

This syllabus is a representative sample for this course. Specific information such as texts, assignments, and schedule may vary by semester.

Florida Atlantic University
College of Education
Department of Counselor Education
Medical and Psychosocial Aspects of Disability
RCS 6080

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a survey of the medical, psychological, and social aspects of disability. It studies the social psychological and sociological explanation of disability, attitudes and attitude change toward persons with disabilities, the perspectives of families and professionals, and issues of sexuality. Its primary objective is to broaden students' perspectives on disability and disability issues.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To provide students with knowledge and understanding of:

- 1. The medical, psychological, and social implications of disability.
- 2. Disabling conditions: characteristics, terminology, prognosis, etiology, diagnostic procedures, treatment, typical medications, functional limitations, and rehabilitation focus (medical & vocational).
- 3. Attitudinal and environmental barriers that restrict persons with disabilities from full participation in society and their self-concept.
- 4. Theories and models of psychosocial impact of disability.
- 5. Related personalological issues (e.g., minority group membership, gender, social development, and individual maturity) that effect persons with disabilities.
- 6. Disability adjustment and "loss" issues and concerns.
- 7. Coping mechanisms used by persons with disabilities in dealing with major life transitions.
- 8. Counseling approaches that consider the emotional reactions to transition and disability.

C.O.R.E COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED: C.2.5

TEXTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

- 1. Falvo, D. (1991). Medical and psychological aspects of chronic illness and disability. Gaithersburg, MD: Aspen Publishers.
- 2. Chabner, D. (1996). The language of medicine (5th Ed.). Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company.
- 3. American Psychological Association (1994). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (4th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
- 4. Supplementary Readings^{3/4}A packet of readings will be made available for student use on loan from the instructor, and will be on reserve in the library.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Complete all assigned readings. Each reading is to be done in advance of the class day.
- 2. Attend all class sessions. Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Only 1 class absence is allowed with the instructor's permission. Each absence beyond the first will result in a 20-point reduction in the total points available for this course.
- 3. 2 examinations will be given on medical terminology.
- 4. A library research paper is required. The topic of this paper is to be mutually agreed upon by the student and the instructor. Students will select a specific topic related to the psychosocial impact of disability. Topics can include, but are not limited to: the functional impact of a disabling condition, a comprehensive investigation of a specific medical/psychological/vocational rehabilitation intervention, biography/history of a prominent figure in rehabilitation, or other topic as agreed. The paper will be 12 to 15 pages long (exclusive of bibliography), and will be in CORRECT APA style.

COURSE EVALUATIONS

1. Class participation & attendance, 25 points
 2. Exam I 100 points
 3. Facility paper & presentation 75 points
 4. Research paper 100 points
- TOTAL 300 POINTS

GRADING

A 282-300 Points
 A- 270-281 Points
 B+ 258-269 Points
 B 249-257 Points
 B- 240-248 Points
 C+ 228-239 Points
 C 219-227 Points
 C- 210-218 Points
 F 0-209 Points

SYLLABUS

The instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to this schedule, the topics covered, the assignments made, the evaluations required, or otherwise as may be need to effectively teach the material to be covered. Such adjustments will be made and announced at the beginning of the class or prior to the affected session if possible.

Week	Class Content and Activities	Student Preparation	Presenter & Style Used	Evaluations
Week 1 Orientation & background material	1. Overview 2. Outline of course 3. Assignments 4. APA Style	Text: APA Style Manual Ch. 1, 2, & 3; Falvo Ch. 1.	Kontosh Lecture & Group discussion	
Week 2 Medical Terminology & Systems	1. Medical Terminology 2. Body Systems	Text: Chabner Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4	Kontosh Lecture & Group discussion	
Week 3	1. Circulatory System	Text: Falvo Ch. 2; Chabner Ch. 11,	Kontosh Lecture &	

Body Systems I	2. Excretory System	13	Group discussion	
Week 4 Body Systems II	1. Respiratory System 2. Nervous system	Text: Falvo Ch 3, 8; Chabner Ch. 10, 12	Kontosh Lecture & Group discussion	
Week 5 Body Systems III	1. Excretory System 2. Immune system	Text: Falvo 4, 12, 13; Chabner Ch. 14 Readings: Arokiasamy, C.	Kontosh Lecture & Group discussion	Examination I
Week 6 Body Systems IV	1. Muscular System 2. Skeletal system	Text: Falvo 7; Chabner Ch. 15	Kontosh Lecture & Group discussion	
Week 7 Body Systems V	1. Endocrine system 2. Sensory system	Text: Falvo Ch. 5, 9, 10; Chabner Ch. 17, 18	Kontosh Lecture & Group discussion	
Week 8 Examination & Psychological Disorders	1. Mid Term Exam 2. Mental Retardation & DD Disorders 3. Dual Diagnosis	Readings: Neglieri, J. & Nihira, K.	Kontosh Lecture & Group discussion	Examination II
Week 9 Substance Use/Abuse Disorders	1. Medication & Disability 2. Substance Abuse	Readings: Abrams, D.; Azrin, N; Bradley, K.	1. Kontosh 2. Guest speaker on substance abuse Lecture & Group discussion	
Week 10 Psychosocial Aspects of Disability I	1. Why study psychosocial aspects of disability 2. Sociology of disability 3. Social planning, education & employment	Readings: Bogdon, R.	Kontosh Lecture & Group discussion	
Week 11 Psychosocial Aspects of Disability II	1. Psychology of disability 2. Language & terminology	Readings: Lane, N.	Kontosh Lecture & Group discussion	
Week 12 Life Span Concerns for persons with Disabilities	1. Developmental theory 2. Issues for persons with disabilities 3. Maturity	Readings: Livneh, H. 1997	Kontosh Lecture & Group discussion	
Week 13 Family Issues Surrounding disability	1. Family adjustment 2. congenital disability 3. acquired disability	Readings: Cook, D.	Kontosh Lecture & Group discussion	
Week 14	1. Sexual Issues & concerns. 2. Sexual abuse and	Readings:	Kontosh Lecture &	

Sexuality	reporting 3. Being parented & Parenting	Farrow, J.	Group discussion	
Week 15 Assistive Technology & Independent Living	1. Technology applications to disabling conditions 2. Accommodation at home & work	Readings: Wisniewski	Kontosh Lecture & Group discussion	Research Paper Due
Week 16 (Finals Week)	1. Wrap up 2. Final Exam		Kontosh	Final Exam

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