

University of Puerto Rico
Mayagüez Campus
Dean of Academic Affairs
Teacher Preparation Program

Course Syllabus

Nature and Needs of Exceptional Children

Spring 2015-2016

I. General Information

Professor:	Janette Ferrer Montes, Ph.D.
Email:	janette.ferrer@upr.edu
Office:	SH 403 A1
Credits:	3 (three hours of lecture per week)
Days:	MWF
Office Hours:	MW 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm MW 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Telephone:	(787) 832-4040 ext. 2558

II. Course Description

This course offers an overview of the psychological and educational needs of exceptional learners. It provides the experiences and knowledge necessary for the design and implementation of curricular programs, special teaching techniques, and strategies appropriate for exceptional learners. Laboratory and field experiences will be an integrate part of the course.

III. Course Objectives

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

1. Identify, recognize, and articulate the characteristics and causes of different exceptionalities. (INTASC 1-2, PRDES 1-5)
2. Demonstrate understanding of the concept of disabilities (and its limitations) and the classifications established by law and their characteristics. (INTASC 1-2, PRDES1-5)

3. Understand services provided for people with disabilities and different educational models and interventions used by professionals. (INTASC 1-2, PRDES 2-5)
4. Articulate, synthesize, and analyze the legal grounds and history that have affected the education of people with exceptionalities. (INTASC 1-2-4, PRDES 1-5)
5. Describe what is an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and its implications for teaching students with disabilities. (INTASC 1-2, PRDES 1-5-9)
6. Identify appropriate learning strategies to facilitate the learning of students with exceptionalities in an inclusive environment. (INTASC 5-8, PRDES 3-4-5)
7. Understand basic principles and due process (procedural safeguards) related to Special Education Program on the island. (INTASC 4, PRDES 1-5)
8. Demonstrate knowledge, skills, and attitudes of respect and appreciation in working with students who have reasonable accommodation or disability. (INTASC 5-9, PRDES 4-5)
9. Recognize, estimate, and value differences, needs, and strengths of people with disabilities. (INTASC 5-9, PRDES 5)
10. Know and describe what Assistive Technology (AT) is and which AT devices could benefit people with disabilities. (INTASC 4, PRDES 5-7-10)