formats that teachers utilize in order to get information that are used diagnostically to alter instructional practices and have a direct impact on student learning and achievement. Under this definition, formative assessment encompasses questioning strategies, active engagement check-ins (such as response cards, white boards, random selection, think-pair-share, popsicle sticks for open-ended questions, and numbered heads), and analysis of student work based on set rubrics and standards including homework and tests.

Assessments are formative when the information is used to adapt instructional practices to meet individual student needs as well as to provide individual students corrective feedback that allows them to "reach" set goals and targets. Ongoing formative assessment is an integral part of effective instructional routines that provide teachers with the information they need to differentiate and make adjustments to instructional practice in order to meet the needs of individual students. When teachers know how students are progressing and where they are having trouble, they can use this information to make necessary instructional adjustments, such as re-teaching, trying alternative instructional approaches, or offering more opportunities for practice. The use of ongoing formative classroom assessment data is an imperative. Effective teachers seamlessly integrate formative assessment strategies into their daily instructional routines.

5. **Benchmark** – Assessments that are designed to provide feedback to both the teacher and the student about how the student is progressing towards demonstrating proficiency on grade level standards. Well-designed benchmark assessments and standards-based assessments: measure the degree to which students have mastered a given concept; measure concepts, skills, and/or applications; are reported by referencing the standards, not other students' performance; serve as a test to which teachers want to teach; measure performance regularly, not only at a single moment in time. (Examples of benchmark assessments are: 4Sight, Riverside 9-12, DIBELS)

6. **Summative** –Summative Assessments seek to make an overall judgment of progress at the end of a defined period of instruction. Often the summative assessment occurs at the end of a school level, grade, or course, or is administered at certain grades for purposes of state or local accountability. Summative assessments are considered high-stakes assessments and the results are often used in conjunction with the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). They are designed to produce clear data on the student's accomplishments at key points in his or her academic career. Performance on these assessments are often part of the student's permanent record and serve as an indication of overall performance on a set of standards. Results from summative assessments are of interest to parents, faculty, administration, the press, and the public. The data from summative assessments are the basis of accountability systems. (Examples of summative assessment: PSSA; Terra Nova)

B. Demonstrate an understanding of the types of assessments used (e.g., screening, diagnostic, formative, summative) and the purpose of each assessment in a data-based decision making process.

C. Demonstrate the use of formal and informal assessment data for instructional, behavioral, and possible eligibility for special education based on the type of assessment, level of the students being assessed, and the purpose of and the quality of instruction.

D. Demonstrate an understanding of the multi-disciplinary evaluation process and an ability to articulate the findings presented in an evaluation report including grade-level equivalents, percentile rank, standard scores, and stanines.

E. Demonstrate an understanding of the components of the Individualized Education Plan

(IEP) process, with emphasis on understanding measurable goals based on present levels, specially designed instruction, adaptations, accommodations, supplementary aids and services, and supports for school personnel.

F. Articulate differences between achievement tests, aptitude tests, and observational data used in special education placement decisions.

G. Create an instructional plan using assessment information related to individual student achievement.

H. Analyze and interpret formative assessment (e.g. Curriculum based assessment, CBA).

I. Demonstrate an understanding of the purpose and intent of standardized assessments and progress monitoring as one of the multiple indicators used in overall student evaluation.

J. Systematically monitor student performance to identify areas of need.

K. Use evaluative data on an individual, class and district level to identify and implement instructional and/or programmatic revisions for quality improvement.

L. Demonstrate an understanding of legally acceptable modifications and accommodations for assessment for students with disabilities.

M. Demonstrate an understanding of ethical practice for assessment.

N. Recognized the need to consult with multi-disciplinary team when cultural, economic, or linguistic differences are present in order to avoid biased assessment.

IV. Literacy Development and Instruction in Core and Intervention Areas

Candidates will be able to:

A. Demonstrate an ability to match instructional research-validated literacy interventions to identified student needs.

B. Demonstrate a conceptual understanding of the components of reading and describe how these areas pose challenges for students with disabilities:

Phonological Awareness & Phonics Fluency Vocabulary Comprehension

Language

Word Study (investigate & understand the patterns in words)

C. Demonstrate an ability to review and evaluate literacy programs for purpose, quality, effectiveness, and research-base and show knowledge of commonly available programs.

D. Identify evidence-based instructional practices to be used with students with disabilities in the area of literacy.

E. Demonstrate an understanding of the evidence-based connection between literacy and behavior.

F. Demonstrate a conceptual understanding of the components of writing and describe how these areas pose challenges for students with disabilities: Text production Spelling

Composition for different types of writing

G. Clearly articulate and model the use of explicit and systematic instruction in the teaching of literacy (reading and writing) for students with disabilities across all reading levels.

H. Clearly articulate and model the use of explicit and systematic instruction in the teaching

of content area literacy for all students with disabilities across all reading levels.

