**Auburn University**

**Course Syllabus**

**Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling**

# **Basic Course Info**

**1. Course Number:** RSED 3000, Spring 2025

**Course Title**: Diversity and Exceptionality of Learners

**Credit Hours**: 3 semester hours

**Prerequisites:** majoring in education

**Co-requisites:**  none

**Instructor:** Ms. Elizabeth Danson

**Office Address: Zoom by Appointment**

**Email Address: emd0009@auburn.edu**

**Office Hours: Zoom – by Appointment**

**2. Term:** Spring 2025

**Day/Time:** Monday, 5-7:30 p.m. HC 3174

**Date Syllabus Prepared**: Updated December 2024

**3. TEXTBOOK:**

Required: Available on ALL ACCESS through Auburn University Bookstore.

Houchins, et al. (2023). Special Education for All Teachers (8th edition). Kendall Hunt Publishing.

**4. COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Exploration of philosophical, social, cultural, and individual factors that have shaped the civil rights of and education for individuals with disability; examination of educational experiences of diverse learners and teachers’ roles and responsibilities with respect to teaching all students in inclusive classrooms.

**5. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1.1.1 Understand how language, culture, and family background influence the learning of individuals with exceptionalities.

1.1.2 Use understanding of development and individual differences to respond to the needs of individuals with exceptionalities.

6.1.1 Use Professional Ethical Principles and Professional Practice Standards to guide their practice.

6.1.2 Understand how foundational knowledge and current issues influence professional practice.

6.1.5 Advance the profession by engaging in activities such as advocacy and mentoring.

6.1.6 Provide guidance and direction to paraeducators, tutors, and volunteers.

# **6. TENTATIVE COURSE CONTENT & SCHEDULE**

* Students may withdraw without grade penalty until the 15th class day, and until mid-semester (although a W will appear on the student’s transcript if the student withdraws between the 16th and 36th class day).
* Students who withdraw from the course between the 6th class day and the 15th class day will pay a course drop fee of $100.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Lecture** | **Assigned Readings**  **(to be completed prior to class)** | **Learning Activities (due prior to class)**  **TBA** |
| Week 1  1/13 | **Syllabus**  **Chapter 1 – Teaching Every Student: A Mandate for Today** | Syllabus  Chapter 1 |  |
| Week 2  1/27 | **Chapter 2 – The Legal Foundation for Special Education** | Chapter 2 | Introduction Activity |
| Week 3  2/3 | **Chapter 3 – Diversity and Disability: Issues in Special Education** | Chapter 3 |  |
| Week 4  2/10 | **Chapter 4 – Multi-Tiered Systems of Support** | Chapter 4 |  |
| Week 5  2/17 | **Exam 1 (Ch 1 -4)** |  |  |
| Week 6  2/24 | **Chapter 5 – Students with Disabilities Related to Learning and Behavior** | Chapter 5 |  |
| Week 7  3/3  (3/10 is Spring Break) | **Chapter 6 – Supporting the Academic Instruction of Students with High-Incidence Disabilities** | Chapter 6 |  |
| Week 8  3/17 | **Chapter 7 – Students with Low Incidence Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**  **Chapter 8 – Supporting Academic Learning for Students with Low-Incidence Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities** | Chapter 7  Chapter 8 |  |
| Week 9  3/24 | **Exam 2 (Ch 5-8)** |  |  |
| Week 10  3/31 | **Chapter 9 – Supporting the Behavioral and Social-Emotional Success of Students** | Chapter 9 |  |
| Week 11  4/7 | **Chapter 10 – Supporting Students with Communication Needs** | Chapter 10 |  |
| Week 12  4/14 | **Chapter 11 – Supporting Students with Sensory and Physical Disabilities** | Chapter 11 | Special Education ABCs |
| Week 13  4/21 | **Chapter 12 – Supporting Students Who are Gifted and Talented**  **Chapter 13 – Supporting and Collaborating with Families and Professionals** | Chapter 12  Chapter 13 | Course Reflection |
| Week 14  4/28 | **Exam 3 (Ch 9-13)** |  |  |
|  | Finals Week 5/5-5/9 |  |  |

# **7. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

General Course Requirements (See point values in tables below.)

Students are required to: a) successfully complete all learning activities and submit to the instructor **no later than the date designated for each project**, b) take and pass all required tests, c) attend class and participate in class discussions and activities/quizzes, and d) read assigned materials prior to class sessions.

