



Course Syllabus

Introduction to Exceptional Learners

EEX 2010 / CRN: 84846 / Fall 2026

A Session (8/17/26 – 12/10/26)

Credit Hours: 3

Pre-requisites: None

Contact Information

Instructor

Kristin Olson Talcott
Instructor
ktalcott1@gulfcoast.edu

Office: Social Sciences
Office Hours: T/F 11 am – 12 pm via Zoom
Response Time: 24-48 hours

Division Chair

Robert Saunders, Jr., PhD.
Professor and Chair
rsaunder2@gulfcoast.edu
850-872-3826

Division Administrative Assistant

Ms. Jody Walton
Senior Administrative Assistant
jwalton1@gulfcoast.edu
850-872-3825

Course Information

Important Note

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or

Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

Catalog Description:

EEX 2010 is a foundation course exploring the primary categories of exceptional students and the techniques, strategies, and best practices employed in the classroom. Emphasis will be on etiology, terminology, classification, prevalence, the history and philosophy of exceptional learner education, educational strategies and approaches, legal and medical implications, and the educational, personal, and social growth of exceptional learners. The overall goal is to introduce the techniques in identifying and understanding the needs of exceptional learners.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes reflect the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) statewide requirements identified in the Florida common course directory for EEX2010 Introduction to Exceptional Learners. Students completing EEX2010 must demonstrate mastery of each SLO as defined by the assessment measures described in each SLO statement.

EDF1005--Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Given the successful completion of EDF1005, the student will be able to:

1. Apply the historical knowledge to today's current practices.
2. Identify critical factors associated with effective schools.
3. Identify the legal aspects of education and understand how governance, laws, and policies are enacted at the local, state, and federal levels.
4. Compare and contrast critical educational philosophies and their influences on education.
5. Describe the attributes of a professional educator.
6. Identify characteristics of ethical behavior in teaching and how they relate to appropriate decision making.
7. Identify critical social factors that impact learning.
8. Identify key cultural factors that impact learning.
9. Recognize students' learning needs to select the standards, develop the rationale, and design the specific learning outcomes.
10. Distinguish appropriate instructional strategies, materials, and technology to design independent and group instruction, expand students' critical thinking abilities, and provide learning environments that encourage students to gain and apply knowledge.
11. Create instructional practices to accommodate different learning needs, developmental levels, cultural backgrounds, and linguistic development.

Course Materials & Resources:

TEXTBOOK: Kauchak, D. P., & Eggen, P. D. (2021). *Introduction to teaching: Becoming a professional*. Pearson.

ISBN 9780136874812

Delivery Method:

This is a web-based course. All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented in the Canvas course site and should periodically check for updates—at least every 48 hours.

Remember: This course is not one in which students may work at their own pace. Each week there are learning modules, assignments, online lectures, online discussions, and/or online exams with due dates. Refer to the schedule within this syllabus and within Canvas for more information.

Attendance and Make-Up Policies for this Course

Attendance Policy:

Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive learning activities is required. Students “attend” class by listening to each of the lectures as assigned and taking thorough notes on each of them.

Make-Up Work Policy:

Missing any part of this schedule may prevent completion of the course. If you foresee difficulty of any type (i.e., an illness, employment change, etc.) which may prevent completion of this course, notify the instructor as soon as possible. Failure to do so will result in failure for an assignment and/or failure of the course. If I have not heard from you by the deadline dates for assignments, exams, or forums, no make-up work will be allowed (unless extraordinary circumstances exist, such as hospitalization). Requests for extensions must be made in advance and accompanied by appropriate written documentation. “Computer problems” is not an acceptable excuse.

AI Policy for this Course

Prohibited Use of AI

The use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited in all assignments, coursework, and throughout all stages of the work process, such as brainstorming, outlining, or drafting. This includes but is not limited to, tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, and Grammarly's AI function. Use of AI tools will be treated as a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.

Student Expectations

Communication and feedback within the course will occur through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, Canvas Discussions, Microsoft Teams or Zoom, assignment feedback, and/or instructor office hours.

Additionally, as a student at Gulf Coast State College, you are expected to:

- **Adhere to Course Guidelines:** Follow the instructions within the course syllabus along with any additional instructions provided by the instructor. Be certain you understand the course objectives, grading criteria, and academic policies.
- **Maintain Regular Contact:** Keep in touch with your instructor via your GCSC email or other designated communication channels. Regular contact helps clarify doubts, share ideas, and foster a collaborative learning environment.
- **Active Participation:** Engage actively in the course and submit assignments on time. Your active participation is crucial for your academic success and contributes to a deeper learning experience.

