
Summer Semester 2002

EDUC 495 - 4
Special Topics:
Social Dimensions of Learning Disabilities

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Wednesday 17:30-21:20 in EDB 7500F

E01.00

PREREQUISITE

Co-requisite: EDUC 422

DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on current research and conceptual frameworks concerning social dimensions of learning disabilities. Specifically, we will analyze social problems in children and adolescents with learning disabilities from a social cognitive perspective and an emerging framework of risk and resilience. Additionally, we will examine current research in self-understanding and self-esteem among children and adults with learning disabilities; the patterns of friendship and loneliness in children with learning disabilities; parents' understanding of children with learning disabilities; and preventing drop-out in adolescents with learning disabilities.

The course will involve seminar discussions of instructor-prepared and student-generated questions. Each session will begin with the instructor's introduction to or lecture on the course topic for the following week's meeting. Readings will include chapters from the assigned text plus two journal articles per class.

EVALUATION

- Two 6-page double-spaced papers each worth 15 marks (total 30 marks).
A selection of topics will be provided by the instructor.
- Two quizzes each worth 20 marks (total 40 marks).
Quizzes will focus on assessing students' understanding of important concepts and the implications of research findings.
- Students' questions for class discussion (20 marks).
Each student will generate four questions for class discussions. Students will hand in the questions they think best represent their preparation and thinking over the course of the semester.
- Participation in class discussions (10 marks).

REQUIRED TEXT

Wong, B. Y.L. & Donahue, M. (Eds.) (2002). Social Dimensions of Learning Disabilities. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.