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FACULTY OF EDUCATION - SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

SUMMER INSTITUTE: LEARNING DISABILITIES- ELEMENTARY

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Philip H. Mann

DESCRIPTION:

Practical and proven concepts and activities will be presented based on experiences with students with learning and/or behavior problems. The course will focus on the hard to teach and hard to reach student. It will provide an in-depth study of appropriate diagnostic, instructional, and management strategies and is designed for special education as well as regular classroom teachers. The program will include group interaction as well as instruction allowing for the individual needs of different groups of participants (e.g. early intervention, intermediate, and secondary concerns).

THEORETICAL ORIENTATION:

Cognitive-behavioral Intervention ideas will be reviewed with reference to application to classroom or school environments. Specialized techniques to improve reading, writing and arithmetic skills are included. Particular attention is given to a learning strategy approach which has application across all skills. Included is a rationale for why children fail in school.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Diagnostic Strategies

Diagnostic approaches will be presented including the appropriate utilization of assessment techniques and individual educational programming.

From Diagnosis to Instruction

Integrating and translating formal and informal assessment information into educational planning. The course will unravel the complex array of symptoms of learning and behavior disorders in order to determine priorities and appropriate intervention strategies. Characteristics and social-psychological aspects of learning and behavior disorders will be presented along with actual case study information.

Curriculum and Instructional Strategies

Language Arts instructional alternatives appropriate for early childhood, elementary, and older students exhibiting learning difficulties in the basic skills, reading, writing, and spelling.

Math and Content Areas Instruction

Strategies in the diagnosis and teaching of math including recent research findings in linguistics and metacognition.

Classroom Management

Working with parents, mainstream realities and developing effective learning environments.

Behavior Management Strategies

Strategies for behavior management, diagnostic techniques, counselling, life space management approaches, teacher-student-parent interactions.

REQUIRED READINGS & MATERIALS:

Handbook in Diagnostic Teaching: A Learning Disabilities Approach, by Philip H. Mann, P.A. Suiter, & R.M. McClung
Allyn and Bacon, 1974.