

Kean University of New Jersey  
Nathan Weiss Graduate College  
College of Education  
**COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION**  
**SPED 5023-01**  
Spring 2010  
**Tuesday, 4:30 – 7:15 pm**

[www.kimparra.com/kean.html](http://www.kimparra.com/kean.html)

**A. Instructor:**

Kim Parra, M.A.  
eMail: [kparra@gmail.com](mailto:kparra@gmail.com)  
Phone: 201-343-6000 ext. 6545  
Office hours: Can be arranged before or after class.

**B. Course Description:**

This hands-on course is intended for professionals who work with special populations. You will learn how to utilize adaptive devices and to modify applications software to assist in incorporating computers into the curriculum.

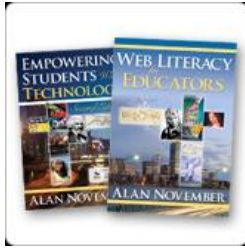
Note: In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking procedures, etc) will be strongly encouraged to contact me at the beginning of the course. For your convenience, my telephone number and e-mail address are listed above.

**C. Course Objectives:**

Students will achieve growth toward being informed, dynamic, professionals as evidence by demonstration of proficiencies in knowledge and comprehension, dispositions/value development, and skill applications. At the completion of this course, the student will be able to do:

- 1) Analyze computer hardware and peripherals used with students with special needs;
- 2) Demonstrate competence in the selection of computer applications software;
- 3) Evaluate selected software, courseware and hardware for appropriateness with students with special needs;
- 4) Evaluate changing and current technologies and the influence upon students with special needs;
- 5) Apply computer applications in teacher management and administrative applications;
- 6) Evaluate teacher responsibilities and roles in preparing students with special needs to utilize current technologies in their lives.

#### D. Textbooks/Supplies:



1. Web Literacy for Educators \$25
2. Empowering Students with Technology \$25

<http://novemberlearning.com/resources/publications/>

Both books by Alan November

3. \**OPTIONAL* Technology and Exceptional Individuals Fourth Edition, Edited by Jimmy D. Lindsey Available from: Pro-Ed online for \$53 and is \$20 cheaper than Kean bookstore.

<http://www.proedinc.com/customer/productView.aspx?ID=1933>

4. You will need access to a computer (with Internet access) as well as a printer for homework assignments.
5. You will need a small zip/flash drive. Please bring it to every class.

#### E. Attendance, Missed Assignments, and Class Rules:

1. **Attendance is mandatory.** There is no allowable number of absences for this course. It is understood that emergency circumstances may require the student to be absent for a class. It is also expected that the student will contact the professor as to the reason for the absence as soon as possible. Typically excused absences include medical emergencies, bereavement, or religious observances. **Absences will result in the lowering of the student's grade.**
2. This is a hands-on lab class, and many required assignments will be completed during class sessions. Students who are late for class or leave early may be considered absent. **Don't miss class!** This is worth 50% of your final grade.
3. **A partner is mandatory** in order to pick up handouts and copy class notes. It is not the responsibility of the instructor to provide handouts if you are not in class.
4. **Missed In-Class Assignments:** If you are absent on a day when a lab assignment is completed during class, it is your responsibility to contact your partner(s), get the assignment, and **bring it to the next class** if you want credit.
5. Everyone should do their own work and complete their assignments individually.

#### F. Assignments

1. **Missed In-Class Assignments:** See #4 Above.
2. If you complete the lab assignment and hand it in by the next class, it will be accepted.

3. This is a graduate level class, and your assignments should be completed in a professional manner.
4. All assignments that consist of multiple papers **MUST** be stapled or clipped together neatly with a paper clip.
5. The following is **NOT** acceptable:
  - a. Assignments that show the print cartridge is running out of ink.
  - b. Assignments printed on color paper – only white paper with black ink is acceptable.
  - c. Loose papers that belong together and are not stapled or clipped.
  - d. Papers that have their corners folded to hold them together.
  - e. All of the above will not be accepted, and a grade of “0” will be assigned. No makeup will be permitted.
6. You absolutely cannot print your assignment in this lab on the date it is due. All assignments should be printed and prepared to hand in prior to coming into the lab.

#### **G. Academic Integrity**

1. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Any assignment or class work that is handed in must be your own work. If you copy someone else's assignment, you are cheating. If you let someone else copy your assignment, you are cheating.
6. Please view the Kean University Academic Integrity Policy at the following website:  
<http://www.kean.edu/forms/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

#### **H. Computer Lab Courtesy**

- Students are expected to attend in class, and not to engage in off-task behaviors such as using instant messaging, playing games, and other inappropriate computer activities during class discussions, lectures, and assignments. This includes working on homework for another class! **Demonstration of such behavior will cause the student’s grade to be lowered.**
- Students should check their email prior to attending class, as well as print documents/assignments that are due on scheduled dates.
- **Please do not come to class and expect to print your assignments on the date they are due.**
- **Please turn your computer off**, and make sure your work station is neat before leaving at the end of each class.

#### **I. Assessment:**

Throughout this course, there will be lab and homework assignments related to the content and technologies presented in each class. Each assignment will be given a numerical value (ex: 50 points) when assigned to you. At the end of the semester, the sum of all points will be evaluated on a percentile based on the following scale:

A	94 -100%
A-	90 - 93%
B+	88 - 89%
B	83 – 87%
C	70 - 82%
D	60 - 69%
F	below 60%

Final grades will be determined as follows:

- 1. Class Attendance & Participation**      **50%**
- 2. Assignments**      **50%**

**J. Course Web Page:**

[www.kimparra.com/kean.html](http://www.kimparra.com/kean.html)

### Spring 2010 Schedule

	Date	Topic
1	January 19	Course Outline Introduction to Assistive Technology AT Scavenger Hunt
2	January 26	Reading Supports “See it Right” Video ebooks
3	February 2	Reading Supports: Case Studies PowerPoint Talking Books
4	February 9	Writing Supports
5	February 16	Writing Supports Tips & Tricks of Microsoft Word Graphic Organizers
6	February 23	Writing Supports: Case Studies Microsoft Accessibility Features
7	March 2	Math Supports Rubrics
8	March 9	Alternative Computer Access/Switch Access “Welcome to my Pre-School” Video
9	March 23	Web Literacy Part 1
10	March 30	Web Literacy Part 1 Web Literacy Part 2

11	April 6	Web Literacy Part 2 Blogs, RSS, Podcasts, Wikis
12	April 13	Virtual Field Trips
13	April 20	Creating 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Learning Environments Part 1
14	April 27	Creating 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Learning Environments Part 2
15	May 4	Freedom Machines