Course Title: Developmental Disabilities: History and Service Provision

Course Code: PSY 251

Credits: 3

Contact Hours: 45

Prerequisites: Introductory Psychology

Required for: None

Elective for: All curricula with upper level social science elective.

Course Description:

In this course, students will learn about the needs and challenges faced by people with developmental disabilities. The course will cover developmental disorders including, but not limited to, cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, and intellectual disabilities. Students will explore the social, cognitive and behavioral limitations associated with each disorder. This course will focus on understanding the complex needs of people with developmental disorders and the value of providing them with functional, supportive, and individualized services. The course will also explore the history of service provision to people with developmental disorders, the changes that have occurred in those services over the last four decades, and current standards of care. The course will outline the ethical and legal issues involved in service provision. Heavy emphasis will be placed on viewing developmental disabilities through functional and behavioral perspectives. Prerequisite(s): PSY 101 Credits: 3 (3,0)

Learning Objectives: After completing the course, students will be able to:

1. Define and classify developmental disabilities;
2. Compare patterns of typical and atypical development;
3. Describe the history of services and the negative effects of institutionalization;
4. Distinguish the pattern and range of severity of deficits associated with various developmental disabilities;
5. Identify how decreased cognition, communication, social skills and emotional control impact behavior;
6. Describe how eligibility requirements and regulatory compliance issues impact service provision;
7. Explain how functional assessment is used to develop plans to address challenging behaviors;
8. Describe the importance of person-centered supports and services;
9. Develop an individualized service plan for a person with multiple disabilities.


Special needs:
If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodation, you need to make me aware of your needs by the end of the second class so that we can arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Grade Scale:

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Class Meetings and Assignments

Unit 1: Overview

Lecture: What is a Developmental Disability?

Lecture: Construct of Developmental Disabilities: Past and Present

Lecture: Growth, Development, and Understanding Developmental Disabilities

Unit 2: Developmental Disabilities

Lecture: Cerebral Palsy

Lecture: Epilepsy and Neurological Impairments

Lecture: Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder

Lecture: Living and Aging with a Developmental Disability (part 1)

Lecture: Other Developmental and Genetic Disabilities

Lecture: Common Deficits and Service Needs

Unit 3: Determining Services

Lecture: Determining eligibility for and obtaining OPWDD Services

Lecture: Regulatory standards and 5 Governing Principles of Working with People with ID/DD

Lecture: Assessment: Understanding and Addressing Challenging Behavior

Lecture: Assessment: Adult Issues Determining and Providing Appropriate Support

Unit 4: Service Plans

Lecture: Developing a Service Plan

Lecture: Person - Centered Planning

Lecture: Person Centered Planning
Lecture: PCP and Personal Outcome Measures

Lecture: Developing a Service Plan: The Interdisciplinary Team
Group Work: Develop a service plan in small groups