

Overview of Course

We are very excited that you have chosen to join this course. The fact that you are enrolled in this course means that you want to learn about learning and related disabilities. Whether you plan to go into psychology, education, or another helping profession, it is important to understand how individuals learn effectively and what challenges and barriers exist for those with a learning or related disability. That means that the knowledge, skills, and resources that you learn in this course will be applicable and beneficial to you, your life, and your work.

In the sections of the content that follow, you will find details about your instructional team (Dr. D, and TAs - Sarah, and Erin), the learning outcomes, course schedule, assessments, grading, policies, textbook readings, and modules.

You will also find a discussion board where the Reflection Discussion is as well as more informal discussion forums. These are:

- Introduce Yourself: In this section, we would like you to tell us a bit about yourself. Your 312 instructional team will start it off so you get an idea of what you can share.
- Ask Dr. D, Sarah, and Erin: This is where you will ask questions about the content and assessments if you have any. **Please do not email your questions** to Dr. D or any of the TAs. The benefit to posting your queries here, is that all students can benefit from our answers and explanations. Additionally, you will receive a timely response.

In addition to the content provided here in Learn, we will be posting regular announcements and having a couple of zoom office hours where you can get to know us better and ask any questions you have about the course.

Finally, remember we are here to ensure you have a positive learning experience. Reach out if you need anything. Remember to balance your academics with physical exercise, sleep, nutrition, and social support. It's so important to stay healthy - physically, socially, and mentally!

Welcome to Virtual 312 and enjoy!



Dr. D, Sarah, and Erin

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Explain the historical and theoretical perspectives related to learning disabilities and related disabilities
- Explain and critique the definitions, characteristics, categories, and current directions of learning disabilities and related disabilities
- Critically examine the contributing factors of learning disabilities and related disabilities
- Compare and contrast learning disabilities and related disabilities
- Describe identification techniques, different assessment tools, and the IEP process
- Evaluate classroom behavioural management strategies
- Describe the ABC pathway and Functional Behavioural Assessment
- Evaluate critically the current landscape in special education and inclusive education
- Describe the responsibilities of the Ontario government with respect to educating students with learning disabilities and related disabilities
- Discuss the impact of learning disabilities across the course of child and adolescent development
- Describe the social, emotional, and behavioural challenges associated with learning disabilities and related disabilities
- Discuss the roles played by various medical and educational models

- Establish a repertoire of learning and instructional strategies for success

COURSE SCHEDULE

IMPORTANT: ALL TIMES EASTERN - Please see the [University Policies](#) section of your Course Outline for details

Week	Module	Readings	Activities and Assessments	Start Date	Due Date	Weight (%)
Week 1 January 9 – 15	Module 1: Learning Disabilities and Related Disabilities: Characteristics and Current Directions	Text, Chapter 1	Introduce Yourself		Complete your Introduction by Friday January 20, 2023	Ungraded
Week 2 January 16 – 22	Module 2: Assessment and the IEP Process	Text, Chapter 2				

Week 3 January 23 – 29	Module 3: Specialized Instruction, Technology, Educational Settings, and the Role of the Family	Text, Chapters 3 and 4	Quiz 1: Includes Text, Chapters 1 & 2 and Modules 1 & 2	Monday, January 23, 2023 at 13:00 (1:00 PM)	Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 13:00 (1:00 PM)	14%
Week 4 January 30 – February 5	Module 4: Theories of Learning	Text, Chapter 5				
Week 5 February 6 – 12	Module 5: Social, Emotional, and Behavioural Challenges	Text, Chapter 6	Quiz 2: Includes Text, Chapters 3, 4 & 5 and Modules 3 & 4	Monday, February 6, 2023 at 13:00 (1:00 PM)	Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 13:00 (1:00 PM)	14%
Week 6 February 13 – 17	Module 6: Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	Text, Chapter 7	Assignment 1	Prompt available after Week 2.	Friday, February 17, 2023 at 13:00 (1:00 PM)	20%
Reading week (Saturday, February 18, 2023 to Sunday, February 26, 2023)						
Week 7 February 27 – March 5	Module 7: Young Children with Disabilities	Text, Chapter 8				

