UNT
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS®

Department of Disability and Addiction Rehabilitation

1155 Union Circle #311456

Denton, TX 76203-1456 USA

COURSE INFORMATION
- RHAB 3100.001: Disability & Society
- Fall 2016
- Blended Course
- Prerequisites: None
- Course time: Tuesdays 2 to 3:20PM
- Course location: Chilton 270

Professor/Instructor Contact Information
- Brandi L. Levingston, Ph.D., CRC
- Office Location: Chilton Hall, 218J
- Office Phone: (940) 565-2234
- Office hours **Tuesday and Thursday 11 to 1; Wednesday 11 to 12 or by appointment**
- Brandi.Levingston@unt.edu

About the Professor / Instructor
Dr. Brandi Levingston is a Senior Lecturer and Undergraduate Program Coordinator at the University of North Texas in the Department of Disability and Addictions Rehabilitation. She received her doctoral degree in Special Education, with a concentration in Rehabilitation Counseling, from the University of Texas at Austin and her master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. She has worked as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the state of Texas. Her interests include: cultural competency, psychosocial aspects of disability, and students with disabilities in postsecondary education, and employment of persons with disabilities, specifically people with blindness or visual-impairments.

Required Materials
Andrew, J. D., & Faubion, Clayton, W. (2014). *Rehabilitation Services: An Introduction for the Human Services Professional*. (3rd ed.). Linn Creek: Aspen Professional Services

Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Any materials not listed as *optional* are required for the course.

Course Description
This course is designed to investigate the human condition of disability. It will examine how disability is socially, historically, politically, and culturally constructed. Activities will be included to increase students' knowledge of interactions among individuals, groups and events in relation to disability. Theories of human behavior will be discussed in relation to disabilities. An overview of the structure of human services in the United States will be presented along with a focus on critical rehabilitation concepts and issues. ***This course meets once a week on Tuesdays**

COURSE OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES
Upon completion of this course, students will achieve the following objectives:
1. Identify the appropriate methods, technologies and data use to investigate disability issues.
2. Identify the social institutions and processes of the human service delivery system, the legal foundations on which they are built, and the social context in which they operate.
3. Analyze and discuss basic assumptions and theories underlying rehabilitation and disability studies and the philosophical principles with particular emphasis on self-determination and consumer choice.
4. Analyze, assess and develop alternative explanations or solutions to public policy problems and federal legislation in relation to disability.
5. Identify and discuss the historical, social, political, economic, cultural and global forces of the disability movement.
6. Identify and understand the differences and commonalities among people with and without disabilities.
7. Explore social and behavior processes related to disability including discrimination, stigmatization, and integration.
8. Explore and test factors related to disability, such as the threats and environmental aspects.
9. Learn how to think critically about disability studies, with the use of journals pertaining to disability and rehabilitation.
10. Apply problem solving skills to evaluate the accessibility of existing facilities In relation to meeting the needs of people with disabilities.
11. Identify own responsibility for people with disabilities to lay the foundation for lifelong learning.
12. Communicate with class mates and instructor about well thought out concepts related to people with disabilities.
13. Comprehend the perspectives of others in relation to people with disabilities.
14. Find how to value different ideas, viewpoints, and culture in relation to people with disabilities.
15. Deepen thought processes and gain the capacity to understand the concepts of impairment, disability, and handicap in relation to others views.
16. Express view points on disability that is culturally and mutually respectful.

Course Outcomes
1. Students will be able to identify the lived experience of disability.
2. Students will relate to the role of service delivery systems for people with disabilities.
3. Students will recognize the need for community inclusion and integration.
4. Students will be able to measure the impact of advocacy and self-determination for people with disabilities.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS/ASSISTANCE
The following information has been provided to assist you in preparation for the technological aspect of the course.
- UIT Help Desk: http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm
- Hardware and software necessary to use Bb Learn: http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/
- Browser requirements: http://kb.blackboard.com/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=84639794
- Computer and Internet Literacy: http://clt.odu.edu/oso/index.php?src=pe_comp_lit
- Necessary plug-ins: http://goo.gl/1lsVF
- Internet Access with compatible web browser
- Headset/Microphone (if required for synchronous chats)
- Word Processor

Minimum Technical Skills Needed:
- Using the blackboard system
- Using email with attachments
- Creating and submitting files in commonly used word processing program formats
- Copying and pasting
- Downloading and installing software
- Using spreadsheet programs

Student Support
The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Blackboard and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:
- Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
- Phone: 940.565-2324
- In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Regular hours are maintained to provide support to students. Please refer to the website: http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/hours.htm for updated hours.