**A. Learning Activities**: Throughout the semester there will be learning activities. These activities may include small group and independent assignments (e.g., group projects, quizzes, reflections, and summary papers) and *may or may not be announced ahead of time*. The learning activities may begin in class and have follow-up assignments to be completed outside of class time. “In-class”/synchronous assignments and activities must be completed during the limited times they are available on Canvas. In case of an absence, a University-approved excuse must be presented to make up any learning activities. **(see Attendance Policy and** [**Student Policy eHandbook**](https://cas.auburn.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=6030eed59dec435abc9061fa4edc1426&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.auburn.edu%2fstudent_info%2fstudent_policies%2f)**)**. **(TOTAL 25% of final grade)**

**B. Examinations**: There will be three exams during the semester. The first exam will cover material from the beginning of the semester through the first exam. The second exam will cover material presented after the first exam through the last class period before the second exam is scheduled. The third exam will cover material presented after the second exam through the last class period before the third exam is scheduled and could contain material from early examination periods **(TOTAL 75% of final grade – each exam is worth 25% of your final grade)**

# **8. GRADING AND EVALUATION:**

**Requirements:**

Learning Activities 25%

Exam 1 25%

Exam 2 25%

Exam 3 25%

TOTAL 100 %

**Grading Scale:**

90-100 A

89-80 B

79-70 C

69-60 D

Below 59 F

# **9. CLASS POLICIES:**

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions and activities and will be held responsible for any content covered in the event of an absence.

**Excused absences**: Students are granted excused absences from class for the following reasons: illness of the student or serious illness of a member of the student’s immediate family, the death of a member of the student’s immediate family, trips for student organizations sponsored by an academic unit, trips for university classes, trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoena for a court appearance, military orders, and religious holidays. Students who wish to have an excused absence from class for any other reason must contact the instructor in advance of the absence to request permission. The instructor will weigh the merits of the request and render a decision. When feasible, the student must notify the instructor prior to the occurrence of any excused absences, but in no case shall such notification occur more than **one week** after the absence. Appropriate documentation for all excused absences is required. Please see the [Student Policy eHandbook](https://cas.auburn.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=6030eed59dec435abc9061fa4edc1426&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.auburn.edu%2fstudent_info%2fstudent_policies%2f) ([www.auburn.edu/studentpolicies](http://www.auburn.edu/studentpolicies)) for more information on excused absences.

**Make-Up Policy:** Arrangement to make up a missed major examination (e.g., hour exams, mid-term exams) due to properly authorized excused absences must be initiated by the student as soon as possible but no later than **one week** of the end of the period of the excused absences(s). Except in unusual circumstances, such as the continued absence of the student or the advent of university holidays, a make-up exam will take place within **one week** of the date that the student initiates arrangements for it. Except in extraordinary circumstance, no make-up exams will be arranged during the last three days before the final exam period begins.

**Assignments:** Written and typed assignments are expected to be grammatically accurate and free of spelling and typographical errors. Assignments are to be of a quality that would be expected of a professional.

All assignments must be turned in the day and time they are due. Assignments must be turned in by the student completing the assignment.

**No late assignments** will be accepted unless accompanied by a university-approved excuse.

If a student misses turning in an assignment and has a university-approved excuse, they will have **one week** from the time they return to class to turn in the assignment.

**NOTE: Any assignments completed and/or submitted that do not comply with the above requirements will be returned and will not be accepted for credit.**

**Disability Accommodations:** Students who need accommodations should submit their approved accommodations through the AIM Student Portal on AU Access and follow-up with the instructor about an appointment. It is important for the student to complete these steps as soon as possible; accommodations are not retroactive. Students who have not established accommodations through the Office of Accessibility, but need accommodations, should contact the Office of Accessibility at: [ACCESSIBILITY@auburn.edu](mailto:ACCESSIBILITY@auburn.edu) or [(334) 844-2096](tel:(334)844-2096) (V/TT). The Office of Accessibility is located in Haley Center 1228.

**Honesty Code:** All portions of the Auburn University student academic honesty code (Title XII) found in the [Student Policy eHandbook](https://cas.auburn.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=6030eed59dec435abc9061fa4edc1426&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.auburn.edu%2fstudent_info%2fstudent_policies%2f) ([www.auburn.edu/studentpolicies](http://www.auburn.edu/studentpolicies)) will apply to university courses. All academic honesty violations or alleged violations of the SGA Code of Laws will be reported to the Office of the Provost, which will then refer the case to the Academic Honesty Committee.

**Course Contingency:** If normal class and/or lab activities are disrupted due to illness, emergency, or crisis situation, the syllabus and other course plans and assignments may be modified to allow completion of the course. If this occurs, an addendum to your syllabus and/or course assignments will replace the original materials.

**Professionalism**: As faculty, staff, and students interact in professional settings, they are expected to demonstrate professional behaviors as defined in the College’s conceptual framework. These professional commitments or dispositions are listed below:

• Engage in responsible and ethical professional practices

• Contribute to collaborative learning communities

• Demonstrate a commitment to diversity

• Model and nurture intellectual vitality

**Classroom Behavior:** The Auburn University Classroom Behavior Policy is strictly followed in the course; please refer to the [Student Policy eHandbookLinks to an external site.](https://auburnpub.cfmnetwork.com/B.aspx?BookId=12839) for details of this policy.

**Student Academic Grievance Policy:** The purpose of this university policy is to “resolve academic grievances of students, which results from actions of faculty or administration. This resolution should be achieved at the lowest level and in the most equitable way. The burden of proof rests with the complainants.” See University Policy Site for steps toward redress <https://sites.auburn.edu/admin/universitypolicies/default.aspx>.