



University of Waterloo

Spring 2012

COURSE NUMBER: PSYCH 213R
Course Name: Exceptional Children

Instructor: Virginia Nusca, Ph.D., C.Psych.
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Class Location: REN 2106

Class Time: 6:30 - 9:20 pm

Class Dates: MONDAYS May 7 & May 14
TUESDAY May 22
MONDAYS May 28 - June 25
WEDNESDAY July 4
MONDAYS July 9 - July 23

Office Hours: 5:30 - 6:30 before class; REN 2106

Course Description:

Exceptional Children is an introduction to current practice in understanding and addressing the needs of students who are identified as exceptional learners, that is, students who receive special education services. The course will discuss important physical, cognitive, academic, behavioural, social, and emotional factors associated with the range of exceptionalities as well as evidence-based classroom practices to address the needs of exceptional learners. A particular emphasis will be given to how special education needs are identified and responded to within the context of the Ontario educational system.

Course Objectives:

- Develop a critical understanding of how exceptional learners are identified in Ontario (e.g., the difference between diagnosis of a developmental disorder and identification as an exceptional learner)
- Understand the theoretical, research-based, and diagnostic features associated with a range of exceptionalities
- Gain an appreciation of the social and educational barriers faced by exceptional learners (e.g., attitudes about inclusion, perceptions of peers and adults, access to appropriate accommodations and technology, etc.)
- Understand a variety of evidence-based practices (e.g., classroom strategies, use of technology, special education programming, etc.) that address the needs of exceptional learners

- Apply knowledge of exceptional learners and their needs to case studies or examples
- Identify strategies and resources (e.g., organizations, websites, journals, etc.) that Psych 213R students can use in their current and future work with exceptional learners or individuals with disabilities

Text:

Hallahan, D. P., Kauffman, J. M., McIntyre, L. J., & Mykota, D. (2010). *Exceptional Learners: An Introduction to Special Education - Canadian Edition*. Toronto, ON: Pearson Canada.

SYLLABUS

Week	Date	Topics	Reading
1	Mon. May 7	Introduction to Special Education and Exceptionalities	Ch. 1 Ch. 2
2	Mon. May 14	Intellectual Disabilities	Ch. 5
3	Tues. May 22	Learning Disabilities	Ch. 6
4	Mon. May 28	TEST 1 Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	Ch. 7
5	Mon. June 4	Emotional & Behavioural Disorders	Ch. 8
6	Mon. June 11	Communication Disorders Multicultural & Bilingual Factors	Ch. 9 Ch. 3
7	Mon. June 18	TEST 2 Deaf or Hard of Hearing	Ch. 10
8	Mon. June 25	Blindness or Low Vision Parents and Families	Ch. 11 Ch. 4
9	Wed. July 4	Autism Spectrum Disorders	Ch. 12
10	Mon. July 9	TEST 3 Low Incidence, Multiple & Severe Disorders/Physical & Health Disorders	Ch. 13 Ch. 14
11	Mon. July 16	Giftedness	Ch. 15
12	Mon. July 23	TEST 4	

Course Requirements and Grading:

There will be 4 tests which will include multiple choice and short essay or short answer items. Tests will assess information from lecture as well as from the text.

TEST 1	25%
TEST 2	25%
TEST 3	25%
TEST 4	25%

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION

Cross-listed course:

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW):

<http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/] to avoid committing academic offences and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration, should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or Renison’s Administrative Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71, Student Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to this policy www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm . For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if grounds for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Final Examination Policy

For Spring 2012, the established examination period is July 30 - Aug 10 2012. The schedule will be available in June. Students should be aware that student travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time (see <http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/finalexams.html>).