# Physical and Psychosocial Aspects of Disability

**RHAB 4200**

**Spring 2025**

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PhD

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# Office Location: Online

# Course Time/Location: Online

# Office Hours: Appointments made by CANVAS email, via Zoom if needed

# COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a course of the physical and psychosocial aspects of chronic illness and disability. In-depth coverage of the etiology, progression, and treatment of chronic illness and disability and the overall impact of health status and disability on day-to-day life activities. Disability-related topics covered in this class include basic anatomy and medical terminology, health promotion, models of disability, assistive technology, women with disabilities, sexual health, chronic illness, physical disabilities, sensory disabilities, mental health, and substance use disorders, as well as developmental and related conditions.

# COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course objectives are developed to focus student learning on approved learning outcomes. By meeting objectives in this course, students will be able to demonstrate the following CACREP Educational Standards:

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of classification, terminology, etiology, functional capacity, prognosis, and effects of disabilities (H.1.f.).
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of medical and psychosocial aspects of disability, including attention to coexisting conditions (H.2.b.).
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of individual response to disability, including the role of families, communities, and other social networks (H.2.c.).
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of information about the existence, onset, degree, progression, and impact of an individual’s disability, and an understanding of diagnostic systems including the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), International Classification of Diseases (ICD), and Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) (H.2.d.).
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of impact of psychosocial influences, cultural beliefs and values, diversity and social justice issues, poverty, and health disparities, with implications for employment and quality of life for individuals with disabilities (H.2.e.).
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of impact of socioeconomic trends, public policies, stigma, access, and attitudinal barriers as they relate to disability (H.2.f.).
7. Students will demonstrate an understanding of impact of disability on human sexuality (H.2.h.).
8. Students will demonstrate an understanding of awareness of rehabilitation counseling specialty area services and practices, as well as specialized services for specific disability populations (H.2.i.).
9. Students will demonstrate an understanding of individual needs for assistive technology and rehabilitation services (H.2.m).
10. Students will demonstrate an understanding of informal and formal assessment of the needs and adaptive, functional, and transferable skills of individuals with disabilities (H.3.b.).
11. Students will demonstrate an understanding of assisting individuals with disabilities to obtain knowledge of and access to community and technology services and resources (H.3.k.).
12. Students will demonstrate an understanding of consultation with medical/health professionals or interdisciplinary teams regarding the physical/mental/cognitive diagnoses, prognoses, interventions, or permanent functional limitations or restrictions of individuals with disabilities (H.3.l.).

# READINGS AND RESOURCES

**Required texts:**

Falvo, D., & Holland, B.E. (2018). *Medical and psychosocial aspects of chronic illness and disability* (6th ed.). Jones and Bartlett.

# Recommended texts and resources:

Additional readings will be provided on Canvas to supplement the textbook readings. Medical Dictionaries

**- Online dictionaries:** <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/mplusdictionary.html>

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.)*. Author.

# REQUREMENTS

1. Being proactive in accessing content in each week’s learning module.
2. Ability to properly synthesize information into comprehensive reports of overall level of functioning.

# CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Weekly participation in the coursework is mandatory. It is the student’s responsibility to log into the Canvas course module at least twice a week to access course materials and submit assignments. Students are expected to contact UNT IT Helpdesk or instructor (as a last resort) if they encounter difficulty with accessing weekly assignments before the due date. ***Email submissions of assignments will not be accepted***.

**Technical Requirements and Skills**

* Using the learning management system (Canvas). [Canvas Technical Requirements](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements) (<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>)
* Reliable internet access
* Using email with attachments
* Microsoft Office Suite
* Copying and pasting
* Navigating the UNT library

**Rules of Engagement**

* All communication should be done with your UNT email.
* Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in email and any other communication.
* Always use your professor’s proper title.
* Use clear and concise language.
* See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for

more information.

### **Success in an Online Course**

While the online classroom shares many similarities with the face-to-face classroom, success in online education requires certain skills and expectations that students may not be aware of. See additional guidance here “How to Succeed as an Online Student” (<https://clear.unt.edu/teaching-resources/online-teaching/succeed-online>).