ACCESS & NAVIGATION

Access and Log in Information
This course was developed and will be facilitated utilizing the University of North Texas' Learning Management System, Blackboard Learn. To get started with the course, please go to:
https://learn.unt.edu

You will need your EUID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your EUID or have forgotten your password, please go to: http://ams.unt.edu.

Student Resources
As a student, you will have access to:
- Student Orientation via Blackboard Learn. It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials within the Orientation to better equip you in navigating the course.
- Blackboard's On Demand Learning Center for Students. It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials to better equip you to navigate the course.
- From within Blackboard, you will have access to the "UNT Helpdesk" tab which provides student resources and Help Desk Information.

Being a Successful Online Student
- What Makes a Successful Online Student?
- Self-Evaluation for Potential Online Students

Course Organization
This course is organized into weekly learning modules with specific topics for each week. Each week begins on Monday at 8:00am and ends at 11:59 pm Sunday. All assignments will be due no later than Sunday of each week. All materials will be offered in accessible formats.

What Should Students Do First?
Once logged into the course on blackboard, students should attempt to familiarize themselves with the course. Students are expected to read the course syllabus and schedule. Students should also read all the materials provided in Learning Module 1 during the first week of class.

Each week students should proceed based on the provided course schedule. On blackboard, the course has also been divided into weekly learning modules that are based on the course schedule. Students should read the weekly objectives, lecture materials, required text chapters, and any supplementary required readings. Once the readings have been completed, students should complete the weekly assignment. The weekly assignments can be accessed via the weekly learning module or in the assignments tab on the left hand sidebar.

COMMUNICATIONS
Information about the communication tools in the course and how they will be used:
- Announcements: Each week the instructor will provide students with information pertaining to the class topic, readings, and assignments via a course announcement. Periodically, the instructor may provide announcements about important elements in the course.
- Email: Students are encouraged to email the instructor via blackboard or by using the email address provided to you at the beginning of this syllabus (brandi.levingston@unt.edu). *uses]*
- Discussions: Students will participate in discussion board activities with other classmates and the instructor to encourage group thought and active participation.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Students should contact the instructor via blackboard, email, phone, or in person during office hours regarding any questions or concerns. Please find this information at the top of this syllabus. The instructor will make every effort to respond to emails within a 24 hour timeframe. However, during times of illness, travel, holidays, and weekends, the instructor may need more than 24 hours to respond. If this is the case, the instructor will try to inform the class prior to such events and make every effort to
Respond in a timely manner.

When assignments have been graded, an announcement will be sent out and the gradebook will be updated to reflect these changes. It is the student's responsibility to check the grade book on at least a weekly basis. If a student notices that an assignment has been graded that the student submitted and the gradebook has not changed, please contact the instructor and/or teaching assistant to resolve this issue. Students are encouraged to make contact as soon as possible. If more than one week has elapsed after the gradebook has been updated, the issue may not be   resolved. All issues regarding the gradebook are at the discretion of the instructor to approve and make any needed changes.

ASSESSMENTS & GRADING

Assessments
This course is made up of a series of assignments and assessments to assist you in achieving the course learning objectives/outcomes. Each week you will work on various combinations of assignments, activities, discussions, readings, research, etc. which will be made available to you by each Monday at 8:00 am and close on the following Sunday at 11:59 pm. More information regarding each assignment can be found in the assignments tab of this course on the left hand side bar.

1. Attendance and Participation - 50 points
Students are expected to contribute to the class by presenting their ideas, questions, etc. in relation to class discussion. Students are expected to prepare for class by completing reading assignments as scheduled. Participation in assigned class activities is an important part of this grade. Attendance will be

taken each class time in order to further assess class participation and will be a part of the overall grade. **Attendance is worth a total of 10 points**.

    (a) There will be **4 discussion boards (4 discussion boards at 10 points)** related to participation in this course. To receive complete credit for the discussion boards each student is required to make *one original post* and two *substantial responses* to a classmate. The 4 discussion boards are worth a total of *60points* altogether.

2. Quizzes – 100 points (5 quizzes at 20 points)
There will be five quizzes covering reading assignments, lectures, and class discussion will be given. Students are encouraged to prepare and take the quizzes early rather than risk potentialities like power failures and technical problems which may be encountered at the last minute. If you do encounter technical issues during a quiz, contact the student help desk for technical support and inform me of the situation as well.

