**AUBURN UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, REHABILITATION, AND COUNSELING SYLLABUS**

**SPRING SEMESTER 2025**

**Course Number: RSED 5230-001**

**Course Title: Rehabilitation Assistive Technology**

**Credit Hours: 3 Semester Hours**

**Class Time and Location: MW 3:00 – 4:15pm, 2352 Haley Center**

**Date Syllabus Prepared:** January 2025

Instructor: Abbey Holder, PhD, NCC

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Phone: 334-844-2875

Office Hours: By Appointment

Office Address: 1232-B Haley Center

**TEXTBOOK:**

Required:

*Assistive Technologies: Principles & Practice*. Cook, Polgar, Encarnação. Fifth Edition.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will introduce students in rehabilitation, or any other helping profession or fields of study to have a greater understanding of Assistive Technology (AT) and its impact on society. Students will acquire a perspective of how AT can be useful in their work, recreational, transportation, and home environments when providing services to persons with disabilities. This course will examine the impact of disability and other conditions on individuals, their families, and the community. A primary emphasis of the course will be on examining the different types of AT used to assist individuals to help them reach their identified objectives/goals. Students will be challenged and encouraged to increase their awareness of the complexity of the disability experience through in-depth examination of stigma, discrimination, individual and social representation of disability, models of disability and other psychosocial considerations.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of the course, through satisfactory performance, students should be able to demonstrate the following:

1. Students will explore society’s attitudes and values toward persons with disabilities.
2. Students will explore and demonstrate a basic understanding of the history and legislative influences as well the purpose, function and process of AT.
3. Students will be exposed to AT devices and programs starting at a “low tech” level and moving towards “higher” levels of technology.
4. Students will become familiar with the concept of disability and different models and how AT is seen in the different models.
5. Students will explore and recognize the barriers that persons with disabilities encounter as they live with a disability
6. Students will develop an understanding of the impact of social and attitudinal factors on individuals with disabilities and will develop sensitivity to and awareness of the effects of prejudice and discrimination.
7. Students will become familiar with the models and tools available to perform AT evaluations.
8. Students will be able to apply knowledge from readings to an array of case studies presented and discussed in class.
9. Students will be more informed about attitudes towards people with disabilities.
10. Students will demonstrate knowledge about federal, state, and local resources regarding AT.

**COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE: SPRING 2025**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Dates** | **Assignment/Activities** | **Reading/Assignments** |
| 1 | 1/13  1/15 | Course introductions and Syllabus Review  Principles of Assistive Technology | Chapter 1 |
| 2 | 1/20  1/22 | **1/20 NO CLASS - MLK Jr. Holiday**  Principles of Assistive Technology (continued) | Chapter 1 |
| 3 | 1/27  1/29 | Technologies that Assist People Who Have Disabilities | Chapter 2 |
| 4 | 2/3  2/5 | Activity, Human, and Context | Chapter 3 |
| 5 | 2/10  2/12 | Global Perspective on Assistive Technology | Chapter 4 |
| 6 | 2/17  2/19 | Ethical Issues in Assistive Technology | Chapter 5 |
| 7 | 2/24  2/26 | Delivering Assistive Technology Services to the Client | Chapter 6 |
| 8 | 3/3  3/5 | User Input  **Midterm Exam – 3/5** | Chapter 7 |
| 9 | 3/10 – 3/14 | **SPRING BREAK! Have fun and be safe!** 🌞 |  |
| 10 | 3/17  3/19 | Augmentative and Alternative Communication Systems | Chapter 18 |
| 11 | 3/24  3/26 | **Movie week** |  |
| 12 | 3/31  4/2 | Sensory Aids for Persons with Visual Impairments | Chapter 16 |
| 13 | 4/7  4/9 | Assistive Technologies for Cognitive Augmentation | Chapter 17 |
| 14 | 4/14  4/16 | Technologies that Enable Mobility  Electronic Aids to Daily Living | Chapter 11 & 14 |
| 15 | 4/21  4/23 | **Project Presentations** | **Project Presentations** |
| 16 | 4/28  4/30 | **Final Exam – 4/30** |  |
| 17 | 5/4 – 5/9 | Official University Final Exam Week |  |

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & STUDENT EVALUATION:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assignments:** | Points |
| 1. Participation | 10 |
| 2. In-Class Assignments (5 @ 3 pts/each) | 15 |
| 3. Midterm Exam | 20 |
| 4. Final Exam | 20 |
| 5. Guest Speaker/Movie Review | 10 |
| 6. Coliseum Tour | 5 |
| 7. Project | 20 |
| **Total** | **100** |

**Grading Scale**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A 90-100% | 90-100 Points |
| B 80-89% | 80-89.99 Points |
| C 70-79% | 70-79.99 Points |
| D 60-69% | 60-69.99 Points |
| F Below 60% | 59 or below Points |

**1. Participation (10 points):**

It is expected that each person will come to class prepared and will participate in discussions generated through class readings and topic presentations and involved in class activities. Attendance, in-class assignments, and small group discussion on questions will be given throughout the semester and will count toward your class participation grade. You must be present to obtain the points.