I. Demonstrate instructional strategies to enhance comprehension of material.

- J. Demonstrate an understanding of the challenges that students with specific disabilities face in content area literacy.
- K. Assess the readability of content area reading materials.
- L. Demonstrate the ability to adapt content area material to the student's instructional level.
- M. Utilize assessment tools with appropriate accommodations in the area of literacy to identify effectiveness of the standards based curriculum (core literacy program for students with disabilities).
- N. Establish and maintain progress monitoring practices aligned with the identified needs of each student to adjust instruction and provide rigor in the area of literacy for students with disabilities.
- O. Establish and maintain progress monitoring practices within the content area aligned with the identified needs of each student to adjust instruction and provide rigor in the area of literacy for all students with disabilities.

V. Effective Instructional Strategies for Students with Disabilities in Inclusive Settings

Candidates will be able to:

- A. Identify effective instructional strategies to address areas of need.
- B. Scaffold instruction to maximize instructional access to all students.
- C. Monitor student progress to provide mediated scaffolding and increase academic rigor when appropriate.
- D. Provide feedback to students at all levels to increase awareness in areas of strength, as well as areas of concern.
- E. Strategically align standard based curriculum with effective instructional practices.
- F. Identify and implement instructional adaptations based on evidence-based practices (demonstrated to be effective with students with disabilities) to provide curriculum content using a variety of methods without compromising curriculum intent.
- G. Analyze performance of all learners and make appropriate modifications.
- H. Design and implement programs that reflect knowledge, awareness and responsiveness to diverse needs of students with disabilities.
- I. Use research supported methods for academic and non-academic instruction for students with disabilities.
- J. Develop and implement universally designed instruction.
- K. Demonstrate an understanding of the range and the appropriate use of assistive technology (i.e., no tech, low tech, high tech).
- L. Demonstrate efficient differentiated instruction and an understanding of efficient planning, coordination and delivery for effective instruction required for inclusive settings.

REQUIRED TEXT

Vaughn, S., Bos, C. S., & Schumm, J. S. (2011). *Teaching students who are exceptional, diverse, and at risk in the general education classroom (5th edition)*. Boston: Pearson.

Additional readings will be distributed during class.

The PA. Dept. of Education Standards Aligned System website is an essential reference source.



<http://www.pdesas.org/>

PA Dept. of Education Standards Aligned System

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Attendance and active participation in all classes:

Attendance will be taken in class. Since the seminar format will be used, attendance and **active** class participation are essential. Behaviors that indicate active participation include, but are not limited to, insightful answers that relate to the reading materials, thought-provoking questions, and meaningful participation in class activities and discussions. Respectful and professional behavior is expected at all times.

Students are expected to come to every class on time, remain for the entire class, and be well prepared to discuss the outlined topics. If you are absent for any reason, it is your responsibility to obtain all material distributed in class, to hand in any assignment due that day by 7:30 a.m., and to contact me prior to class with the reason for your absence. Excused absences include illness or personal emergency. Absence due to illness will be excused only with written documentation of treatment for an illness from a healing practitioner. Absence due to a personal emergency will be excused only with written documentation from the Learning and Counseling Center or other appropriate professionals. Absence for reasons other than illness or personal emergency will be considered unexcused unless I have given special permission prior to the absence. Unexcused absences will result in a reduction of the final grade by one grade per absence (A to A-). More than two unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course. More than three absences will result in a reduction of your final grade by one grade per absence (A to A-).

All reading assignments must be completed prior to the designated class. Issues regarding special education are often technical and may be confusing. I welcome questions and look forward to discussions regarding areas of concern and/or interest. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Cell phones must be turned off during class. For emergency situations, students may ask my permission to put the cell phone on vibrate. Texting is not permitted during class. Laptops may be used in class for coursework purposes only and with my permission. Inappropriate use of cell phones and/or laptops during this course will result in a reduction of the final grade by one grade per incident (A to A-) and may result in a failing grade.

2. Response Essays: 30 points/5 points each

The essay is designed to give students an opportunity to thoughtfully respond to the readings and class discussions as well as to share personal insights and/or questions. Each essay must be 2-3 pages in length, word processed using 12-point print, double-spaced, dated and have the essay question at the top of the first page. At least three references (the text, class discussions, or supplemental materials) are required for each essay. The text must be a reference.