As your instructor, my commitment to you is to:

- **Provide Timely Feedback:** I will review and provide feedback on your assignments and submissions promptly. My goal is to help you understand your strengths and areas for improvement.
- **Respond Via Canvas Inbox:** I will respond to your emails or messages within 24-48 hours (excluding weekends) unless otherwise noted. I understand the importance of clear and timely communication in addressing your questions and concerns.
- **Post Regular Announcements:** Announcements will be posted to keep you updated and help you manage your time. These reminders will include important dates, upcoming assignments, and any changes to the course schedule.
- **Maintain Weekly Office Hours:** I will maintain regular weekly office hours, but I can also be available by appointment. This is to ensure I'm available for any questions or concerns that may come up during the week.

Course Requirements:

Students enrolled in this course will be required to:

- Read all of the textbook pages assigned with each Learning Module;
- Listen to and take thorough notes on the digital lectures assigned with each Learning Module—I cannot overstate the importance of the digital lectures;
- Complete the quiz in each module;
- Complete all exams AS SCHEDULED (see the course schedule below).
- Contact the instructor via email at once with any problems or issues. I cannot handle problems unless you make me aware of them.

Assignments/Assessment Instruments

I. Exams

- The two exams will be comprised of multiple-choice, true-false, and short answer.

- The exams will be delivered online via Canvas.
- The exams will be timed.
- See the exam instructions within the course Canvas page for the time limit.

II. Written Assignments

This course includes 14 written assignments and 3 discussion posts.

For written assignments, students should follow the instructions for each assignment carefully. Assignments will be submitted to Turnitin for a plagiarism and AI writing check.

There are 3 discussion posts for this course.

III. Quizzes

Modules include a quiz about course content from the lectures and textbook readings. These quizzes are open notes/textbook. Academic integrity is expected when completing these quizzes. The use of AI is not permitted.

IV. Observations

Students must complete at least 15 hours of field-based experience with children and youth in schools or similar settings, not via virtual film or the Internet. Fingerprinting and background checks: Background checks will be required of every student through their respective school district BEFORE any observations are undertaken at the public schools. GCSC has articulation agreements only with Bay, Gulf, and Franklin school systems for EDF 1005 observations.

Observation forms must be signed by the supervising teacher and stamped with the school stamp.

There are five observation papers, worth 60 points each. These papers ask students to reflect on their observation time and apply course concepts via course materials.

Course Schedule

Dates	Module	Module Assignments
August 21	1	<p>“Start Here”</p> <p>Read: “Institutional Statement on Academic Integrity”</p> <p>Watch Video: How to Avoid Plagiarism</p> <p>Assignment: Discussion board: Why am I choosing this profession?</p> <p>Quiz: Plagiarism</p>

August 30	1	<p>Chapters 1 & 8</p> <p>Textbook Readings: Chapters 1 “Do I want to be a Teacher” & Ch. 8 “Choosing the Right School”</p> <p>Watch Lectures: Chapters 1 & 8</p> <p>Written Assignment: Chapter 1, Florida Department of Education</p> <p>Written Assignment: Chapter 8: choosing the right grade and school for you</p> <p>Quiz: Chapters 1 & 8</p>
September 13	2	<p>Chapters 2, 3, and 9</p> <p>Textbook Readings: Chapters 2 (Changes in American Society), Chapter 3, and 9</p> <p>Watch Lectures: Chapters 2, 3, and Chapter 9 (The School Curriculum in an Era of Standards)</p> <p>Written Assignment: Chapter 2 Societal Changes and You</p> <p>Written Assignment: Chapter 3 Two Case Studies</p> <p>Written Assignment Chapter 9: Using Standards in Curriculum Planning</p> <p>Quiz: Chapters 2, 3 and 9</p>
September 27	3	<p>Chapters 13 & 11</p> <p>Textbook Readings: Chapters 13 (Developing as a Professional) & Ch 11 (Becoming an Effective Teacher)</p> <p>Written Assignment: Chapter 13 Preparing a Resume</p> <p>Written Assignment: Chapter 11 Effective Instruction</p> <p>Quiz: Chapters 13 & 11</p>
October 7	Midterm	<p>Midterm Exam</p> <p>Available October 4-7</p> <p>Timed Exam</p>
October 11	4	<p>Chapter 4 & Chapter 10</p> <p>Textbook Readings: Chapter 4 (Education in the US) & Ch. 10 (Classroom Management)</p> <p>Watch Lecture: Chapter 4 & 10</p> <p>Written Assignment: Chapter 4 Working with Cultural Minorities</p> <p>Written Assignment: Lesson Plan</p>
October 25	5	<p>Chapters 10 & 5</p> <p>Textbook Readings: Chapters 5 (Educational Philosophy and Your Teaching)</p> <p>Watch Lectures: 10 and 5</p>

