Murray State University
COURSE SYLLABUS

Revised Spring 2008

DEPARTMENT: ACS  COURSE NUMBER: SED 551  CREDIT HOURS: 3

I. TITLE:  Transdisciplinary Assessment of Individuals with Moderate/Severe Disabilities

II. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
This course involves procedures for assessment of the behavioral and educational performance of individuals with moderate to severe disabilities including task analysis, sequencing, behavioral skills and designing individual instructional programs. Students will be provided with experience in conducting assessments, developing individual education plans and use of program evaluation techniques related to individuals with moderate to severe disabilities.

III. PURPOSE: This course is designed to develop competencies in assessment and educational programming including collecting, classifying, analyzing, interpreting, and reporting assessment data for individuals with moderate to severe disabilities and the development of appropriate IEPs.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Class activities will be centered on the attainment of the course objectives listed below. These objectives are understood to be reflective of, but not limited to those behaviors advocated by the Kentucky Education Reform Act guidelines and initiatives. Following each objective, and enclosed in parentheses, are numbers which reference the Kentucky Experienced Teachers Standards (ETS) addressed by that objective. Upon successful completion of this class, the student will be able to:
A. Discuss federal and state requirements governing the assessment of individual’s with moderate to severe disabilities including due process procedures and requirements. (ETS #2,6)
B. Analyze the Kentucky Instructional Results Information System and alternative portfolio assessment for individuals with moderate to severe disabilities. (ETS #2, 6)
C. Compare assessment strategies including direct observation, interviews, norm-referenced, criterion referenced, and curriculum-referenced testing in relation to developing performance based, functional, and activity based programming. (ETS #2, 6)
D. Summarize assessment data for the purpose of developing an individualized education program for students with moderate to severe disabilities which facilitate performance-based, functional and activity based programming. (ETS #2, 6)
E. Differentiate assessment for the following: screening, diagnosis and placement, instructional planning, measuring student progress, and program evaluation. (ETS #2, 6)
F. Administer, score, and interpret results of assessment instruments appropriate for use with individuals with moderate to severe disabilities. (ETS #2, 6)
G. Demonstrate knowledge of reliability, validity, norms, scales of measurement, and quantification of test performance including statistical concepts related to assessment. (ETS #2, 6)
H. Discuss the use of task analysis for assessment purpose. (ETS #2, 6)
I. Discuss factors related to cultural background which can affect assessment of individuals and their families. (ETS #2, 6, 8)
J. Demonstrate the use of microcomputers and related technology in assessment. (ETS #10)
K. Conduct assessments of the environment, including the use of ecological inventories and curriculum catalogs to develop critical activities in various domains, e.g., domestic, community, recreation/leisure, and vocational. (ETS #2, 6)
L. Develop and adapt alternative, performance based assessments, including portfolio assessment. (ETS #2, 6)
M. Compare various team models for assessment and instruction. (ETS #2, 6)

The COE Theme of Educator as Reflective Decision Maker is addressed in this course by requiring students to reflect through the course activities of reaction papers, assessment reports, and programming for student IEPs.

The EPSB Themes of Assessment and Closing the Achievement Gap are explored in the course through various chapters within the text such as ecological assessment, person-centered planning, adapting standards-based curriculum, and alternate assessment.

V. CONTENT OUTLINE:
A. Purpose of Assessment
B. Interpretation of standardized measures
C. Cautions in test interpretation
D. Observations and behavioral recordings
E. Performance assessment
F. Task analysis
G. Criterion-referenced assessment
H. Curriculum-based assessment
I. Classroom based assessment
J. Ecological assessment
K. Alternate assessment
L. Communicating assessment results
M. Collaborating with families

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES
A. Lectures and discussion
B. Small group discussion
C. Cooperative group activities
D. Reading material
E. Quizzes
F. Written assignments
G. Individual and group presentations
H. Research assignments
I. Exams

VII. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:
None

VIII. RESOURCES:
A. Waterfield Library
B. Blackboard
C. Self-selected books and articles
D. RACERTrack, ERIC, and the Internet
E. Professional publications

IX. GRADING PROCEDURES:
A. Course Requirements
   Terminology Project 50 pts
   Standardized Test Description 50 pts
   2 Journal article summaries 50 pts = 2 @ 25 pts
   Program Planning Assessment 100 pts
   Quizzes 50 pts = 5 @ 10 pts
   Assessment Development Project 100 pts
B. Grading Scale
   A = 100-90%
   B = 89-80%
   C = 79-70%
   D = 69-60%
   E = Below 60%

* Any student with special learning needs should contact the instructor. Any student not progressing well in the course should contact the professor for an appointment to discuss how to improve understanding.