**2. In-Class Activities (5 @ 3 pts/each):**

There will be 5 in-class activities. These activities will take place during class time, and you must be present to receive credit.

**3. & 4. Midterm and Final Exam (20 pts; 20 pts)**

There are two exams in this course. The exams will consist of various types of questions drawn from class and assigned readings. Detailed information will be provided in class.

**5. Guest Speakers and Movie reviews (10 pts):**

There will be a guest speaker and a movie watched in the second half of the semester. You will watch this interview/movie and write a 2-page reflection for 5 points. (2 reflections, 5 points each).

**6. Coliseum Tour (5 pts):**

We will tour the Auburn Adapted Athletic facilities to see the various equipment used for training and participating in wheelchair sports. You will write a 2-page reflection for 5 points.

**7. Project (20 pts):**

You will be presented with multiple options for a final project. You will be provided more details in Canvas.

**CLASS POLICY STATEMENTS:**

**Attendance:** It is expected that each individual will attend class. If you must be absent, please notify the instructor (via e-mail). The Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation and Counseling's attendance policy is that attendance in class is expected and will be linked to participation grades/points. You must be present to achieve these points, unless an excused absence has been arranged. At the discretion of individual instructors, verified absences may be excused under certain circumstances (see Auburn’s policy for further information on rules and regulations). Students may miss up to one class without penalty. Additional unexcused absences will result in grade reduction, and students will be held responsible for any content covered in the event of an absence. Students are expected to be on time for class

**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, 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 and religious holidays. Students who wish to have an excused absence from this 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.

**Make-Up Policy:** Arrangements to make up missed major examination (e.g. hour exams, mid-term exams) due to properly authorized excused absences. Except in extraordinary circumstance, no make-up exams will be arranged during the last three days before the final exam period begins. Normally, a makeup exam shall occur within one week from the time the student initiates arrangements.

**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 or (334) 844-2096 (V/TT). The Office of Accessibility is located in Haley Center 1228.

**Academic Honesty:** All portions of the Auburn University Student Academic Honesty code (Title XII) found in the Student Policy eHandbook. will apply to this class. 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.

**Classroom Behavior:** The Auburn University Classroom Behavior Policy is strictly followed in the course; please refer to the Student Policy eHandbook for details of this policy.

**Emergency Contingency statement:** If normal class and/or 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.

**AI Policy: Not Permitted in this Course for Assignments**

In this course, it is expected that all submitted work is produced by the students themselves, whether individually or collaboratively. Students must not seek the assistance of Generative AI Tools like ChatGPT or Copilot for graded assignments. Use of a Generative AI Tool to complete an assignment constitutes academic dishonesty. Students may use Generative AI tools as a study tool, but be forewarned that AI tools are not trustworthy.

**Use of Electronics:** Cell phones must be put on silent and stored during class times, unless the instructor is notified of special circumstances (e.g., on-call professional services, family emergencies). Computers and electronic notepads are welcomed, but may be used for class purposes only and must not be a distraction.

**Mental Health:** If you or someone you know needs support, you are encouraged to contact Auburn Cares at 334-844-1305 or auburn.edu/auburncares. Auburn Cares will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

Student Counseling & Psychological Services provides confidential, no-cost mental health counseling and psychiatric services to Auburn Students. You can speak with a counselor 24/7/365 by calling 334-844-5123. Learn more about mental health information on campus at auburn.edu/scps.

**Basic Needs:** Any student experiencing food insecurity or an unexpected financial crisis is encouraged to contact Auburn Cares at 334-844-1305 or auburn.edu/auburncaresLinks to an external site. for resources and support.

**Sexual Misconduct Resources Statement:** Auburn University faculty are committed to supporting our students and upholding gender equity laws as outlined by Title IX. Please be aware that if you choose to confide in a faculty member regarding an issue of sexual misconduct, dating violence, or stalking, we are obligated to inform the Title IX Office, who can assist you with filing a formal complaint, No-Contact Directives, and obtaining supportive measures. Find more information at auburn.edu/titleix.

If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, Safe Harbor (334-844-7233) and Student Counseling & Psychological Services (334-844-5123) are both confidential resources. Safe Harbor provides support to students who have experienced sexual or relationship violence by connecting them with academic, medical, mental health, and safety resources. For additional information, visit auburn.edu/safeharbor.

**SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER:**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed due to the developmental needs of the students. In the event that changes are deemed necessary, the instructor will inform students at the earliest date possible in class or via email.