		Written Assignment: Chapter 10 Developing Responsibilities in your Students Chapter 5: Your Philosophy of Education Quiz: Chapters 4, 10, and 5
November 8	6	Chapters 6 & 12 Textbook Readings: Chapters 6 (Governance and Finance) & 12 (Educational Reform and You) Watch Lectures: Chapters 6 & 12 Written Assignment: Chapter 6 School Governance Chapter 12: Professional Learning and Ethical Practice Quiz: Chapters 6 & 12
November 15	7	Chapters 7 Textbook readings: Chapter 7 (School Law) Watch Video: Lecture Chapter 7 Written Assignment: Chapter 7: Teachers Rights
December 4	Observations	Observation Assignments Due (Semester Long Coursework) Observation forms 1-5 Field Observation Responses 1-5
December 6	8	Discussions Written Assignment: Just How Important is a Classroom Community Written Assignment: Discussion Board Five Keys to Creating a Healthy Student Teacher Relationship & Every Child Deserves a Champion
December 10	Final Exam	Final Exam Timed Test Available from December 4 – December 10

Grading

Grading Scale

All grades will be posted in the student grade book in Canvas and will be assigned according to the following scale:

- A 90%-100%
- B 80%-89%
- C 70%-79%
- D 60%-69%
- F 59% and below

Calculation of Grades

Quizzes:

- Plagiarism Quiz- 20 points
- Chapter 1 & 8- 60 points
- Chapter 2, 3, and 9- 60 points
- Chapters 13 & 11 - 80 points
- Midterm - 110 points
- Chapters 10, 4, 5 - 60 points
- Chapters 6 & 12 - 60 points
- Final - 260 points

Written Assignments:

- Discussion Board: Why on Earth Am I Choosing this Profession: 50 points
- Lesson Plan: 150 points
- Discussion Board: Just How Important is a Classroom Community?: 60 points
- Discussion Board: Five Keys to Creating a Healthy Student/Teacher Relationship - 60 points
- Chapter 1: Florida Department of Education- 100 points
- Chapter 2: Societal Changes and You- 100 points
- Chapter 3: Two Case Studies: 100 points
- Chapter 4: Working with Cultural Minorities- 100 points
- Chapter 5: Your Philosophy of Education- 100 points
- Chapter 6: School Governance- 100 points
- Chapter 7: Teacher's Rights- 120 points
- Chapter 8: Choosing the Right Grade and School for You: 100 points
- Chapter 9: Using Standards in Curriculum Planning- 100 points
- Chapter 10: Developing Responsibility in Your Students- 100 points
- Chapter 11: Effective Instruction- 100 points
- Chapter 12: Professional Learning and Ethical Practice- 100 points
- Chapter 13: Preparing a Resume- 100 points
- Chapters 6 & 12 - 60 points
- Final - 260 points

All assignments and tests, except for the midterm and the final exam, must be completed by Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Observation Responses:

- Field Observation #1: Learning Centered Classrooms- 60 points
- Field Observation #2: Strategies for Classroom Management- 60 points
- Field Observation #3: High Expectations- 60 points
- Field Observation #4: FEAPS- 60 points
- Field Observation #5: LEP/ELL Reflection- 60 points
- 5 observation forms- Graded for Completion

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete in any course can only be assigned to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course. To receive an Incomplete, students must:

- Submit a written request to the instructor prior to the last face-to-face class meeting. For online courses, a written Incomplete request must be received no later than the week before the Final Exam period begins.

- Have completed no less than sixty percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted.

Important Note: The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if all remaining work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an “F.”

General GCSC Course Policies

Accessibility Statement

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. Please visit [GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource \(SAR\) webpage](#) to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

GCSC Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.

You are expected to know the instructor's specific attendance policy as stated in the syllabus for each course. In the event of absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.)

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, your professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially responsible for the course and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

Withdrawal Policy

Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment

and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.). There are two kinds of withdrawals---student and administrative.

- **Student Withdrawal (W1)** - Students wishing to withdraw must complete the online Student Withdrawal Form before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the College catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.
- **Administrative Withdrawal (W2)** – A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy in which case the student will receive a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

Academic Integrity

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student's records.

Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:

"Cheating" includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

"Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects. It can also include overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructor's guidelines of AI material.

"Self-plagiarism" occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

"Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)" is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images, or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function.

Sanctions for incidents of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incident and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

Classroom Recording

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member.

Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the GCSC Student Handbook.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of generative AI tools in academic work requires clear guidelines to maintain academic integrity. Please review the policy selected for this course regarding the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI features, and similar platforms for assignments, research, and other coursework.

See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies, or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status.

All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed,

Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

Student Support Resources

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources provided at GCSC on the [Student Services web page](#).

Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- Computer: Up-to-date web browser that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the system requirements for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.
- Internet Speed: Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- Office 365 software: Available for free download through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).
- If you need technical support, contact the ITS Help Desk, available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.