Week 8 March 6 – 12	Module 8: Adolescents and Adults With Learning Disabilities and Related Disabilities	Text, Chapter 9	Quiz 3: Includes Text, Chapters 6, 7 & 8 and Modules 5, 6 & 7	Monday, March 6, 2023 at 13:00 (1:00 PM)	Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 13:00 (1:00 PM)	14%
Week 9 March 13 – 19	Module 9: Spoken Language Difficulties and Disorders and Module 10: Reading Difficulties	Text, Chapters 11 and 12				
Week 10 March 20 – 26	Module 11: Written Language: Written Expression, Spelling, and Handwriting	Text, Chapter 13	Quiz 4: Includes Text, Chapters 9, 11 & 12 and Modules 8, 9 & 10	Monday, March 20, 2023 at 13:00 (1:00 PM)	Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 13:00 (1:00 PM)	14%

Week 11 March 27 – April 2	Module 12: Mathematics Difficulties	Text, Chapter 14	Assignment 2	Prompt available after Week 2.	Friday, March 31, 2023 at 13:00 (1:00 PM)	20%
Week 12 April 3 – 9			General Reflection Discussion	Monday, April 3, 2023 at 13:00 (1:00 PM)	Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 13:00 (1:00 PM)	4%
Week 13 April 10			Quiz 5: Includes Text, Chapters 13 & 14 and Modules 11 & 12	Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 13:00 (1:00 PM)	Monday, April 10, 2023 at 13:00 (1:00 PM)	14%

There is no final examination for this course

Reflection Discussion

GENERAL REFLECTION DISCUSSION OVERVIEW

- There is one General Reflection Discussion that is worth 4% of your final grade. Grades are dependent on the quality (i.e., breadth and depth) of your contributions to the discussion and responses to the questions.
- You must start a new thread before you can read and respond to other threads.
- The prompt for the General Reflection Discussion will be released closer to its start date. It will be drawn from the content in previous modules.
- Refer to the Course Schedule for details regarding due dates. Late submissions will not be accepted (medical exceptions excluded, see the Course Policies page for details).
- Discussions can be accessed by clicking **Connect** and then **Discussions** on the course navigation bar above. The General Reflection Discussion can be found in the category of **Course Discussions**.

HOW YOU WILL RECEIVE FEEDBACK AND GRADES

The professor and/or a TA will provide feedback in the discussion. Your grade will appear in Grades after the end of each discussion.

Assignments

OVERVIEW

- There are two written assignments in this course, each worth 20% for a total of **40%** of your final grade. Grades are dependent on the quality (i.e., breadth and depth) of your writing.

- Assignments must be clear and written in a scholarly way using APA guidelines. Grammar and spelling count. I will deduct marks for poorly written responses (poor grammar, spelling, and sentence structure).
- You must cite and reference using APA citation style (7th edition). We have put together an APA guidelines to assist you.
- Refer to the Course Schedule for details regarding the release of assignment prompts and the due dates of the assignments.
 - The prompts for Assignments 1 and 2 will be posted on this page.
 - Assignment Rubrics will be available under Assessments and Assessment Resources when the prompts are released.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR Assignment

Please note that the following instructions pertain to this specific assignment. Instructions for other assignments may differ.

Your assignment must be submitted online to the appropriate **Dropbox** by the deadline specified in the Course Schedule. Dropboxes can be accessed by clicking **Submit** and then **Dropbox** on the course navigation bar above.

You may only submit one file, but you may submit multiple times. Be aware that if you choose to resubmit, your previous submission will be overwritten.

Your assignments must be submitted in one of the following file types:

- **Microsoft Word (DOC or DOCX) (Recommended)**
- Portable Document Format (PDF)

Please refer to the Submitting to a LEARN Dropbox page for general guidelines, how to submit to a dropbox, and how to create a PDF.

TURNITIN®

Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen your assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and

sources in the assignments is documented. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignments screened by Turnitin®. Details will be provided about arrangements and alternatives for the use of [Turnitin®](#) in this course.

Refer to the Course Schedule for details regarding when the assignment is due.

- **Avoid plagiarism – give credit where credit is due. Any information in your assignments that did not come from your own empirical research belongs to someone else. This means it needs to be cited in the text and included in a reference list. Failure to do this is plagiarism and will result in a failed assignment. Be sure to check every sentence to make sure you are not claiming to be the author of an idea that is not your own. Note: Assignments will be compared to previous assignments submitted for this course and similar courses to ensure originality.**

Quizzes

Description

- There are five (5) quizzes for this course.
- You only have to complete four (4) - each worth 14% towards calculating your total quizzes grade of 56%. If you complete all five (5), then the top four (4) will be used. Completing all five (5) is not required.
- Quizzes will NOT be cumulative.
 - Quiz 1: Includes Text, Chapters 1 & 2 and Modules 1 & 2.
 - Quiz 2: Includes Text, Chapters 3, 4 & 5 and Modules 3 & 4.
 - Quiz 3: Includes Text, Chapters 6, 7 & 8 and Modules 5, 6 & 7.
 - Quiz 4: Includes Text, Chapters 9, 11 & 12 and Modules 8, 9 & 10.

