



THE
HADLEY SCHOOL
FOR THE BLIND

Introduction to Multiple Disabilities COMD 3350 Course Syllabus

Course Objective

The purpose of this course is to teach students about issues related to children and youth with sensory losses and multiple disabilities. Information will be presented about brain development and the neurological process involved in learning, the use of the sense of touch, sensory integration, motor, and adaptive methods for daily functioning. Students will also be taught the basics of communication development including strategies for communicating with children with sensory loss and multiple disabilities.

Course Textbook

Smith, M., & Levack, N. (1996). *Teaching students with visual and multiple impairments*. Austin, TX: Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Additional Readings

A variety of Internet articles and materials from other sources will be assigned.

Weekly Lessons

- Week 1: Multiple Disabilities: Etiologies
- Week 2: Sensory Loss Issues: Deafblindness and Blindness
- Week 3: Neurological Issues: Brain Development and Learning
- Week 4: Touch and Tactile Defensiveness
- Week 5: Other Senses: Sensory Integration
- Week 6: Motor
- Week 7: Feeding: Adaptive Methods & Self-Care Topics

Week 8: Midterm

- Week 9: Communication Basics: Concept Development
- Week 10: Cues and Signals
- Week 11: Object/Tangible Systems/Calendars
- Week 12: Communicative Behaviors and Intents
- Week 13: Communication Strategies: Providing Opportunities to Communicate
- Week 14: Behavior: State Modulation
- Week 15: Active Learning: Play Environments

Week 16: Final Exam

Required Assignments

Weekly Assignments: There will be assignments in each topic unit that involve application of the content learned. The grading rubric will be posted in the course.

Discussion Board: Students will be required to participate in weekly discussions that related to the content covered during the weekly lesson. They will post comments and respond to the comments of other students.

Weekly Quizzes: On-line quizzes will be given weekly except during the Midterm and Final weeks of the course.

Grading

Students will be graded according to the following:

94% - 100%	=	A
90% - 93%	=	A-
87% - 89%	=	B+
84% - 86%	=	B
80% - 83%	=	B-
77% - 79%	=	C+
74% - 76%	=	C
70% - 73%	=	C-
Below 69%	=	F