## **Getting Help**

### **Technical Assistance**

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

**UIT Help Desk**: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>

**Email**: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

**Phone**: 940-565-2324

**In Person**: Sage Hall, Room 130

**Walk-In Availability**: 8am-9pm

**Telephone Availability**:

* Sunday: noon-midnight
* Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
* Friday: 8am-8pm
* Saturday: 9am-5pm

**Laptop Checkout**: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328) (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

### **Student Support Services**

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

* [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
* [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
* [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
* [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
* [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Other student support services offered by UNT include

* [Registrar](file:///C:\Users\jdl0126\AppData\Local\Temp\OneNote\16.0\NT\0\Registrar) (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
* [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
* [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
* [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
* [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
* [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
* [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
* [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

### Academic Support Services

* [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
* [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
* [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (https://library.unt.edu/)
* [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)
* [MathLab](https://math.unt.edu/mathlab) (<https://math.unt.edu/mathlab>)

# Course Policies

# Course Work

# All assignments will be conducted and submitted through Canvas and will be due each Monday by 11:59pm (CST). Students should read the announcement page for any information before contacting the instructor about any questions. Answer to most questions may have already been provided in the weekly announcement.

**Technical Issues**

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu) or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

**Attendance**

Although this course is entirely on-line, the expectations are that you access the modules in Canvas every week.

**Copyright Notice**

Some or all of the materials on this course Web site may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies. Additional copyright information may be located at:

<http://copyright.unt.edu/content/unt-copyright-policies>

**Syllabus Change Policy**

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. The instructor has the right to make adjustments to the syllabus and course schedule at any time during the semester.

**Assignments (700 points in total)**

Discussion board – 180 points

There will be a total of five discussion boards available during the semester. The first discussion board is worth 20 points, and each subsequent discussion board is worth a maximum of 40 points. You will also need to wait at least 24 hours in between posts. For example, you can make your original post on Tuesday at 9am, respond to a classmate Thursday at 2PM and respond to another classmate Saturday at 2PM. You need to make at least FOUR posts (One original and three responses) in order to obtain full credit.

Case studies – 200 points

Four case studies are assigned throughout the duration of the course. Each case study is worth a maximum of 50 points. Each case contains information about an individual with a particular disability, including such variables as diagnosis, social/psychological/family factors, or vocational goal. In some cases, information may be vague, irrelevant, or nonexistent. Each assigned case study has a case question from the recommended text (page number will be on the assignment instructions). Students will submit a 1 to 2-page case study.

Quizzes – 120 points

There will be a total of 7 quizzes throughout the semester, and each quiz will be worth 20-points. The quizzes will come from the week’s readings and Supplemental materials. They will

consist of 25 multiple choice and true-false questions, will be taken on Canvas, and will be timed. The quizzes are open-book and notes, but I strongly encourage you to have done the readings and viewed the PowerPoints prior to beginning as the time allotted for each quiz will be 40-minutes, which will preclude you from looking every answer up. Each week’s quiz will be posted within the module for the corresponding week. **The lowest of all the quizzes will be dropped at the end of the semester.**

Personal interview – 100 points

Each student will arrange a personal interview with an individual who has had or is having an experience with a disabling condition – a chronic illness, substance use disorder, physical or mental disability – that is covered in this course (NOT the recommended text). The individual can be a friend, co-worker, family member, or new acquaintance. When asking the person for the interview, let them know the interview will be concerning their disability. If they are uncomfortable, do not pressure the person to do the interview; choose another person to ask.

Students will turn in a typed 3 to 4-page summary of the interview along with impressions of the interview process and the interviewee. Please be sure to use person’s first language, describe the disability with supplemental resources from the textbook, and use APA format in your reports. Students should read the complete assignment instructions in the appropriate weekly module before completing the personal interview.

Final Examination – 100 points

There shall be one final cumulative exam worth 100 points. Questions will mostly consist of a multiple-choice format, but there will be few true/false and multiple answer items. The exam shall consist of 50 questions with 80 minutes time allotted.

