



Seeing Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder From A New Perspective

EDUO 9401 One Graduate-Level Credit/Unit

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Course Syllabus

Course Overview

There are many books out now with characters who present with qualities of Asperger or High-Functioning Autistic like behaviors. Mark Haddon's, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*, and John Elder Robinson's, *Look Me in the Eye* are two books that do just that. For this class you can choose one of the two novels listed above and reflect on three different life altering decisions that the authors describe in the book. Make a connection between why these characters chose the path they did and how their Asperger and/or Autism directly affected those decisions. Next, use the ideas behind those choices and analyze a time in your work experience where you have come across a potentially similar situation where a student on the spectrum was struggling and you had to work with that student to better help them cope. Finally, synthesize how reading the book you chose could help you in the future to provide a better educational experience for a student on the autism spectrum.

Course Learning Objectives:

In this course participants will have opportunity:

- To read a book with Asperger and/or Autism influences in it.
- To increase exposure to the mind of a child/person who has Asperger and/or Autism.
- To increase your understanding of how Asperger and/or Autism could affect daily life choices.
- To take your new knowledge of working with students with Asperger and/or Autism in your future work and increase your students' successes.

Course Relation to CCS or other Professional Standards

This course aligns to the standards for the general education teacher, the special education teacher and students who have special needs. Teachers can access their state's Common Core Standards in English language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects.

- <http://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ps/index.asp>
- [CCS](#); [National and State Standards](#)

How to Submit Coursework

Your completed assignment in this course is submitted to the instructor for review. Follow directions at the end of the assignment on how to prepare and then use Moodle Dropbox to place completed work. Name each file submitted with your last name and course number (i.e. Brown9401). You will receive feedback from your instructor within 5 days indicating successful completion of the assignment or the need for revision.

Grading assessment rubrics for written projects are found in this document.

Course Assignments:

There is one final paper to complete for this course. In preparation for the final paper, please complete the following steps.

Assignment 1 *Final Paper*

Objective: The purpose of this assignment is to deepen your understanding of the lived experiences of neurodivergent individuals (for this assignment those individuals may be diagnosed with Asperger's or Autism) by analyzing key life decisions made by a main character in a selected novel. Through comparison with neurotypical behavior, reflection on behavioral patterns, and a real-life connection to your own teaching experience, this task is designed to foster empathy, awareness, and more informed approaches to supporting these students.

Assignment Includes:

Step 1. Choose and read either, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* by Mark Haddon or *Look Me in the Eye* by John Elder Robinson.

- While reading the novel, you may want to note different life altering decisions each main character makes and the precipitating events and/or outcomes of those choices.

Step 2. For the final paper please include the following:

- Three life choices each character makes and make a connection to that decision and how their Asperger and/or Autism may have affected the choice.
 - A comparison between what the main character chooses to do and what you think a neurotypical person might have done.
 - Summarize how the main character's Asperger and/or Autistic like behaviors led them down the life path taken in the book.
 - A real-life example of a time you have worked with a student on the spectrum, and how after reading this book you may have been able to analyze the situation differently and tried a different approach to working with that student.
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- You are allowed 9 months to complete the course. Course questions? Contact your instructor by email.
 - For questions involving your registration please contact us at support@dominicanCAonline.com or call (800) 626-5080. To change your address, link to your Dominican Store account at https://www.dominicancaonlinestore.com/store/index.php?main_page=login
 - For Dominican Self-Guided course information, link to <http://dominicancaonline.com/Dominican-CA-Online-FAQ>

Course Assessment Rubric

Seeing Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder From A New Perspective

EXCELLENT Meets or Exceeds Course Objectives: A to A-	ACCEPTABLE Majority of Work Meets Course Objectives; B+ to B-	NOT ACCEPTABLE Needs Considerable Improvement: Resubmit Work Suggested: C or below
Shows exemplary understanding of three life choices and how Asperger and/or Autism could affect daily life choices from the text creatively and clearly using text.	Shows basic understanding of how Asperger and/or Autism could affect daily life choices answering with two life choices with most opinions and ideas being stated clearly.	Needs more time to develop an understanding of how Asperger and/or Autism could affect daily life choices
Shows exemplary application of new knowledge evidenced by providing three life choices from the text and comparisons are thoughtful and relevant to the course work.	Shows basic application of new knowledge evidenced by providing only two life choices from the text and comparisons are thoughtful and relevant to the course work.	Needs more time to develop the application of new knowledge evidenced by not having life choices from the text and comparisons are that are thoughtful and relevant to the course work.
Work is very organized. Life choices and comparisons are easy to locate, clearly labeled and aligns with course assignments.	Work is fairly-well organized. Specific life choices are hard to locate with minimal comparisons.	Work is poorly organized. There is a lack of obvious life choices and no comparisons are given as related to course assignments.
Assignment content and projects are original.	Assignment content and projects are original.	Assignment content and projects may not be original.
Assignment content aligns with course learning objectives and subject-related professional standards	Assignment content align with course learning objectives and subject-related professional standards	Assignment content does not align with course learning objectives and subject-related professional standards
All work submitted follows suggested formatting. Work is free of spelling and grammatical errors. Resources are cited.	All work submitted follows suggested formatting. Work is free of spelling and grammatical errors. Resources are cited.	Submitted work does not follows suggested formatting. Work has numerous spelling and grammatical errors. Resources are not cited.