San Diego State University
General Studies 420: Disability and Society

Instructor: Ivet Lemus, MSW
Office hours: By Appointment Only
Email: ilemus@mail.sdsu.edu

Catalog Description of Course: This course will explore the range of human experience of individuals with disabilities; attitudes toward persons with disabilities (including those who may be gifted or have learning, mental, physical, or severe disabilities); interrelationship between societal institutions and the perception of persons with disabilities; and historical response to ableism, including beliefs and attitudes, as well as contemporary issues with particular emphasis on normalization, integration, and community living.

This is an upper division, three-unit course that meets undergraduate course work in Explorations requirement, Section B-Social and Behavioral Sciences. This course is seen as a valuable elective for students representing every university field of study. This course meets the graduation criteria for the Cultural Diversity Requirement.

Course Goals:
1. Students will demonstrate competency in recognizing and appreciating the disability experience. The competency goal will assist students in interacting easily and appropriately with people with disabilities.
2. Students will describe the origins and history of disability in relation to advocacy, disability rights, and civil rights legislation.
3. Students will be able to identify some of the causes, preventions, and therapies associated with disabilities, as well as the medical, educational, emotional, psychological, and social implications of “being different.”
4. Students will explore personal values, better understand their own “uniqueness” and participate in activities designed to provide cultural, ethnic, and diversity awareness.
5. Students will be made aware of the local agencies, support facilities, organizations, and community access for people with disabilities.

Methods of Instruction: Methods of teaching include lectures, guest speakers, discussion, and videos. In addition, awareness activities allow students to gain further understanding of disabilities and the challenges they present to individuals. Students are expected to interact and get involved with organizations that support people with disabilities, as well as interact with persons with disabilities in the community as part of the course requirements.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class participation and attendance
Students are expected to attend class - the entire time scheduled - and to participate in class activities. There will be numerous in-class response papers to videos, guest speakers, and activities that will be assigned points. In-class response papers will be accepted only on the day assigned. Partial responses and late papers will not be accepted.

2. Assignments
   Assigned Responses (both in class and homework)
   All About Me
   History of People with Disabilities
   Project
   Assistive Technology case study
   Community Service
   Exam
   Extra Credit

All assignments will described in detail on Blackboard and during class.

3. Exam
There will be one exam. The content of the exam will be based on class activities, guest speakers, lecture information, and reading assignments. The exam will only be offered as scheduled. If for some reason you must miss the exam, please check with the instructor for an appointment to take the “slightly more intense” replacement exam.

4. Extra Credit Article Reports (10 extra credit points total)

SPECIAL NOTES
• An “incomplete” grade will not be authorized except for serious medical or personal situations – see instructor.
• Lectures given in this class are the property of the university/faculty member and may not be taped with prior written permission from the professor and may not be used for any commercial purpose. Students found to be in violation may be subject to discipline under the University’s Student Conduct Code.
• Please make arrangements with a classmate to get any handouts and/or lecture information in case you are absent.

GRADING
The course grade will be determined as follows:

- In-class Participation/Responses 50 points
- “All About Me” 20 points
- Foundations of Dis/Ability Response 15 points
- Assistive Technology Response 15 points
- Proposal Plan 5 points
- Community Service Project 20 points
- Project 25 points
- Exam 50 points

Total points possible 200 points

**COURSE GRADING CRITERIA**

The course grading criteria will be based on the standards set by San Diego State University and The Department of Special Education. Per the Graduate Bulletin, grades will be assigned as follows: Grade of **A** (outstanding achievement; available only for the highest accomplishment); **B** (praiseworthy performance; definitely above average); **C** (average; awarded for satisfactory performance); **D** (minimally passing); **F** (failing); **SP** (satisfactory progress), not counted in the grade point average; **AU** (audit), no credit earned and not counted in the grade point average; **Cr** (credit), signifying units earned, but not counted in the grade point average; **NC** (no credit), no credit earned and not counted in the grade point average; **I** (authorized incomplete), no credit earned and not counted in the grade point average until one calendar year has expired at which time it will count as an “F” for grade point average computation; **U** (unauthorized incomplete), counted as “F” for grade point average computation.

**The instructor’s grading standards are as follows:**

- **All assignments will be turned in on the due date.**
  - All assignments will be penalized 2 points for late submission following due date.
  - Assignments will be penalized 5 points after one week following the due date unless prior arrangements with instructor have been made.
  - Any assignments that do not follow the instructions given will be returned, be considered “late” (resulting in loss of points), and will have to be redone by the next class session for credit.
  - Any assignment without a student name & assigned student # will be penalized 2 points.
  - (exception: student numbers will not be assigned until after the add/drop date)
- **All assignments will be neatly typed** (except for in-class responses that will be handwritten).
  - Assignments are expected to be well-written and free from spelling and punctuation errors. Points will be deducted for writing errors including violation of “person-first” language.
- Assignments will receive points based on quality and quantity of response, as well as appropriateness of content.
• Special arrangements can be made to have instructor review assignment and give feedback, if necessary, prior to assignment due date.

• Extra credit is built into the course to provide opportunities to make up lost points due to unforeseen circumstances (including illness, family emergencies, transportation difficulties, relationship problems, and other class conflicts).

• Integrity and honesty are expected from all students. There is no tolerance for behaviors such as cheating, lying, plagiarizing* and manipulating. Students who commit such behaviors risk dismissal from the class with a failing grade, and most importantly, the disapproval and disappointment from the GS 420 team.

*Plagiarize: to use, steal, and pass off (the ideas or writings of another) as one’s own: use (another’s production) without crediting the source: literary theft (American Dictionary.com)

Points will be converted to percentages and letter grades as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>188-200</td>
<td>94-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180-187</td>
<td>90-93.9%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>174-179</td>
<td>87-89.9%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>168-173</td>
<td>84-86.9%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160-167</td>
<td>80-83.9%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
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<td>154-159</td>
<td>77-79.9%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>148-153</td>
<td>74-76.9%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140-147</td>
<td>70-73.9%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134-139</td>
<td>67-69.9%</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>128-133</td>
<td>64-66.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>120-127</td>
<td>60-63.9%</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>119 or below</td>
<td>0-59.9%</td>
<td>F</td>
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Course Liability Statement

This course requires students to participate in field trips, research, or studies that include course work that will be performed off campus. Participation in such activities may result in accidents or personal injury. Students participating in the event are aware of these risks, and agree to hold harmless San Diego State University, the state of California, the Trustees of the California State University and Colleges, and its officers, employees, and agents against all claims, demands, suits, judgments, expenses and costs of any kind on account of their participation in the activities. Students using their own vehicles to transport other students to such activities should have current automobile insurance.
Disability

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.