



EDUC 2301 042DC Introduction to Special Populations

Course Syllabus: Spring 2026

"Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed."

Instructor: Kristy Stevens
Phone: 903-916-3246
Email: kstevens@ntcc.edu

Office Hours	Online Daily
	8:00-5:00

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Course Description:

An enriched, integrated pre-service course and content experience that provides an overview of schooling and classrooms from the perspectives of language, gender, socioeconomic status, ethnic and academic diversity, and equity with an emphasis on factors that facilitate learning. The course provides students with opportunities to participate in early field observations of P-12 special populations and should be aligned as applicable with State Board for Educator Certification Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities standards. Must include a minimum of 16 contact hours of field experience in P-12 classrooms with special populations.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Describe the characteristics of exceptional learners (e.g. Learning Disabilities, Gifted and Talented), including legal implications.
2. Describe and analyze characteristics of diverse learners (e.g. language, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity) and how diversity impacts learning.
3. Describe the impact of socio-economic status on learning and creating equitable classrooms.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the benefits and challenges of racial, ethnic, and other types of cultural diversity in the classroom.

Prerequisite(s): Education 1301 – Introduction to Teaching

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

1. Weekly assignments are posted in 2 folders accessed from the homepage. The folders are the *Remember, Understand, Analyze and Apply Folder*, and the *Create and Evaluate Folder*. Click on the weekly link to access these folders containing the assignments.
2. Weekly quizzes are accessed through the *Remember, Understand, Analyze, and Apply Folders*. There is a 1-hour time limit on quizzes. Be sure that you have a strong internet connection when taking a quiz. You may use your textbook to check the answers before submission.

3. Information, instructions, and materials for completing observation assignments are found in the FBE folder located on the Homepage. Observations must be made in public schools. Students are responsible for arranging observations. During observations the students are to strictly observe and should not assist in instruction.
4. It is expected that all assignments be turned in by the due date. One week after the due date, zeros will be given. If you have a major emergency such as a severe illness, death in the family, etc. contact the instructor in a timely manner regarding work.
5. With the exception of the Observation PPT, late work is accepted up to one week after the due date. Late work is penalized 5 points for each day late. After one-week zeros will be recorded unless you have made prior arrangement with the instructor.
6. Discussion boards, journals, and connection assignments are graded with rubrics. Before beginning these assignments, study the rubric so that you understand expectations and how your work will be graded.
7. **You must have access to Microsoft Word to complete textbook assignments.** Microsoft Word is free to all NTCC students. Instructions for loading Microsoft Word are provided by IT. Go to the Student Page and click on BB Tech Help. Then click on Prepare Devices for Courses. Click on Step 4 – Install Office 365 to begin the installation.
8. **Do not opt out of the e-book.** You must have access to the e-book to complete textbook assignments.

The Course Map details assignment due dates and the percentage various assignments count toward the final grade average.

2301 Course Map

Assignments by Category and Location	Due Date	Percent of Total Grade
Weekly Module Assignments <p>Chapter Reading Activities <i>Modules 1 – 15</i> <i>Remember, Understand, Analyze Apply Folders</i></p> <p>Chapter Video Activities <i>Modules 1 – 15</i> <i>Remember, Understand, Analyze Apply Folders</i></p> <p>Journal Entries <i>Modules 2 – 15</i> <i>Evaluate and Create Folders</i></p>	Due Sunday evening by midnight	35%
<p>FBE Time Logs</p> <p>Time Log 1 (8 hours) <i>FBE Folder</i></p> <p>Time Log 2 (8 hours) <i>FBE Folder</i></p>	3/15/26 4/26/26	
<p>Quizzes</p> <p>Chapter Quizzes <i>Modules 1 – 15</i> <i>Remember, Understand, Analyze Apply Folders</i></p>	Due Sunday evening by midnight	15%
<p>Weekly Module Discussion Boards</p> <p>Discussion Boards <i>Modules 1 – 15</i> <i>Evaluate and Create Folders</i></p>	Initial post due by <u>Friday</u> midnight, 2 responses due by <u>Sunday</u> midnight	25%
<p>Lesson Plan Evaluation <i>Module 15</i></p>	5/10/26	5%
Connections Measuring Assessments		

Journal 1-SocioEconomics and Equitable Classrooms <i>Module 1</i> <i>Evaluate and Create Folder</i>	1/25/26	
Book Report – Characteristics of Diverse Learners <i>Module 4</i> <i>Evaluate and Create Folder</i>	2/15/26	20%
Essay-Challenges of Diversity <i>Module 14</i> <i>Evaluate and Create Folder</i>	5/3/26	
Field-Based Experiences PowerPoint <i>FBE Folder</i>	5/3/26	
Cumulative Characteristics of Exceptional Learners <i>Module 15</i> <i>Evaluate and Create Folder</i>	5/10/26	

Final Grade Determination

Average	Final Grade
90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
Below 60	F

Required Instructional Materials:

Text: Special Education in Contemporary Society

By: Richard M. Gargiulo and Emily C. Bouck

Publisher: SAGE Publications, Inc.

The e-text is provided with the course. Do not opt out of the e-text because it is needed to complete some of the assignments.