Due: 9/6, 9/20, 10/4, 10/23, 11/1 & 11/15

3. Two contacts with people involved with special education: 30 points/15 points each

This activity is meant to give students the opportunity to interview two people who have personal experiences, commitment, and investment in the special education field. This may include individuals with disabilities, family members of individuals with disabilities, teachers, administrators, or specialists. After each interview students will write a reflective essay using this format:

- **Rationale for your choice:** Reasons for your decision to interview this individual are presented in this section.
 - **Relevant information about the interviewee:** Background information on the individual as well as any information pertinent to the situation is included in this section. Please ask the individual if you may use his/her name. If your interviewee wishes to remain anonymous, please honor that request. Also be aware of all privacy issues. Assure the individual that any information given is held in complete confidence.
 - **Your questions:** Approximately 5 questions should be prepared prior to your interview. Often additional questions will be generated during the actual interview. **Two required questions are:**
 1. **What is your belief system concerning inclusionary practices? Please explain.**
 2. **What has been your experience in the development of Individualized Education Programs (IEP) and Section 504 Plans ?**
 - **Responses to your questions:** Responses do not have to be verbatim. They may be accurately paraphrased. The response is to follow the specific question.
 - **Your observations and reactions in relationship to your belief systems and future teaching practices.** Insightful reflection and meaningful connections to the reading materials and class discussions **must** be clearly evident in this critical section of the paper. At least three references (the text, class discussions, or supplemental materials) are required for each interview. The text must be a reference. Each interview must be 4 to 5 pages in length, word processed using 12-point print, double-spaced, and dated. If you need assistance in arranging these contacts, please see me **immediately**.
- Due: 10/11 & 11/8**

4. Article Review: 10 points

This activity is meant to give students an opportunity to research a topic of interest related to their specific certification areas and to share insights with their colleagues. The presentation is to be 10 minutes in length and must include a handout that is meaningful to their colleagues. A written review of the article is to be turned in after the presentation. The written review must be at least 1 page in length, word-processed using 12-point print, double-spaced and dated. A copy of the article must be included. Students will work in pairs for this assignment.

Due: Presentation dates will be arranged.

5. Strategies Presentation: 10 points

This activity is meant to give students an opportunity to investigate and present two strategies that would be appropriate to implement in your certification area. Students will work in pairs. The presentation will be 15 minutes in length. A one page summary of each strategy will be distributed to your colleagues at the time of your presentation. The summary must include a description of the strategy, grade level range, subject area and rationale for your choice. It must be word processed using 12-point print, double-spaced, and dated.

Due: Presentation dates will be arranged.

6. Final Project: 20 points

In the spirit of allowing students to demonstrate their newly constructed understanding and knowledge through differentiated assessment techniques, students may choose one of the activities listed below as a culminating project or may discuss additional ideas with me. The project is meant to give students an opportunity to reflect on their experiences in this class, address areas in which they feel they have grown as pre-service teachers, consider issues which require further personal research, and contemplate their belief systems in relationship to teaching diverse learners. Students may complete this project individually or with a partner. At least three references (the text, class discussions, or supplemental materials) are required for the chosen project. The text must be a reference.

Below are some suggestions for your consideration.

- Multi-media presentation: The presentation is to be 10 minutes in length and include an appropriate handout that is helpful to your colleagues. A summary is to be handed in at the time of the presentation. This summary is to be at least 1 page in length, word-processed using 12-point print, double-spaced, and dated.
- Written paper: This paper is to be at least 5 pages in length, word-processed using 12-point print, double-spaced, and dated.

Performance: The performance may be a song, play, poem, etc. It is to be 10 minutes in length and include an appropriate handout that is helpful to your colleagues. A summary is to be handed in at the time of the presentation. The summary is to be at least 1 page in length, word-processed using 12-point print, double-spaced, and dated.

Due: by 12/6

All assignments must be original work, well organized, thoughtful in nature, and coherently presented. The use of correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar is expected in all written assignments. APA format is required. List PDE Competencies for Accommodations and Adaptations for Students with Disabilities in an Inclusive setting that are addressed in each assignment. The competencies may be noted within the body of your work or at the end in list form.

Assignments are due by the end of the designated class unless you are absent from class in which case the assignment is due that day by 7:30 a.m. All work is to be kept in a folder and will be collected.

Work handed in late will result in a reduction of your grade by one point per day (A to A-).

The syllabus is subject to change. If this should occur, students will be informed during class.

EVALUATION POLICY

Your performance in all areas will be graded in accordance with Moravian College's standards of academic achievement. As stated in the Student Handbook, the grades of A and A- "are given for achievement of the highest caliber. They reflect independent work, original thinking, and the ability to acquire and effectively use knowledge." Please refer to the Student Handbook for further clarification. It is the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment and for the course. Students can expect to work 4 to 6 hours per week outside of class preparing for this course. If you have any questions concerning your grades, please see me immediately.

Grade Conversions:

94 - 100 = A	74 - 76 = C
90 - 93 = A-	70 - 73 = C-
87 - 89 = B+	67 - 69 = D+
84 - 86 = B	64 - 66 = D
80 - 83 = B-	60 - 63 = D-
77 - 79 = C+	0 - 59 = F

Accommodation:

Day students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main Street, or by calling 610-861-1510. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Comenius Center students who wish to disclose a disability and request accommodations for this course must contact the Dean of the Comenius Center, (extension 1400).

Students are encouraged to contact the appropriate individual as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Accommodations cannot be provided until the instructor has received appropriate authorization.

Academic Honesty:

The Moravian College policy on academic honesty will be followed. Please refer to the Student Handbook located at:

<http://www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/academic/academic2.html>