



**College of Education and Human Development
Division of Special Education and disAbility Research**

Spring 2014

EDSE 517 676: Computer Applications for Special Populations

CRN: 20583, 3 - Credits

Instructor: Dr. Yoosun Chung	Meeting Dates: 03/12/14 - 05/14/14
Phone: (703) 988-3486 (text-relay-service)	Meeting Day(s): Asynchronous
E-Mail: ychung3@gmu.edu	Meeting Time(s): Asynchronous
Office Hours: You can reach me virtually any time or make an appointment through email	Meeting Location: Internet. All course materials are available through Blackboard Courses at mymason.gmu.edu .

***Note:** This syllabus may change according to class needs. Students will be advised of any changes immediately through George Mason e-mail and/or through Blackboard.*

Course Description

Lecture and laboratory course for teachers of special populations in applications of computer technology for instructional programs and computer skills. Students learn to use computer technology designed for special populations.

Prerequisite(s): Graduate standing, or permission of instructor

Co-requisites: None

Advising Contact Information

Please make sure that you are being advised on a regular basis as to your status and progress through your program. Mason M.Ed. and Certificate students should contact the Special Education Advising Office at (703) 993-3670 for assistance. All other students should refer to their faculty advisor.

Nature of Course Delivery

Learning activities include the following:

1. Learning module lectures, discussions, activities, and participation
2. Software and hardware demonstrations
3. Video and other media supports
4. Group and independent laboratory exploration activities
5. Class presentations

Learner Outcomes

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

- Demonstrate an understanding of the history of assistive technology.
- Describe and implement a comprehensive set of procedures for software review and evaluation for specific populations.
- Describe and utilize key devices and software tools designed to help individuals with disabilities in educational settings including learning, physical, sensory, and intellectual disabilities.
- Describe key features in selecting and using an augmentative and alternative communication device for an individual
- Define the issues related to the accessibility of the Internet by individuals with disabilities.
- Evaluate and select appropriate web-based activities for individuals with disabilities.
- Adapt and modify general education curriculum and class activities using assistive technology to meet the needs of diverse learners.
- Design an appropriate technology integrated lesson plan for a specific special education population.

Required Textbooks

Dell, A.G., Newton, D., & Petroff, J. (2012). *Assistive technology in the classroom: Enhancing the school experiences of students with disabilities (2nd ed)*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Digital Library Option

The Pearson textbook(s) for this course **may be** available as part of the **George Mason University Division of Special Education and disAbility Research Digital Library**. Please note that not all textbooks are available through this option. Visit the links below before purchasing the digital library to ensure that your course(s) text(s) are available in this format. The division and Pearson have partnered to bring you the Digital Library; a convenient, digital solution that can save you money on your course materials. The Digital Library offers you access to a complete digital library of **all Pearson textbooks** and MyEducationLabs used across the Division of Special Education and disAbility Research curriculum at a low 1-year or 3-year subscription price. Access codes are available in the school bookstore. Please visit <http://gmu.bncollege.com> and search the ISBN. To register your access code or purchase the

Digital Library, visit:

<http://www.pearsoncustom.com/va/gmu/digitallibrary/education/index.html>

- 1 year subscription \$200 ISBN-13: 9781269541411
- 3 years subscription \$525 ISBN-13: 9781269541381
- Individual e-book(s) also available at the bookstore link above or at <http://www.pearsoncustom.com/va/gmu/digitallibrary/education/index.html>

Required Resources

Students are required to have consistent and reliable access to a computer with a high-speed internet connection. Students are also expected to have consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course. Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of the course requirements.

Course Relationships to Program Goals and Professional Organizations

This course is part of the George Mason University, Graduate School of Education (GSE), Masters in Special Education Program. This program complies with the standards for teacher licensure established by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the major special education professional organization. The CEC standards that will be addressed in this class include Standard 4: Instructional Strategies and Standard 5: Learning Environments and Social Interactions and Standard 6: Language.

GMU POLICIES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS:

- a. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/>].
- b. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].
- c. Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- d. The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].

- e. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- f. Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- g. The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].

PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITIONS

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

CORE VALUES COMMITMENT

The College of Education & Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles. [See <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>]

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>]

Course Policies & Expectations

Attendance.

Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which include viewing of all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions. Grading for work completed in Lectures and Labs is specifically outlined in *Lessons and Labs Participation* within the Other Assignments section of the syllabus. Please note that while only certain learning elements are assessed through “grades”, the instructor can still assess student involvement and engagement using other measures. Blackboard enables the instructor to view such data as login dates, duration of time spent online, access to specific content elements, and more. The instructor will use this data along with course grades to ensure that students are actively engaged in the course. Students struggling to complete work on time or who appear to not be engaging with course content will be asked to conference with the instructor.

Late Work.

All activities and assignments should be submitted through Blackboard by 11:59pm on the (Monday) dates indicated.