Optional Instructional Materials: None

Minimum Technology Requirements:

Daily high-speed internet access

Daily high speed internet access
Microsoft Word and Power Point

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

1. Word processing skills using Word
2. Skills to develop PowerPoints with narration
3. Email skills
4. Electronic research skills

Course Structure and Overview:

1. This is a dual credit course. All instructions are completed via the Blackboard learning management system and in class.
2. You are expected to log in and complete all activities weekly. Expect to spend 4 to 6 hours per week completing course activities.
3. Assignments are accessed by opening the modules. In each module there are two folders - the *Remember, Understand Analyze and Apply Folder*, and the *Create and Evaluate Folder*. These two folders contain instructions and templates for Weekly Assignments as well as Connections Assignments.
4. Begin weekly activities and assignments by completing activities and assignments in the *Remember,*

Understand, Analyze and Apply Folder. After completing these activities, move to the *Evaluate and Create Folder* and complete those assignments. Be sure to check the rubrics before completing the assignments.

5. Weekly assignments should be completed in the order presented in the folders. There is a penalty for late work, 5 points per day, and work is not accepted more than one week after the due date unless arrangements have been made with the instructor for late submission.
6. Technical difficulties are not an excuse for late work. High-speed internet access, Microsoft Word, are minimum technology requirements. Contact IT if you have technical issues.
7. Information and instructions for public school observations are posted in the *FBE Folder* on the Homepage.
8. Information and instructions for the Lesson Plan Evaluation Assignment are in Module 15.
9. The assignment link for the Cumulative Characteristics of Exceptional Learners Assignment is in Module 15. The form to complete the assignment is in Module 6.

Discussion Board Policy:

The purpose of using discussions in an online course is to provide opportunities for students to interact with each other, the content, and the instructor. It is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts and perspectives and perhaps to see things from a different perspective. In this course, the discussion board serves as a weekly grade. To get full credit, it is important for you to fully participate in the discussion board. Full participation includes the following:

1. Making your initial post by Friday evening and
2. Responding to 2 classmates by Sunday evening.

If you do not post by Friday evening, you are not giving your classmates the opportunity to read your posts and see your perspectives on the class content. If you do not respond to classmates by Sunday evening, you are not giving feedback to them on their thinking and perspectives.. Posts are not allowed after Sunday evening, and zeros will be recorded in the gradebook.

Course Requirements:

1. Weekly participation in course activities and assignments.
2. 16 hours of observation in a public-school setting and a PowerPoint describing the observations are required for course credit. The observation power point must be completed on the template provided.
3. Completion of all Connections Assignments.

Communications:

Communicate through NTCC email. Responses to emails will be made Monday-Thursday mornings.

Institutional/Course Policy:

1. Attendance in an online class is determined by weekly participation in the Blackboard learning management system and the completion of assignments.
2. Students are expected to participate in class activities and complete all assignments each week, including responding to 2 classmates on discussion boards.
3. Assignments should be completed by due dates unless arrangements for late submission have been made with the instructor.
4. Should an emergency arise, (death in the family, serious injury, hospitalization, accidents, etc.) the instructor must be contacted within a week. Arrangements for missed work, etc. will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Student Handbook:

General information about NTCC policies and practices are detailed in the Student Handbook found online in the Student Information Center.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Tentative Course Timeline: The instructor reserves the right to adjust this timeline at any point in the term.

Weekly assignments & quizzes are due on Sunday evening at midnight.

Weekly Discussion Board initial post due by Friday at midnight.

Weekly Discussion Board responses due by Sunday at midnight.
 Journal 1-SocioEconomics and Equitable Classrooms due 1/25/26
 Book Report – Characteristics of Diverse Learners due 2/15/26
 Essay-Challenges of Diversity due 5/3/26
 Field-Based Observation Log 1 due 3/15/26
 Field-Based Observation Log 2 due 4/26/26
 Field-Based Experiences PowerPoint due 5/3/26
 Cumulative Characteristics of Exceptional Learners due 5/10/26
 Lesson Plan Evaluation due 5/10/26

Important Dates

2026 Spring Semester	
Offices Re-open	1/5/2026
Faculty In-Service	1/12/2026 - 1/15/2026
Martin Luther King Day	1/19/2026
First Class Day (16-week, 1st 8-week sessions)	1/20/2026
Late Registration Ends	1/23/2026
Spring Census (1st 8-week session)	1/27/2026
Spring Census (16-week session)	2/4/2026
Staff In-Service	2/22/2026 8 AM - 12 PM
Last Day to Withdraw with a Grade of "W" (1st 8-weeks)	3/3/2026
Deadline for Spring Graduation Application	3/13/2026
Last Class Day (1st 8-week session)	3/13/2026
Spring Break	3/16/2026 - 3/20/2026
First Class Day (2nd 8-week session)	3/23/2026
Spring Census (2nd 8-week session)	3/30/2026
Final Day to Withdraw with Grade of "W" (16-weeks)	4/16/2026
Last Day to Withdraw with a Grade of "W" (2nd 8-weeks)	4/30/2026
Last Class Day (16-week and 2nd 8 weeks session)	5/7/2026
Final Examinations	5/8/2026 - 5/14/2026
Spring Graduation	5/16/2026 9 AM & 11 AM
2026 May Intersession	
First Class Day	5/18/2026
May Census	5/19/2026
Memorial Day Holiday	5/25/2026
Last Day to Withdraw with a Grade of "W"	6/2/2026
Last Class Day/Final Examinations	6/5/2026