



MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY
VIRGINIA AUTISM CERTIFICATION COURSE

Course 1 (ASD 360): Characteristics and Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorders (UNDERGRADUATE VERSION)

Instructor

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*****This course is online and uses Canvas *****

Course Description

This is the first of four courses in the 12-credit Autism Certificate Program. This course provides an overview of autism and related developmental disabilities across the lifespan, including Asperger Syndrome and other pervasive developmental disorders. The course will cover assessment, diagnostic criteria and identification, characteristics, collaboration with families, an overview of educational impact and trends, transition needs and issues, controversial topics related to etiology and treatment, and an overview of national and state resources.

Grading: Grades are based on the scale noted below.

A	93-100
A-	90-92.9
B+	87-89.9
B	83-86.9
B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9
C	73-76.9
C-	70-72.9
D+	67-69.9
D	63-66.9
D-	60-62.9
F	59.9 and below

Required Textbooks

Required for all courses in the certification series:

Hall, L. J. (2018). *Autism Spectrum Disorders: From Theory to Practice, 3rd Ed.* Pearson.

Required for this course:

Other readings/articles may be assigned by the instructor(s).

Assignments (specific details will be provided on Canvas):

- A comprehensive review of an assessment tool used with students with ASD (10%)
- Choose one evidence-based practice listed in chapter 3, research, and describe how you would implement it for a student with ASD. (10%)
- Create a brochure or handout for teachers and/or parents with resources for students with autism in your area and state. (10%)
- Create a social story to use with students with ASD. (10%)
- ABA handout for teachers and school staff (10%)
- Create a Teacher Training Presentation. This presentation will educate teachers on working with students Autism. (20%)
- Read and review two articles regarding students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (10%)
- Exam (20%): Students will complete a comprehensive final exam in this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Online Presence

Communication for this course will be done online. It is critical that you have and use your MBU email address, and check it regularly! You can access course information, assignments, and submit assignments to CANVAS. In addition, it is very important that you read and understand this syllabus; refer to it often throughout the semester to ensure you're completing required assignments on time.

Course Organization

We have no actual in-person meetings. As you will see in the schedule and on CANVAS, you have tasks to attend to by the end of each week. It is up to you to decide when during the week you'll complete required tasks, but we encourage you to not wait until the last minute, as some tasks take longer than you may think. In addition, if you have questions about required tasks, ask for clarification well in advance in order to receive feedback from instructors with enough time to complete tasks.

Your attention to readings/tasks and interchanges within each week are considered essential for the successful completion of this course. It is your responsibility to log onto CANVAS daily and keep track of what is due during each week. I will grade and return work to you via CANVAS.

Written Assignment Expectations & Grading

- I expect assignments to be submitted on time. Submit assignments to CANVAS.
- Written assignments should be in size 12-point standard font (e.g., Times New Roman).
- Written assignments must reflect APA format. To learn about how to meet APA standards, find documents about APA format and plagiarism on CANVAS in the tab labeled “APA” and refer to the website: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>
- As graduate students, you are expected to submit your best work. Before submitting work, be sure to proofread for spelling/grammatical errors and to make sure you’re presenting information in a clear manner.

Special Needs: If you are a student with a disability and you feel that you may require academic adjustments in order to have equal access to the curriculum and assignments, please follow the university’s policies for requesting such accommodations. For more information, please visit: <http://www.marybaldwin.edu/learning-skills/swd/>
Students with special needs should let the instructor know before the first class meeting. Written documentation will be required.

Grades & Feedback: Expect to receive a grade / feedback for major assignments within five business days after the assignment was submitted.

Course Evaluation: The link to the course evaluation will be emailed to you toward the end of the semester. Please complete it on or before the end of the semester. All evaluations are anonymous. Your comments are important and help shape the delivery of course materials in the future. After you complete the evaluation, email the professor stating that you completed the evaluation (honor pledge), and if you do so before the end of the semester, you will receive one bonus point toward your total course grade.

Policy Regarding Incompletes and Extensions: If you wish to request an incomplete for an unanticipated extenuating circumstance, please follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. If you feel that you have been assessed unfairly and wish to appeal your grade, please follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog.

Honor Code of Mary Baldwin University: Mary Baldwin students pledge to uphold the Honor Code. They pledge to refrain from cheating on assignments, papers and tests, to refrain from plagiarism, and always to be honest in their dealings with faculty, staff and other students. To maintain the integrity of the system, students, faculty and staff who witness Honor Code infractions are expected to report them. Should I become aware of an Honor Code offense in this classroom, I will encourage the student(s) to self-report by e-mailing the Honor Council chairwoman or by filing an incident report. If the student(s) does not self-report within 24 hours, I will submit the report myself. *If the Honor Code offense is related to a course assignment, the assignment will not receive an official grade until the Honor Council investigation (and, if necessary, hearing) is complete. I will not assess a grade penalty for an Honor Code infraction unless a student is found responsible by (or admits responsibility to) the Honor Council.*

Penalties

1. Late assignments – **4 percent of the value of the assignment** may be deducted for **each day** that an assignment is late.

Class Schedule and Required Readings: *other readings may be assigned*

Week	Topic	Required Reading	Assignment Due
1	Introduction to the Course/Course Mechanics Diagnostic History of Autism Characteristics of Autism Diagnostic Practices Assessment Tools Differential Diagnosis/Related Disorders	Hall Chapters 1-2	Assessment
2	Effective Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices	Hall Chapter 3	Research evidence-based practice
3	Applied Behavior Analysis: Key Concepts and Foundations Strategies ABA: Principles in Practice	Hall Chapter 4-5	ABA teacher handout
4	Developmental, Social-Relational, Transactional, and Other Approaches to Intervention	Hall Chapter 6	Teacher presentation
5	Focus on Communication	Hall Chapter 7	2 articles
6	Building Social Skills and Social Relationships	Hall Chapter 8	Social Story
7	Transition to Adulthood	Hall Chapter 9	Brochure
8	Systems of Support for Individuals with ASD and Their Families	Hall Chapter 10	Exam