SPED 6917 - Effective Instruction for Learners with Exceptional Needs

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section A01, CRN 41928,

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
Master's, Early Childhood Education, Youngstown State University, 2014
Bachelor's, Early Childhood Education, Mount Vernon Nazarene University, 2004

Instructor Office Location:

Beeghly Hall # 2419

Department of Teacher Education

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

Youngstown State University

Instructor Office Phone: 330-941-3223

Course Description

6917. Effective Instruction for Learners with Exceptional Needs. This course is designed to provide the candidate with the knowledge about individuals with an exceptionality development and assessment data to inform decisions about effective instruction. Candidates will understand how to use explicit and systematic instructional strategies including active student engagement and motivation, differentiated instruction, flexible and small groups, specialized individualized instruction, self -regulated learning and meta-cognition strategies. The candidate will then use this knowledge to plan and guide instruction to meet the rigorous content goals for each individual with an exceptionality's academic and social-behavioral needs. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Strategies for teaching learners with special needs	Polloway, E. A., Patton, J. R., Serna, L., & Bailey, J.	

Text: Polloway, E. A., Patton, J. R., Serna, L., & Bailey, J. (2021). *Strategies for teaching learners with special needs* (12th edition). Pearson.

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
10/19	Read CH 1 & 2	introduction about teaching students with special needs	Discussion Board (DB) 1st post due Thursday, 2 peer responses due by Sunday UDL
10/26	Read CH 3 & 4	This module is about differentiated instruction and classroom management	Discussion Board (DB) 1st post due Thursday, 2 peer responses due by Sunday DI Power Point

11/2	Read CH 5, 6 & 7	This module is about Strategies for Spoken Language and Reading	Discussion Board (DB) 1st post due Thursday, 2 peer responses due by Sunday IRIS Module #1
11/9	Read CH 8 & 9	This module is about strategies for written language and mathematics	Discussion Board (DB) 1st post due Thursday, 2 peer responses due by Sunday IRIS Module #2
11/16	Read CH 10 & 11	This module is about strategies for social studies and science	Discussion Board (DB) 1st post due Thursday, 2 peer responses due by Sunday Adapted Lesson Plans
11/23	Read CH 12 & 13	This module is about strategies for study skills and social skills	Discussion Board (DB) 1st post due Thursday, 2 peer responses due by Sunday Observation/Interview Report
11/30	Read CH 14 & 15	This module is about strategies for functional academics and transition	CRITICAL TASK Strategy File Culminating Quiz

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.