Module Lessons and Labs

As specified in the *Lessons and Labs Participation* within the Assignments section of the syllabus, all activities must be completed by the specified due date to receive participation points for each Lesson and Lab. Late work will not receive credit. The instructor recognizes that unexpected challenges may arise during the semester and, therefore, will allow students to request a one-time extension that they can apply to a specific Lesson and another for a specific Lab. Students must request the extension by emailing the instructor prior to the original due date; requests made after 11:59pm on the specified due date will not be honored. Students do not need to receive confirmation from the instructor to assume they have received the extension; it will be automatic as long as it is the first request. The deadline for extended work will be Saturday at 10:00am instead of specified Monday at 11:59pm. All extensions will be tracked in the Blackboard gradebook.

Course Assignments (Software Review, Technology Tools, Lesson Plan)

In fairness to students who make the effort to submit assignments on time, there will be a 10% cost reduction per day for late papers (For example, a 20 point assignment will lose 2 points per day while a 50 point assignment will lose 5 points per day). All assignments should reflect graduate-level spelling, syntax, and grammar. If you experience difficulties with the writing process you will need to document your work with the GMU Writing Center during this course to improve your skills. The instructor reserves the right to request that a student recycle a product that is not satisfactory. In such cases, resubmitted assignments are not eligible for full credit and a response cost of 10 percent may be assessed.

TaskStream Submission

Every student registered for any Special Education course with a required performance-based assessment is required to submit this assessment, *Assistive/Instructional Technology Lesson* to TaskStream, (regardless of whether a course is an elective, a onetime course or part of an undergraduate minor). Evaluation of the performance-based assessment by the course instructor will also be completed in TaskStream. Failure to submit the assessment to TaskStream will result in the course instructor reporting the course grade as Incomplete(IN). Unless the IN grade is changed upon completion of the required TaskStream submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester.

If you have never used TaskStream before, you MUST use the login and password information that has been created for you. This information is distributed to students through GMU email, so it is very important that you set up your GMU email. For more TaskStream information, go to <http://cehd.gmu.edu/api/taskstream>

Grading Scale

95-100 = A
90-94 = A-
85-89 = B
80-84 = B-
70-79 = C
< 70 = F

Assignments

Performance-based Assessment (TaskStream submission required).

The NCATE/TaskStream assignment for this course is the *Assistive/Instructional Technology Lesson*. Please see the *Other Assignments* section for assignment description.

Performance-based Common Assignments (No TaskStream submission required).

Courses with multiple sections often require "common" assignments across sections to ensure consistency in instruction and learning. This course does not require the use of a common assignment(s). All course assignments are outlined in the *Other Assignments* section.

Other Assignments.

1. **Lesson and Lab Participation (40 points; 20 points for Lessons, 20 points for Labs)**
Students are expected to complete activities within the Lesson module and the corresponding Lab module for a specified topic. A Lesson module generally contains readings, videos, and activities that introduce a specific topic. A Lab module generally provides tool demonstrations, user perspectives/experiences, and opportunity for tool exploration based on a specific topic. Over the course of the semester students are expected to complete 14 Lesson and 14 Lab modules.

Within any module, students will be presented with a series of activities. Some activities such as viewing a video or reading a chapter in the textbook are categorized as "Read/View". Other activities such as taking a quiz are categorized as "Complete". All activities identified as "Complete" must be submitted on-time and be of satisfactory quality to receive participation points for that module. Credit will not be given for partial or late submissions. Please note that while "Read/View" activities are not "graded", access to them is being tracked through Blackboard and the content is assessed through additional course assignments.

Lesson Module Points:

Students who successfully complete 14 Lesson modules earn 20 points.
Students who successfully complete 13 Lesson modules earn 18 points.
Students who successfully complete 12 Lesson modules earn 16 points.
Students who successfully complete 11 Lesson modules earn 14 points.
Students who successfully complete 0-10 Lesson modules earn 0 points.

Lab Module Points:

Students who successfully complete 14 Lab modules earn 20 points.

Students who successfully complete 13 Lab modules earn 18 points.

Students who successfully complete 12 Lab modules earn 16 points.

Students who successfully complete 11 Lab modules earn 14 points.

Students who successfully complete 0-10 Lab modules earn 0 points.

All participation points are tracked in the Blackboard gradebook.

The Lesson module and Lab module will become available by 9:00am on Wednesday on the specified week stated in the syllabus. All work for those modules will be due on Monday on the specified week by 11:59pm. Students who submit work on-time and of satisfactory quality will receive full participation points.