3. Web Exercise – 100 (5 web exercises at 20 points)
There will be 4 web exercises to enhance learning. These exercises are related to reading materials and other resources. These assignments are designed to measure the student's grasp of concepts rather than the retention of facts.

4. ADA Assignment - 100 points
Students will work individually or in pairs to evaluate campus and community locations for ADA accessibility compliance. In addition to completing the checklist, each student will prepare an evaluation report of the experience. You, individually will submit the checklist, report and case study. The checklist, report and case study should be submitted to Blackboard during Week 6.

    Breakdown of points: ADA Checklist   50 points
                            ADA Report   25 points
                            ADA Case Study 25 points

5. Journal Review Assignment - 100 points
Students will submit a 2 to 3 page paper after reviewing three journal articles from one of the disability studies journals. The first paragraph of the paper will be a personal reflection regarding the assignment as a whole. After the reflection paragraph, you will compare and contrast the three articles. In summary, you will provide a direct quote from each journal article and provide a reference list. Points will be awarded for form as well as content. The review will include the citation of the article in APA format (American Psychological Association). It will include 1) a personal reflection about the assignment, 2) compare and contrast the three articles 3) provide a direct quote from each article, 4) complete reference list. The journal review assignment should be submitted to blackboard during week 11.. Papers that do not meet the minimum page length requirement will be counted as an incomplete assignment **(incomplete papers will result in a reduction of points)**.

6. Service Learning – 150 points
Service learning is learning by doing-a process of action/reflection. It is a cooperative project of faculty, students and community that provides an educational opportunity outside the classroom. Students receive first-hand experience with persons with disabilities in a local community social service agency. Agencies train students for their work at that site and schedule specific times for these activities. In order to obtain the full points, students must complete 20 hours of service learning and demonstrate

thoughtful and complete reflections of their learning in a reflection paper. The reflection papers should be 1-2 pages, double-spaced, with standard margins. In addition to the paper, students will submit their service learning packet which contains the: 1) placement confirmation, 2) release of liability, 3) signed time sheet, and 4) evaluation to Blackboard during Week 15. Service Learning documents can found within the Service Learning link located on the left hand side of the course. *Papers that do not meet the minimum page length requirement will be counted as an incomplete assignment **(incomplete papers will result in a reduction of points)**.

Assignment Submission Instructions

Students should use the weekly learning module or assignments tab to complete all assignments. For assignments that must be submitted via drop box, students should only submit word documents as no other file type will be accepted. All assignments will open on Monday at 8:00am and will close on Sunday at 11:59 pm of the corresponding weekly learning module. Should technical issues occur during the assignment submission process, students are encouraged to contact the blackboard help desk via blackboard or phone. Once students have reported this technical problem, they are encouraged to contact the instructor with a ticket remedy number so that an alternative assignment submission process may be established. It is up to the discretion of the instructor to accept any alternative submissions of assignments.

COURSE EVALUATION

The Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. SPOT is considered to be an important part of your participation in this class. Further information regarding SPOT can be found at https://facultysuccess.unt.edu/news/student-perceptions-teaching-spot

COURSE POLICIES

Assignment Policy

All assignments will open on Monday at 8:00 am and will close on Sunday at 11:59 pm of the corresponding weeks. Discussion boards, web exercises, and quizzes will be submitted via the spaces provided to you on blackboard. All other assignments should be saved as word documents, as all other formats will not be accepted.

Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback

It is the responsibility of the instructor to provide materials that foster learning for the students enrolled in the course. The instructor will further provide any needed instructions for any course materials and assignments. Additionally, the instructor will send out weekly announcements, grade assignments, and respond to student emails. The instructor will strive to respond to students' emails in a timely manner

within a 24 hour period, unless the instructor is sick or traveling. If necessary, the instructor will adjust assignments or grades when warranted by instructor error or technical issue.

When assignments have been graded, an announcement will be sent out and the gradebook will be updated to reflect these changes. It is the student's responsibility to check the grade book on at least a weekly basis. If a student notices that an assignment has been graded that the student submitted and the gradebook has not changed, please contact the instructor and/or teaching assistant to resolve this issue. Students are encouraged to make contact as soon as possible. If more than one week has elapsed after the gradebook has been updated, the issue may not be   resolved. All issues regarding the gradebook are at the discretion of the instructor to approve and make any needed changes.

