**SNE- 455 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS**

**Course outline**

**Capsule Statement**

This is an overview of autism spectrum disorders for teachers and paraprofessionals. We will examine the psychological, physiological, social, and educational characteristics of individuals who have been identified as having autism, pervasive developmental disorder, Rett's disorder, Asperger's syndrome and childhood disintegrative disorder.  The first half of this course will focus on definition, diagnosis, causes, intervention and program planning. The second half of this course will examine specific intervention strategies (involving ABA, TEAACH Model, and Self-Regulation). The last few lessons will also instruct on how to create learning goals, short term and long-term objectives, the IEP form and creating a lesson plan for students with Autism.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course, the student will demonstrate knowledge and skills related to:

1.  The definition and characteristics of learners with autism spectrum disorders

2. Causes and prevalence of autism

3. Assessment and education placement options for individuals who are considered in need of special education services

4. Intervention strategies

5. Creating learning goals and objectives

**Course Contents**

**Unit 1 - Introduction**

1.1 Defining autism

1.2 Re-defining autism

1.3 Myths and misdiagnosis

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| **Unit 2 - History and Statistics** |

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| **Unit 3 - Assessment of ASDs** |

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|  | 3.1 Introduction 3.2 Comparing Diagnostic Criteria for ASDs 3.3 DSM-IV Criteria for ASDs  3.4 Additional Issues Related to Diagnostic Criteria |
| **Unit 4 - Etiology and Theories** | |

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|  | 4.1 Genetic Factors  4.2 Weak Central Coherence Theory  4.3 Theory of Mind/Mind blindness  4.4 Areas of Brain Involved in Autism   |  | | --- | | **Unit 5 - Characteristics of ASDs** |   5.1  Attention & engagement  5.2 Communication  5.3 Social Problem Solving  5.4 Logical thinking  5.5 Visual and auditory challenges  5.6 Behavioral characteristics  5.7 Educational characteristic  **Unit 6 - Educating the Children with ASD** |
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6.1 Goals of the children with ASD

6.1.1 The DIR Model

6.1.2 FLOORTIME Model

6.1.3 TEAACH Model

6.2 Basic considerations for IEP

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| **Unit 7 - Treatment and Management Strategies** |

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|  | 7.1 Introduction 7.2 Applied Behavioral Analysis 7.3 Social Skills Training 7.4 Psychotherapy 7.5 Parent Education/Training 7.6 Speech/Language Therapy |
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**Suggested Readings:**

[American Psychiatric Association](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Psychiatric_Association). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. 4th ed., text revision ([DSM-IV-TR](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DSM-IV-TR)).

Friend, M & Bursuck, W. D. (1996). *Including students with special needs: A practical guide for classroom teachers.* Boston: Allyn & Bacon

Gardner, P. (2002). *Strategies and Resources for Teaching and Learning in Inclusive Classrooms.* Glasgow: Bell and Bain Ltd.