

IDC 123

Introduction to Special Education and Disabilities in American Society

Course Abstract

If you need accommodations due to a disability, contact Disability Services in Edison Hall Room 100, 732.906.2546.

To foster a productive learning environment, the College requires that all students adhere to the Code of Student Conduct which is published in the college catalog and website.

Course ID and Name: IDC 123/ Introduction to Special Education and Disabilities in American Society

Department: History and Social Sciences

Chairperson or Course Coordinator: Timothy Hack

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Prerequisites: PSY 123 (Introduction to Psychology) **Co-requisites:** N/A

Course Description:

The course provides an introduction to the field of education (K-12) with a focus on the exceptional child. It includes a review of the landmark and current laws and policies designed to address the instructional needs of diverse learners. It also explores the roles and general approaches of special educators in various educational settings, and addresses the characteristics of students with different abilities and educational resources available in the field of special education. Additional topics covered include current research and trends in careers, reform, and technology in the field of education. **Students will be required to complete 25 observation hours in a special education setting.**

General Education Status:

Credits: 3 **Lecture Hours:** 3 **Lab Hours:** 0

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and discuss educational theories and concepts related to special education and the exceptional child.
2. Identify and describe the different types of disabilities and the educational needs of students with disabilities.

3. Identify and describe historical, societal, legal, cultural, and contemporary influences on education.
4. Articulate the importance and value of special education to the individual student and society.
5. Describe the essential components of an effective educator and the educational environment.
6. Develop oral, visual, and written summaries of concepts related to special education.

Course Content Areas:

Educator:

Characteristics of an effective educator; Teaching philosophy; Teacher qualifications and overview of certification process

Field of Special Education and Educational Setting:

Overview of early childhood, elementary, high school, and special education school settings; Role of Board of Education; Historical, social and cultural influences on education; Legal (Brown vs. The Board of Education, IDEA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, PL 94-142; Parental rights) and Ethical issues in education Current trends and contemporary issues (ex. Inclusion, Mainstreaming, Assistive Technology); Categories of exceptionality; New Jersey Classification System and the consequences of labeling a child with different abilities; The Individualized Education Plan; Overview of educational settings focusing on levels of least restrictive environment; Ethical issues in special education; Current trends and contemporary issues

Teaching and Assessment Practices:

Teaching approaches for the special education classroom; Classroom management strategies; Teaching with technology; Implementing the Individualized Education Plan- understanding accommodations and modifications; Evaluating learning through assessment and standardized testing; Establishing positive relationships with parents and the community