OFFICIAL SYLLABUS

DISCIPLINE: EDSP
COURSE: 402/502

Catalog Description:

EDSP 402/502: Expanding Social Competence for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Addresses strategies to assist individuals with autism spectrum disorders to communicate and socialize. Emphasis is on analysis of environmental demands, assessing social competence, determining individual preferences, and offering instruction to address priority skills that will positively affect socializing in a variety of contexts. Prerequisite: EDSP 400 or 500.

Detailed Description of Course Content

* Lecture and discussion regarding: what are social skills and what is social competence?
* Lecture and discussion regarding a medical model versus social construction of disabilities.
* Lecture and discussion regarding the importance of social relationships to development and quality of life.
* Lecture and discussion regarding “problem” behavior and assessing behaviors for social understanding differences.
* Lecture and discussion regarding neurological issues and impact on socialization: “theory of mind” and weak central coherence theories of ASD.
* Lecture and discussion regarding how to assess social environments to determine necessary social skills.
* Lecture and discussion regarding prioritizing, planning for, and assessing social skill preferences and instruction.
* Lecture, discussion, and exemplification of social skill curricula marketed for families and educators who support individuals with ASD (ASD).
* Lecture and discussion regarding planning for and actively ensuring generalization and maintenance of taught social skills.

Detailed Description of Conduct of Course

§ Lecture, discussion, cooperative group learning, demonstrations, computer assisted instruction, and writing-to-learn will be used throughout the course to assist learning.
§ Videos may be used to exemplify some techniques, e.g. Relaxation Training

Student Goals and Objectives of the Course.

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:
1. Describe social skill development, social competence, and the unique social skill challenges associated with having an ASD.
2. Describe the importance of social relationships and the need for social interaction, social rules, and age appropriate leisure activities.
3. Complete an ecological assessment of social environments.
4. Develop and implement a program designed to teach priority social skills.
Assessment Measures (May vary depending on course delivery method.)

Student performance will be evaluated via:
1. Completion of reading assignments and participation in class discussions (students must be present to participate).
2. Preparation, submission, and presentation of a research paper regarding social competence/socialization for individuals with ASD.
3. Evaluation/Reflection upon the plans presented by the graduate-level students.

While some assessments are common, the differentiated assignments between the 400-level and 500-level are:

**400 Level Course**

**500 Level Course**

EDSP 402
* Interview a practicing professional regarding social supports necessary for students with autism.

EDSP 502
* Design a plan for social skills instruction and present it to the class.

Suggested Readings and Resources (to be revised as needed):


(Return to Autism Studies page)