X. ATTENDANCE POLICY:
This course adheres to the academic policy in the current MSU Graduate Bulletin.

XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:
This course adheres to the academic honesty policy stated in the current MSU Graduate Bulletin.

XII. TEXT AND REFERENCES:
Other readings as assigned by instructor.

XIII. PREREQUISITE:
None.
XIV. STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:
Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, age, or disability in employment, admission or the provision of services, educational programs and activities, and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities and equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities. For information regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the Office of Equal Opportunity, 270-809-3155.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READING</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/15</td>
<td>*Course Overview and Introduction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1/22 | *Defining assessment  
*Assessment and evaluation practices required by IDEA | Wolf-Schein (1998) | DUE: Bring in listing of all the standardized assessments used with moderate to severe students in your district |
| 1/29 | Interpretation of standardized measures |  | Quiz 1 |
| 2/5  | Curriculum & Meaningful Assessment | Browder Chapter 1 & 2  
Brown, Snell, & Lehr Chapter  
Ezell, Klein, Ezell-Powell (1999) | Article 1  
Choose a standardized test to review |
| 2/12 | Alternate Assessment & Types of Assessment | Browder Chapter 3 & 4  
Pike & Salend (1995)  
Pemberton (2003)  
Siegel-Causey & Allinder (1998) | DUE: Terminology Project |
| 2/19 | Person-Centered & Family-Centered Planning | Browder Chapter 5 |  |
| 2/26 | Planning and Instruction | Browder Chapter 6 | DUE: Standardized Test Description & Presentations |
| 3/04 | Assessing academic skills | Browder Chapter 7 & 8 ; Jones (2001)  
Jones (2001)  
Salend (1998) | Quiz 2 |
| 3/11 | Assessing Communication & Social Skills | Browder Chapter 11  
McConnell (1999)  
Condon & Tobin (2001) | Article 2 |
| 3/18 | SPRING BREAK |  |  |
| 3/25 | Assessing Home & Personnel Skills | Browder Chapter 10 | Quiz 3 |
| 4/1  | Assessing Vocational Skills | Browder Chapter 12  
Whittaker, Salend, &  |
| 4/8  | Assessing Community Skills | Browder Chapter 9 | Quiz 4 |
| 4/15 | Planning for Inclusion | Browder Chapter 13  
Whittaker, Salend, & | DUE: Program Planning Assessment |
Additional Readings:


Assignment Descriptions
SED 551

1. Journal article summaries - (25 pts. each for total of 50 pts) Critique two (2) peer reviewed research articles. All articles must be research based and relate to the field of assessment of students with multiple/severe disabilities. Articles must not be older than five years. A separate handout with more information will be distributed during class. **As Scheduled – February 5 and March 11, 2008**

2. Terminology project – (50 pts) Students will be given a list of terms used to describe how students perform on standardized tests. You must define these terms in your own words in parent-friendly language. You will include a list of the resources you consulted to develop an understanding of these terms formatted in APA style. Guidelines and the list of terms will be distributed in class. **DUE: February 12, 2008**

3. Quizzes - Quizzes (As scheduled) – (50 pts) A total of 5 quizzes will be administered. The quizzes will occur at the beginning of the class period and will be based on class readings, lectures, and discussions. They will consist of multiple-choice, true-false, and short essay questions. No make-ups will be allowed. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. **As Scheduled**

4. Standardized test description – (50 pts) You will provide at least 5 standardized diagnostic assessment instruments which have been used with students with multiple/severe disabilities in your district. You will choose one instrument to review. You will need to do outside research on our instrument using credible sources. Guidelines will be distributed concerning format of this assignment in class. You will present the information to the class. **DUE: February 26, 2008.**

5. Program Planning Assessment – (100 pts) You will conduct a multi-step comprehensive assessment and produce a professional assessment report based on your results. This project will require considerable time for a number of days. All relevant curricular areas should be addressed. This includes (a) motor, (b) self-care, (c) communication, (d) academics, (e) independent living skills, (f) community, (g) recreation/leisure, and (h) vocational/prevocational skills. Guidelines for this assignment will be distributed in class. **DUE: April 15, 2008.**

6. Assessment development project – (100 pts) You will develop a criterion-referenced
assessment that would be suitable for the age, grade, subject area, and ability levels of your ideal student. You will need to turn in this assessment instrument in “camera ready” form. You will decide on a scoring system – checklist, rating scale, rubric – appropriate for your instrument and incorporate it.

You will showcase your assessment instrument along with the results for your student in a presentation to the class. Guidelines will be distributed in class. DUE: April 29, 2008.