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Course Description
This **asynchronous online** course is designed to provide an introduction to the principles, methods, and procedures for categorizing, understanding, and developing augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) systems for persons with complex communication needs. This course will address AAC symbol systems and selection processes; the principles and application of no, low and high tech technologies; assessment procedures; vocabulary development of AAC systems; intervention procedures; special issues in working with various populations; professional issues applicable to service delivery; and funding.

Class Dates
July 11-29, 2016

Course Objectives
Students will:
1. Define and describe AAC terminology
2. Identify individuals who would benefit from AAC strategies
3. Integrate knowledge of the components of AAC (i.e., symbol selection, vocabulary, and access options) during the assessment and intervention phases
4. Explore assessment considerations for individuals with acquired communication impairments
5. Explore formal and informal AAC assessment procedures to determine communication needs of an AAC user
6. Develop an AAC intervention plan based on assessment results
7. Increase familiarity with no tech, low tech and high tech AAC communication options
8. Increase knowledge of web-based AAC resources and apps for communication
9. Increase knowledge of intervention strategies to improve the functional communication of an AAC user
10. Develop an AAC Intervention Plan across a variety of communication settings for an AAC user

11. Understand the importance of working in AAC teams
12. Be familiar with professional issues such as state and federal laws, service delivery, funding, codes of ethics, competencies, certification, and licensure in relation to providing AAC services

Required Text

Beukleman, David R., and Mirenda (2013) Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Supporting Children and Adults with Complex Communication Needs Fourth Edition, Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.

Additional readings will be assigned throughout the course.

Course Activities and Requirements

1. **Required Readings**: The course will include discussions and activities incorporating required readings and the student's background knowledge and experience.

2. **AAC App Review:** (25%) Each student will select a communication app, write a critical review, and present the information using presentation software with voice over narration. You will be required to view and provide feedback on each presentation using the provided capture sheet. **(Due Monday, July 18, 2016)**

3. **Special Population Presentation** (30%). Each student will present on an AAC topic of interest. Each student will create and explain an AAC tool used with the chosen population. This information will be presented using presentation software with voice over narration. You will be required to view and provide feedback on each presentation using a capture sheet. **(Due Monday, July 25, 2016)**

4. **Online assignments and discussion** (15%). Each student is expected to complete weekly assignments and contribute ideas, experiences, supported opinions, and questions regularly to the class discussion. Comments online should be thoughtful and relevant to the material being discussed.

   - **Assignments due by Friday, 11:59 p.m. of each module week**
   - **Responses to classmates' posts/discussion due by Sunday, 11:59 p.m. of each module week**

5. **Final Examination** (30%): Using knowledge and strategies from this course experience, students are required to make decisions regarding assessment procedures, system selection and acquisition, and intervention planning and implementation by answering 5 essay questions. **(Due Friday, July 29, 2016)**

Class Calendar and Assignments

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Note:
- **Module 1 will be available on July 11.**
- **Module 2 will be available on July 18.**
- **Module 3 will be available on July 25.**

Module 1: July 11-July 17, 2016

Topics	Readings	Assignments
Introduction to AAC Vocabulary and Symbol Selection Choosing and Using Core Vocabulary Access Methods	• PowerPoints on Intro to AAC, Symbols and Vocabulary, Choosing Core and Using Core Vocabulary and Access Methods • Chapters 1-4 Beukelman and Mirenda • AAC terms and definitions • Communication Bill of Rights • WATI AT Checklist	1. Assignment at the end of Vocabulary and Symbol Selection PowerPoint due **Friday, July 15, 2016 by 11:59pm.** **Read and respond to at least 2 classmates' posts by Sunday July 17 (11:59pm)** 2. Two assignments at the end of Choosing and Using Core Vocabulary (Including "A Few Good Words" webinar-Directions in PowerPoint) due **Friday, July 15, 2016 by 11:59pm** **Read and respond to at least 2 classmates' posts by Sunday July 17 2016, 11:59pm** **3.** Respond to reflection question related to Access Methods by **July 15, 2016, 11:59pm** **4.** App Presentation due **July 18, 2016 by 11:59pm**

Module 2: July 18-July 24, 2016

Topics	Readings	Assignments
Technology Review (No to High Technology) AAC Assessment AAC Intervention	• Power Points on Types of Technology, AAC Assessment and Intervention • AAC Assessment Protocols and Checklists • AAC Articles • Chapters 5-11, Beukelmen and Mirenda	1. App Presentations **Due Monday, July 18, 2016, by 11:59pm** **2.** Review all App Presentations and complete the presentation capture sheet by **Friday, July 22, 2016, 11:50pm** 3. Complete assignments at the end of Technology Review and AAC Assessment PowerPoints. **Post by Friday, July 22, 2016, 11:59pm** **Read and respond to at least 2 classmates' posts by Sunday, July 24 2016, 11:59pm.** 4. Special Population Presentation due **Monday, July 25, 2016, 11:59pm**

Module 3: July 25-July 29, 2016

Topics	Readings	Assignments
AAC with Teens/Young Adults and Adults with Chronic or Acute Disorders UDL Strategies and issues related to high incidence populations Professional Issues related to AAC service Delivery	• Chapters 12-17, Beukelmen and Mirenda • Local and State AT/AAC agency websites to be provided	1. Special population presentation due on **Monday, July 25, 2016 by 11:59pm** 2. Review all presentations and complete presentation capture sheet by **Friday July 29, 2016, 11:59pm**

		3. Final Examination available **on July 25th** and is due on **July 29, 2016, by 11:59pm**

Grading: Students are expected to attend all classes. If you anticipate the need to miss a class or that you need extended time for an assignment, please inform me as soon as possible.

Grades at UM are based on Plus-Minus Grading System with quality points assigned as follows: A+, A, A= 4.0; B+, B, B- = 3.0; C+, C, C- = 2.0; D+, D, D- = 1.0; F= 0. Point to letter grade conversion: Points will be converted to letter grades as follows: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; 59 = F. The total number of points you can receive for any one assignment is 100. The formula for completing your total number of points in this course (class participation, vocabulary selection, AAC simulation, presentation)

Any complaint about a grade should be discussed with the instructor first. If an agreement cannot be reached, the matter will be referred to Dr. Rochelle Newman, Chair of the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences.

Academic Honesty: All students are expected to adhere to the UM campus' Code of Academic Integrity (http://umdaac.umd.edu/III620A). Suspicions of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Honor Council.

Accommodations for Students With Disabilities: The University is legally obligated to provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability, please inform me as soon as possible.