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Reviewed by: S. Vaughan  
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C & G Ed approval: February 8, 2016

Disability Studies (DS) 1504 Cultural Competency Towards Disabilities (3 Units) CSU

[formerly Direct Support Education 4 and 1504; Social Science 4]

Prerequisite: None

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: This course helps explore cultural awareness and to understand how to work with people who have a wide variety of personal perspectives, cultures, and life circumstances through the disability perspective. The course investigates cultural competency through the five elements of cultural awareness: 1) valuing diversity; 2) understanding your own culture; 3) understanding when culture may be affecting interactions between persons and among groups; 4) knowing where to find good resources; and 5) knowing how to change your behavior to meet the cultural needs of individuals with disabilities.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text: Priestley, Mark. *Disability and the Life Course: Global Perspectives*. New York: Cambridge UP, 2001. Print.

Nielsen, Kim. *A Disability History of the United States*. Boston: Beacon, 2012. Print

Course Objectives:

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

1. explain why cultural competence towards disabilities is a critical part of support work and why it is important to understand your own cultural perspective,
2. describe the difference between race, ethnicity, and culture,
3. describe five essential elements and the importance of cultural competence,
4. describe the cultural competence continuum,
5. identify key values and views related to the macro culture of the United States towards disabilities,
6. describe differences in definitions and responses to disabilities based on culture,
7. describe the importance of being able to assess levels of cultural competence,
8. identify methods for increasing cultural competence,
9. describe how culture can affect communication, and
10. describe strategies for overcoming and preventing cultural barriers to communication.

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I Defining Cultural Competence

- A. Trends in public policies and support services that have increased the need for cultural competence
- B. Hidden aspects and visible displays of culture and how it may affect the services
- C. The difference between race and ethnicity
- D. The cultural continuum

Unit II Effects of One's Culture When Working as a Paraprofessional

- A. The importance of becoming culturally competent
- B. Cultural influences on decision-making
- C. Influences of family, traditions, and religion on one's perceptions of social customs, etiquette, status, decision-making, and gender roles

Unit III Understanding the Culture of Support Services

- A. Terms used to describe culture and its affect on institutional bias
- B. Cultural capital
- C. How to avoid using common jargon or labels

Unit IV Importance of the Cultural Competence Continuum

- A. The elements of cultural competence on cultural destructiveness
- B. Hate crimes
- C. Self improvement on cultural competence

Unit V Culturally Competent Communication

- A. The purpose of communication
- B. Methods of communication other than written or spoken language
- C. Culture's affect on body language
- D. Cultural barriers to communication
- E. Idioms

Unit VI Understand the Paraprofessional's Role in Culturally Competent Organizations

- A. The types of diversity and their affect upon organizations
- B. Steps to achieve cultural competency

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 multimedia
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

Supplemental Data:

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|------------------------------|---|
| TOP Code:                    | 210450: Disability Services                                       |
| SAM Priority Code:           | D: Possibly Occupational  |
| Distance Education:          | Online; offline   |
| Funding Agency:              | Y: Not Applicable(funds not used)                                 |
| Program Status:              | 1: Program Applicable   |
| Noncredit Category:          | Y: Not Applicable, Credit Course                                  |
| Special Class Status:        | N: Course is not a special class                                  |
| Basic Skills Status:         | N: Course is not a basic skills course                            |
| Prior to College Level:      | Y: Not applicable   |
| Cooperative Work Experience: | N: Is not part of a cooperative work experience education program |
| Eligible for Credit by Exam: | E: Credit By Exam   |



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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Eligible for Pass/No Pass:      | C: Pass/No Pass                      |
| Taft College General Education: | LSBS: Local GE Social/Behavioral Sci |