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Semester Effective: Spring 2015

Disability Studies (DS) 1501 Introduction to Disabilities (3) CSU
[formerly Direct Support Education 1 and 1501; Social Science 1]

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: This introductory course provides a background in the history, theory, language, the basic concepts of services for persons with disabilities, effective communication, and terms and vocabulary that are important to the field of disabilities. The course will also detail ethics, rights, social issues, confidentiality, and mandated privacy. It will also explore the employment opportunities to work with individuals with disabilities.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text: Nielson, Kim. *A Disability History of the United States*. Boston: Beason, 2012.
Print.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. examine the history and causes of disabilities,
2. examine and synthesize contemporary best practices,
3. synthesize components of best practices,
4. classify various disabilities and professional terminology,
5. compare services for people with disabilities,
6. analyze the role of the paraprofessional working with people with disabilities,
7. examine the legal aspects of confidentiality and ethical issues, and
8. demonstrate an awareness of diverse populations of persons with disabilities and the aspects of the disability.

Course Scope and Content:

- Unit I History and Causes of Disabilities
- A. Introduction to the field of disability studies
 - B. Historical use and origins of the disability labels
- Unit II Theories_Best Practices

- A. Explore Various Models and Theories
- B. The effect of historical events on the development of these models, regulations, and laws
- C. The importance of “people-first” language
- D. Differences and similarities between best practices

Unit III Available Services

- A. The role of the paraprofessional
- B. Advocacy organizations and their functions
- C. Employment Opportunities for Paraprofessionals

Unit IV Legal Aspects of Confidentiality and Ethical Issues

- A. Difference between confidentiality and privacy
- B. Written and verbal consents
- C. Guidelines regarding disclosing of information
- D. The purpose of a code of ethics

Unit V Description of Major Disability Groupings

- A. Physical
- B. Sensory
- C. Developmental and Cognitive
- D. Learning
- E.

Unit VI Conditions that Affect Disabilities

- A. Physical Barriers
- B. Social Barriers

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Review online tutorials and video clips
2. Complete writing and reading assignments
3. Participate in individual and group assignments

Methods of Instruction:

1. Lectures
2. Group discussions
3. Classroom exercises
4. Individual and/or group projects

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Instructor evaluations
2. Tests/Quizzes

3. Research paper