- Quiz 5: Includes Text, Chapters 13 & 14 and Modules 11 & 12.
- Each quiz is weighted **14%** of your final grade.
- Quizzes will consist of multiple-choice questions.
- Each quiz will contain a maximum of 18 questions.
- Refer to the Course Schedule for details regarding start and end dates. Late submissions will not be accepted (see the Course Policies page for details).

Access and Availability

- Quizzes can be accessed by clicking **Submit** and then **Quizzes** on the course navigation bar above.
- Quizzes will be available on the dates specified in the Course Schedule.
- A 24-hour window exist for completing each quiz. The quiz window will begin on a Monday at 13:00 (1:00pm) and end on the following Tuesday at 13:00 (1:00pm).
- Once you begin a quiz, you will have between 30 and 35 minutes to complete it depending on the number of questions. The timing is based on the understanding that quizzes are like in-person tests and hence are closed book. We do not provide you time to look through notes to find answers. This would be known as open-book quizzes. Ours are not. If you look through your course content when completing a quiz, it is called **cheating**. We trust that you will complete each quiz with integrity. If you choose to cheat or help another student with their quiz, then it's your conscience at risk. You are the one that must move forward in life knowing you cheated in university. If any of you are planning a career in teaching or in a helping profession, you may want to reconsider your career choice.
- Extensions for quizzes will not be granted because you have the option to skip one if work piles up or you are ill. **Please do not email asking for an extension unless there are serious extenuating circumstances.**
- You may only take a quiz once.

- Late submissions will not be accepted (serious medical exceptions excluded - see the Course Policies for details). If you fail to complete a quiz in the allotted time frame, then you will receive a zero on that quiz. NO EXCEPTIONS! Do not email asking Dr. D or any of the TAs to change this policy.

Guidelines

Before Taking a Quiz

- **Stable Internet Connection:** Use a stable, preferably wired (as opposed to wireless), high speed Internet connection.
- **Supported Browser:** Check the [System and Software Requirements](#) to ensure you are using a Waterloo LEARN supported browser.
- **LEARN Downtime:** WARNING: A message will be posted on the LEARN home page indicating if a downtime is scheduled. Please do not take quizzes during this time.
- **Start on Time:** Quizzes must be started with enough time to complete prior to the due date and time as indicated in the Course Schedule. If you submit past the due date and time, you may be marked as late.

Taking a Quiz

- **Starting Your Quiz:** If your quiz has a time limit, the timer begins as soon as you start the attempt. Leaving the quiz does not pause the timer.
- **Tracking Your Answers:** Keep track of your answers so that you have a record in case any computer-related problems occur.
- **Saving Your Answers:** Answers will be automatically saved once a response is selected. If you exceed the time limit, any questions answered after the time exceeded may not be recorded or count towards your final score.
- **Watching the Time:** If your quiz has a time limit, keep an eye on the **Time Left** displayed in the top left corner of the quiz page. Quizzes

submitted after this time will be recorded as a late submission and may not include any unsaved responses.

Submitting a Quiz

- **Submitting Properly:** You **MUST** click the **Submit Quiz** button in order to begin the submission process.
- **Submission Processing Time:** If you attempt to submit with little or no time remaining before the stated submission deadline, your submission may not be accepted. To accommodate variable network traffic and server response, please allow at least 2 minutes for your submission to complete.

Technical Support

- If you encounter technical difficulty, please contact Technical Support at learnhelp@uwaterloo.ca. Technical support is available during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM (Eastern Time).

Course Policies

Course Policies

Late Additions to the Course

If you enroll in this course after any of the due dates have passed, but before the add period ends, contact your instructor directly to make alternate arrangements. See the Course Schedule for due dates. See the Contact Information page for how to get in touch with your instructor.

Correspondence

- All correspondence and announcements will be posted on Learn.
- Students using the telephone to contact the professor **must** include their first and last names, student number, and course in which they

are enrolled. All emails should be respectful, polite, professional, and structured with a salutation/greeting (e.g., Dear/Hello Dr. Drysdale or Dear/Hello TA Sarah), a purpose, and a closing signature (e.g., Regards, Kind regards, Sincerely). If emails are not structured correctly, we will not respond.

