Perspectives on Special Education

Professor Eshe Price
Fall 2021
Welcome to Perspectives on Special Education
I hold a BS in elementary education from Towson University, MA in bilingual special education from George Washington University, and soon a PhD in urban education from Rowan University. I am certified in elementary education, ESL, special education, and supervision in PA, NJ, and MD. I have over 10 years of experience teaching and advocating for all students in urban schools.
I believe that teaching and learning are both relational and social activities. My conception of teaching rests are two principles: 1) prior experience of the student and 2) an orientation to learning and problem-solving. Students bring a wealth of knowledge and experiences into the class which creates a foundation for learning and a desire to learn through problem-solving and real-world application. It is these two principles that drive my goals for my students and myself. Framed within the context of education, I would be beside myself if my goals for my students and myself weren’t viewed as a partnership. The goals for the partnership between myself and the students are to learn from one another and dialogue together in order to arrive at solutions for problems. In order for this process of dialogue to occur, it is my personal goal to be a facilitator of knowledge. The goal for students is to become critically conscious, to think critically about education and the society in which we live.
Perspectives on Special Education is designed as a survey course. This course serves as a comprehensive introduction to the field of special education with a focus on foundational knowledge and the human side of special education.
Course Topics

- Categories of disability
- Policies, practices, + programs
- Cultural and linguistic diversity
- Families
- Assistive technology

- Dis/ability
- Intersectionality
- Ableism
- DisCrit
- Solidarity
The learning community will:

- Understand the foundations of special education
- Critically reflect on and engage with the disabled experience
- Examine and apply critical theories within disability studies
Course Assignments

Course Contributions

Field Placement Engagement

Disability Resource + Presentation

Disability Visibility

After Reading Activity

Weekly Reflections

Course Reflection

OpEd
Course Assignment Weights

OpEd: 14.3%
Course Reflection: 14.3%
Weekly Reflections: 14.3%
Disability Resource: 14.3%
Disability Visibility: 14.3%
Field Placement: 14.3%
Community: 14.3%
Field placements are a component of this course that offers experiential learning and a deeper understanding of course content. The two or three hour a week placement in a classroom or educational setting is always a central aspect of the course. Margo Schall (mschall@brynmawr.edu) will coordinate the field placement logistics for this course. However, please let me know if you are uncomfortable with an in-person placement. Additionally, please maintain modest expectations as we navigate field placements during these uncertain times.
**Course Considerations**

### Attendance
Attendance will be kept to certify attendance. Please communicate, through email, if you should be absent.

### Late Assignments
All students have 7 days after the deadline to submit an assignment (without penalty), however, students must communicate, through email, the request for an extension.

### Confidentiality
All discussions and assignments which refer to students and/or school professionals must maintain strict confidentiality standards through the use of culturally sensitive pseudonyms.
Accessibility

Bryn Mawr College welcomes the full participation of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of campus life. Students with access needs due to a learning, physical, or psychological disability are encouraged to contact Access Services as early as possible for additional information and to discuss their needs.

It is important to me that I address your needs as often as possible, regardless of your disability status. Reach out to me if something in this course isn't working for you.
This syllabus is a living document and subject to change in order to respond to the needs within our learning community.
Contact Me

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Office Hours: By appointment on Mondays

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