

SPED 6900 - Issues, Trends Ethical, Legal and Professional Guidelines in Special Education

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section A02, CRN 44251,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Courtney Cruz

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Dr. Courtney Cruz

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Ph.D., Special Education, Kent State University, 2026

M.Ed., Early Childhood Education, Youngstown State University, 2014

B.A., Early Childhood Education, Mount Vernon Nazarene University, 2004

Instructor Office Location:

Beeghly Hall # 2419

Department of Teacher Education and Leadership Studies

Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences, and Education (BCLASSE)

Youngstown State University

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Course Description

6900. Issues, Trends & Ethical, Legal and Professional Guidelines in Special Education. This course is designed to provide the candidate with an exploratory study of the issues, trends, as well as the ethical, legal and professional guidelines in special education. Candidates will become familiar with legal policies and procedures as well as practice ethical guidelines as related to students with exceptionalities. Candidates will understand how to advocate for improved outcomes for learners with exceptionalities and their families as well as design and implement professional learning activities to increase their own practices. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Exceptional lives: Practice, progress and dignity in today's schools.	Turnbull, A., Rutherford Turnbull, H., Wehmeyer, M., Shogren, K., and Burke, M.M.	

Turnbull, A., Rutherford Turnbull, H., Wehmeyer, M., Shogren, K., and Burke, M.M. (2024). *Exceptional lives: Practice, progress and dignity in today's schools*. (10th ed).

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.



Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Read CH 1 Exceptional Lives Text by Turnbull et al. Additional readings and viewings on BB	Federal IDEA= Foundations, Procedures & Rights	Discussion Board (DB): Class introduction Federal Case Summary and Reflection
8/31	Read CH 1 Exceptional Lives Text by Turnbull et al. Additional readings and viewings on BB	State Implementation of IDEA: Procedures & Responsibilities	DB: 1st post by Thursday, 2 peers posts by Sunday night Position Paper/State Comparison Mini Chart Chapter 1 quiz
9/7	Read CH 2 Exceptional Lives Text by Turnbull et al. Additional readings and viewings on BB	Professional Ethics & Ethical Decision-Making in SPED	No assignment due. Start critical task assignment due Week 7 DB: 1st post by Thursday, 2 peer posts by Sunday Chapter 2 quiz
9/14	Read CH 3 Exceptional Lives text by Turnbull et al. Additional readings and viewings on BB	Family Engagement, Cultural Competence, & Community Collaboration	DB: 1st post by Thursday, 2 peer posts by Sunday Intervention Specialist Family Information Brochure Chapter 3 quiz
9/21	Read CH 4 Exceptional Lives text by Turnbull et al. Additional readings and viewings on BB	Ethical Advocacy, Identification Practices, & Professional Judgment	DB: 1st post by Thursday, 2 peer posts by Sunday Continue working on your critical task due in Week 7
9/28	Read CH 4 Exceptional Lives text by Turnbull et al. Additional readings and viewings on BB	Advocacy for Students & IS Professional Empowerment	DB: 1st post by Thursday, 2 peer posts by Sunday Advocacy Letter or Video Chapter 4 quiz
10/5	Additional readings and viewings on BB	Professional Identity and Mentorship	Final Synthesis Paper: Critical Task

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.