- Do not email or telephone asking for grades. All grades will be posted on Learn.

Assessment Deadlines and Grades

- Deadline dates, grades, and weightings are **final**. Please do not request changes to the weighting of any assessments, or deadline dates, or times (medical exceptions - see policy for deferrals below - and late additions excluded).

Release of Grades

- When assessments are graded, the results will be posted on Learn. Grades are not released over email or telephone. Do not send an email to the Instructor or TAs regarding “when will the grades be posted?”. We endeavour to complete the grading as quickly as possible and normally grades are posted within a week of the assessment.

Regarding Cheating

Cheating is strongly discouraged for the quizzes and other assessments. You can maximize your learning by completing the readings and assignments and taking responsibility for studying. We encourage all students to complete the quizzes and other assessments with integrity.

Extensions and Deferrals Policy for All Assessments

- **Extensions for the quizzes, assignments, and the reflection discussion will not be granted unless serious extenuating circumstances exists.**

- For serious extenuating circumstances, Dr. Drysdale's policy must be followed.
- A change of due date or change of date will be refused if the Instructor's policy is not followed. If a student completes a quiz while ill, the grade stands.
- Only on the documented basis of illness or other extreme circumstance will students be permitted to an extension for a quiz, assignment, or the discussion.
- In all cases (e.g., death in the family, illness) *it is the student's responsibility to inform the Instructor BEFORE the due date.* Failure to contact the Instructor before the due date forfeits a right to an extension or make-up. The voice mail stamps the date and time of telephone calls.
- In the case of severe illness, the student must complete a [Student Absence Declaration](#) or provide an official “*Verification of Illness Form*” (VIF) from the University of Waterloo (available online at the [Student Medical Clinic](#)) - which states that, due to medical (physical and/or mental health) reasons, it was IMPOSSIBLE (i.e., severe illness) for the student to complete the quiz, assignment, and/or reflection discussion by the due date.
- The Student Absence Declaration form must be completed before the due date and time. The Verification of Illness Form must be completed, endorsed, and stamped by a licensed medical practitioner BEFORE OR ON THE SAME DAY as the due date. Once the student has been seen by a licensed medical practitioner and the VIF has been completed, the student must inform the Instructor by email or phone ASAP. A form completed after the day and time of the due date WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. The completed form must be submitted to the Instructor within 24 hours of the due date – a photo of the VIF can be emailed as soon as it is received from the licensed medical practitioner (see below for submitting the hard copy). Doctors’ notes created by a physician or clinic, or notes scribbled on a prescription pad are *not* acceptable medical certificates.

- **In the case of an immediate family members' illness or hospitalization, documentation from the hospital or attending physician is required. Deferrals and extensions will only be granted for immediate family member illnesses. An immediate family member is defined as (and limited to) a student's: spouse/common-law partner, child, parent, grandparent, sibling, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, and sister-in-law.**
- **In the case of a death in the family, documentation must be provided indicating your relationship to the deceased, the date and time of the funeral service, and an official letter or certificate from the funeral home or organization handling the arrangements. Deferrals will only be granted for a partner's death or an immediate family member's death.**
- **Failure to follow the above requirements will forfeit your right to an EXTENSION OR make-up. *If you are ill and you contact the Instructor after the due date, you will NOT be permitted to complete the quiz, assignment, and/or discussion.*** You will receive a '0' on the assessments. Exception: if you are involved in an accident and/or hospitalized during the week of the quiz, assignment, or discussion (documentation required) and as a result you are not able to call the day of the due date, then the Instructor must be notified and a request for an extension or deferral must be received no later than *24 hours after the due date*. If you are extremely incapacitated or severely ill (physical or mental health) and hospitalized, or have had an unexpected death in the family within 24 hrs prior to the due date, then have a friend or family member call ASAP and *no later than 48 hours after the due date*.
- To confirm you've read this, please email a photo of a flower to Dr. D and the TAs.
- Any student missing a quiz, assignment, and/or discussion with a valid reason and having followed policy must complete the quiz, assignment, or discussion that was missed unless they choose on their own to forfeit the grade. The format of the quiz or assignment may differ.

- Please note that the following are NOT valid reasons for rescheduling or requesting an extension:
 - Travel (varsity athletic, other sports teams, or personal – family or friend weddings included)
 - Work overload
 - Full-time or part-time work schedules that conflict with academic work
 - Forgetting you had a due date or exam