**SNE 425 INTRODUCTION TO MENTAL RETARDATION**

**Course Description**

The course presents an overview of the field of educating students with mental retardation and severe disabilities. It focuses on the psychological, educational, medical, functional, and sociological characteristics of persons classified as having mental retardation and severe, multiple cognitive and physical or sensory disabilities.  The provision of school and community services and supports to accommodate those characteristics is examined. Major topics include causes and prevention of mental retardation and physical and sensory disabilities, assessment procedures for identification and instruction, educational program planning, and student and family involvement.

**Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1.  Define and explain the concept of mental retardation, and describe the diagnosis and classification.

2.     Identify and describe major medical syndromes which are causal to and/or associated with mental retardation.

3     Describe the primary physical, psychological, social-emotional, and functional characteristics and development over the life span of individuals with mild-moderate and severe levels of mental retardation.

4      Identify steps in the referral, assessment, and identification process.

5      Describe and critique educational and adult service delivery options.

6      Describe and critique a variety of curricular approaches and instructional methods to address student’s academic, functional, social, and behavioral goals.

**Course Contents**

* + 1. **Concepts, Definitions and Classifications**
  + Mental Retardation as a concept
  + Definitions and classification background of Mental Retardation
  + Incidence and Prevalence
  + Purposes and Uses of Definitions and Classifications
  + International Definitions and Classifications
  + Historical perspectives on Mental Retardation
  + Mental Retardation and the Disciplines

**2. Assessment of Mental Retardation**

* + Theories of Intelligence
  + Assessment of Intelligence
  + Theories of Adaptive Behavior
  + Assessment of Adaptive Behavior
  + Assessment Issues and Procedures
    - Early life assessment issue
    - Pre-school years
    - Elementary school years
    - The adolescent and adult years
    - Assessment and aging

**3. Etiology of Mental Retardation**

* + Early Causation
  + The fetus and infant at risk: Birth weight and Gestational Age
  + Chromosomal aberrations and genetic errors
  + Influences from Maternal-Fetal Interaction
  + Other trauma during pregnancy
  + The birth process
  + Intervention and Prevention

**4. The Development of the MRC during infancy and early years**

* + Physical development
  + Language development
  + Cognitive development
  + Psychosocial development

**5. The MRC during the school years**

* + Physical development
  + Cognitive development
  + Personality and emotional development
  + Motivation
  + Adaptive Behavior
  + Educational placement
  + Learning Characteristics
  + Instructional approaches

**6. The Retarded Adolescents**

* + Social, emotional characteristics
  + Vocational Preparation
  + Teaching Adaptive Skills
  + Teaching Academic Skills
  + Transition Planning

**7. The Retarded Adult**

* Community Living
* Institutional Living
* Employment

**8. Mental Retardation and the Family**

* The impact of retarded child in the family
* The need of parents
* Needs of the child with mental retardation
* Needs of siblings

**Suggested Readings**

Kirk, A.S., Gallaghar, J. J. & Anastsiow, N. J. (2003).*Educating Exceptional Children.*

(10th ed.). Houghton Mifflin Company.

Kirk, A. S., Gallaghar, J. J. & Anastsiow, N. J. (2000). *Educating Exceptional Children.* (8th ed.). Houghton Mifflin Company.

Hallahan, D. P. & Kaufman, J. M. (1994). *Exceptional children*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Kar, C. (1992). Exceptional children: Their psychology and education. Orissa: Sterling

Publisher

Kirk, A. S., Gallaghar, J.J. & Anastsiow, N. J. (1989). *Educating Exceptional Children.* (3rd ed.) .Houghton Mifflin Company.

Turnbull, A. & Turnbull, R. (1987). *Families, professional, and exceptionality: A special partnership (3rd Ed.)*.Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill University Press.

Drew, C. J., Logan, D. R., & Hardman, M. L. (1990). *Mental Retardation: A life cycle approach.* (4th ed.). New York: Macmillan Publishing Company.