# Grading Scale

# A = > 630 points = 90 – 100%

# B = 560– 629 points = 80 – 89%

# C = 490 – 559 points = 70 – 79%

# D = 420 – 489 points = 60 – 69%

# F = <419 points = 0 – 59%

# Late Work

Assignments are open Monday 8:00AM and due the following Monday night by 11:59PM. Any work submitted after that point will be considered late. Except otherwise prearranged with the instructor, Canvas will automatically apply a 7.5% late submission penalty per day. Assignments may only be submitted within 48 hours of due date to be eligible for credit (15% maximum deduction). Any assignments not submitted within this timeline will receive zero points. NOTE: No late submission is accepted for Discussion Board assignments after the due date.

# Incompletes

Students are expected to complete the course within the session time frame. A grade of Incomplete will only be given (a) in very compelling special circumstances with appropriate documentation of those circumstances (e.g., doctor’s request), and (b) with the stipulation that the course requirements be fulfilled by the end of the following semester. Main points to keep in mind is that students must have completed 75% of the course, are passing the course, and requirements for completion have been specified and communicated.

According to UNT policy:

“An Incomplete Grade ("I") is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course and (2) has a justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student (such as serious illness or military service), for not completing the work on schedule. The student must arrange with the instructor to finish the course at a later date by completing specific requirements.

These requirements must be listed on a Request for Grade of Incomplete form signed by the instructor, student, and department chair; and also entered on the grade roster by the instructor. ([http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/incomplete.htm,](http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/incomplete.htm) p. 1)”

If you fail to complete the course requirements by the end of the current semester, and you have not obtained from me approval for an Incomplete, you will receive a grade of “F”. All graduate students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average to remain an active student in the graduate program. Receiving a grade less than 3.0 for any RHAB course results in the student having to repeat that course. Courses may only be repeated once.

## **UNT Policies**

**Student Conduct and Discipline**

The primary concern of the University of North Texas is the student. The university attempts to provide for all students a campus environment that is conducive to academic endeavor and social and individual growth. To that end, rules, regulations, and guidelines governing student behavior and the student's relationship with the university have been formulated into a student code of conduct and discipline. Enrollment at the University of North Texas is considered implicit acceptance of these and other policies applicable to students, all of which are educational in nature and designed to help students understand expectations and accept responsibility for their own actions. Link to full policy:

### <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student is advised to

become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the Code of

Student Rights and Responsibilities. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense

against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as

all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas,

organization, wording or anything else from another source without appropriate

acknowledgement of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes

reproducing someone else’s work, whether it be a published article, chapter of a book, a paper

from a friend or some file, or something similar to this. Plagiarism also includes the practice of

employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work, which a student submits as

his/her own, whoever that other person may be.

If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content, and phraseology intact is plagiarism.

Policies regarding student conduct and academic honesty posted by the University Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities in the Student Handbook apply to this class. See the full policy here: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

### **ADA Policy**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access website](http://www.unt.edu/oda) at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

### **Emergency Notification & Procedures**

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

### **Retention of Student Records**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student’s records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University’s policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

### **Acceptable Student Behavior**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT’s [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

### **Access to Information - Eagle Connect**

Students’ access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](https://my.unt.edu/). All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student’s Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

### **Student Evaluation Administration Dates**

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13 and 14 of the semester to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" ([no-reply@iasystem.org](file:///C:\Users\jdl0126\AppData\Local\Temp\OneNote\16.0\NT\0\no-reply@iasystem.org)) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](http://spot.unt.edu/) (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email [spot@unt.edu](file:///C:\Users\jdl0126\AppData\Local\Temp\OneNote\16.0\NT\0\spot@unt.edu).

### **Sexual Assault Prevention**

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT’s Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim’s compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](file:///C:\Users\jdl0126\AppData\Local\Temp\OneNote\16.0\NT\0\SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at [oeo@unt.edu](file:///C:\Users\jdl0126\AppData\Local\Temp\OneNote\16.0\NT\0\oeo@unt.edu) or at (940) 565 2759.

### **Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses**

**Federal Regulation**

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website](http://www.ecfr.gov/) (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

**University of North Texas Compliance**

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student’s responsibility to do the following:

(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

### **Student Verification**

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002>).

### **Use of Student Work**

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class, and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student’s permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

* The work is used only once.
* The work is not used in its entirety.
* Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
* The student is not identified.
* The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student’s written permission.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

**Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically Delivered Courses**

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
2. In the event an instructor records student presentation, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.
3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.