2. **Software Review (15 points)** Students will choose a piece of educational software (or mobile app) of interest to review; it should be a recent version. The software review includes two elements, a written narrative and a completed software evaluation checklist. The narrative should provide a brief description of the software followed by a thorough review of the software and its possible application within a chosen environment. The review should address the primary features of the software including accessibility and other topics addressed in class (content, user friendliness, adult management features, support materials, and value). The software review should be 3-4 pages in length and will serve as a reference for a potential software user. Students will use the software review format introduced in class to evaluate the selected software. Please include a copy of your completed evaluation checklist as an Appendix. Students may not review a productivity/utility software program designed to create content (such as Boardmaker, Word, Inspiration/Kidspiration) for this assignment. Please refer to the scoring rubric posted on Blackboard for additional information on this assignment (**Due April 7th**).
3. **Technology Tools Assignment (10 points)**. Students will select a broad technology category to research, describe, and analyze based on the needs of an actual student or developed case study. A list of technology categories (i.e. word prediction) will be provided by the instructor. Students will then select two specific technologies within their category (e.g. CoWriter and TextHelp) as part of their analysis. In a 3-4 page paper, students should provide a description of the overall technology including its intended purpose, audience, and important features. Students then should provide a brief description of each specific technology they have selected along with a comparison of product similarities and differences. Finally the paper should include a recommendation for one of the specific technologies based on the needs of a real client or an invented scenario. Please note: it is anticipated that students will use the Internet and/or product catalogs to obtain product information and descriptions, however students are expected to reference such information using proper APA (6th Edition) format including correct referencing both within the narrative and in the reference list. Please refer to the scoring rubric posted on Blackboard for additional information on this assignment (**Due April 21st**).

4. **Assistive/Instructional Technology Lesson (35 points)** Students will design an interactive computer-based lesson that has been adapted for a specific population and includes on-line and off-line products. This lesson should integrate instructional and assistive technology and should engage students actively with the technology. Students will write a lesson plan in paragraph or bulleted format addressing all the required elements provided by the instructor and create an on-line and off-line product to be used in the lesson. Students will present the lesson and their products during the last week of class. Please refer to the scoring rubric posted on Blackboard for additional information on this assignment (**Topic Proposal Due May 5, Narrative and Materials Due May 12, Peer Presentation Review Due May 14**).

Course Expectations

- Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, at a minimum this should be 2 times per week.
- Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which include viewing of all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.
- Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students are expected to seek assistance if they are struggling with technical components of the course.
- Students should expect that they could experience some technical difficulties at some point in the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- Students will use APA 6th Edition guidelines for all course assignments.
- We will use person-first language in our class discussions and written assignments (and ideally in our professional practice).

Note:

As you may know, the EDSE 517 676 section (PW cohort) is scheduled between March 12 and May 14. A cohort program is usually intensive because it is not held for a full semester (i.e., 2 months-long for this cohort).

This class was originally scheduled to meet on Wednesdays for about 5 hours during the class period, but since we are now online, I would like you to plan out a schedule that meets your needs.

I divided this course into three broad topics and got some related modules together into each broad topic. Each broad topic has different number of modules, and thus, the duration of each broad topic also varies (please see the schedule below).

Please do not procrastinate! Each Lesson and Lab module has a list of activities and thus you will NOT be able to complete them if you wait too long as the due dates get closer. Please plan ahead accordingly to fit your busy life schedules.

Schedule

Module	Module Available *	Module Topic	Module Due **	Major Assignments Due **
Broad Topic 1: AT Introduction and Benefits of Computer Use in Special Education				
1	3/12	Course Orientation. Lecture and Lab: Introduction to AT	3/31	
2	3/12	Lecture and Lab: Teacher Productivity Tools	3/31	
3	3/12	Lecture and Lab: Software Features and Evaluation	3/31	Software Review (4/7)
Broad Topic 2: Assistive Technology Accommodations for Different disAbilities				
4	3/26	Lecture and Lab: AT for Students with Learning Disabilities - Reading Tools	4/21	
5	3/26	Lecture and Lab: AT for Students with Learning Disabilities –Writing Tools	4/21	
6	3/26	Lecture and Lab: AT for Students with Physical Disabilities	4/21	
7	3/26	Lecture and Lab: Augmentative and Alternative Communication	4/21	
8	3/26	Lecture and Lab: AT for Students with Sensory Impairments	4/21	
9	3/26	Lecture and Lab: Accessibility	4/21	Technology Tools (4/21)
Broad Topic 3: Assistive Technology Integration in the Curriculum				
10	4/16	Lecture and Lab: Using the Internet for Instruction	5/5	
11	4/16	Lecture and Lab: Accessing the General Curriculum-Language Arts	5/5	
12	4/16	Lecture and Lab: Accessing the General Curriculum-Math, Science and Social Studies	5/5	
13	4/16	Lecture and Lab: Authoring Tool	5/5	
14	4/16	Lecture and Lab: AT and the IEP	5/5	Assistive/Instructional Technology Lesson Plan and Adaptation Topic Proposal (5/5)
		Assistive/Instructional Technology Lesson Plan and Adaptation		Assistive/Instructional Technology Lesson Plan and Adaptation Narrative and Materials (5/12) Peer Feedback & Course Final Evaluation (5/14, Wed)

* Modules will be made available by 9:00am on the scheduled availability date (Wednesdays)

** All modules activities and course assignments are due by 11:59pm on the scheduled due date (Mondays)