Late Work
Assignments will not be accepted late for this course, unless there is a remedy ticket number from the blackboard helpdesk. Otherwise, there will be no acceptance of late assignments, regardless of the situation. Students are encouraged to complete assignments in a timely manner to avoid being late and missing an assignment.

Class Participation
Students are required to login regularly to the online class site. The instructor will use the tracking feature in Blackboard to monitor student activity. Students are also required to participate in all class activities such as discussion boards.

Virtual Classroom Citizenship
The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual classroom environment. Please use proper netiquette when interacting with class members and the professor.

Incompletes
Students are expected to complete the course within the session time frame. A grade of Incomplete will only be given if the student is (a) passing the course, (b) has completed 75% of the course requirement, (c) has very compelling special circumstances, and (d) provides adequate documentation. I will require that the course requirements be fulfilled by the end of the following semester. According to UNT policy:

> *An Incomplete Grade ("I") is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course and (2) has a justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student (such as serious illness or military service), for not completing the work on schedule. The student must arrange with the instructor to finish the course at a later date by completing specific requirements. These requirements must be listed on a Request for Grade of Incomplete form signed by the instructor, student, and department chair; and also entered on the grade roster by the instructor.*
> *(http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/incomplete.htm, p. 1)*

If you fail to complete the course requirements by the end of the subsequent semester the grade of Incomplete will be replaced with an "F". I strongly urge you to complete the course. If you find you are falling behind, or not passing, I recommend you consider withdrawing from the class so that your record and GPA is not negatively affected. Please come talk to me if you find yourself having any difficulties with keeping up with the assignments or are not doing well on the quizzes.

Copyright Notice
Some or all of the materials on this course Web site may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials

without the express and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies. Additional copyright information may be located at: http://copyright.unt.edu/content/unt-copyright-policies.

Information about the University of North Texas' Attendance Policy may be found at:
http://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-2-5

Syllabus Change Policy

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

UNT POLICIES

Student Conduct and Discipline

The primary concern of the University of North Texas is the student. The university attempts to provide for all students a campus environment that is conducive to academic endeavor and social and individual growth. To that end, rules, regulations and guidelines governing student behavior and the student's relationship with the university have been formulated into a student code of conduct and discipline. Enrollment at the University of North Texas is considered implicit acceptance of these and other policies applicable to students, all of which are educational in nature and designed to help students understand expectations and accept responsibility for their own actions. Additional information can be found in the Code of Student Conduct.

Academic Honesty Policy

Policies regarding student conduct and academic honesty posted by the University Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities in the Student Handbook apply to this class. As stated in the Policy: http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/misconduct.html, misconduct for which students are subject to discipline falls into the following categories:

> A. *Acts of Dishonesty, including but not limited to:*
>> 1. *Academic dishonesty - cheating. The term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to:*
>>> a. *use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations;*
>>> b. *dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;*
>>> c. *the acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the University;*
>>> d. *dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s);*
>>> e. *Any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage.*
>> 2. *Academic Dishonesty — plagiarism. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to:*
>>> a. *the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement and/or*

Discipline may range from not having an assignment accepted for credit to expulsion from the course. For more information regarding policies regarding student conduct, please visit: http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html

ADA Policy
The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Add/Drop Policy
Please refer to the Office of the Registrar regarding the Add/Drop Policy.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses:
Federal Regulation
To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at http://www.oea.gov/index.php/links/electronic-code-of-federal-regulations. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at "Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f) (6) (I) (G)" and can be found buried within this document: http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2012-title8-vol1/xml/CFR-2012-title8-vol1-sec214-2.xml

>   *The paragraph reads:*
>   *(G) For F–1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F–1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.*

University of North Texas Compliance
To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course. If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:
1. Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

2. Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

RESOURCES

Links to Academic Support Services, such as Office of Disability Accommodation, Counseling and Testing Services, UNT Libraries, Online Tutoring, UNT Writing Lab and Math Tutor Lab can be located within Blackboard Learn on the "Academic Support" tab.

- Computer Labs: General access computer lab information (including locations and hours of operation) can be located at: http://www.gacl.unt.edu/
- UNT Portal: http://my.unt.edu
- UNT Blackboard Student Resources: Technical Support: https://ecampussupport.unt.edu/index.cfm?M=Student_Resources
- UNT Library Information for Off-Campus Users: http://www.library.unt.edu/services/for-special-audiences/offcampus/information-for-off-campus-users
- UNT Computing and Information Technology Center: http://citc.unt.edu/services-solutions/students
- UNT Academic Calendar: http://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2014-15/pdf/calendar.pdf