

## ***T&L 2900 – Teaching Social Skills to Students with Autism***

### **Course at a Glance**

**Instructor/Presenter:** Michelle Kalina

**Length:** 30 Hours

**Dates:** Enroll Anytime – Complete in 4 months

**Number of Professional Development Credits:** 2, from the University of North Dakota

### **Introduction**

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Making friends and understanding social situations come naturally to most people. Our friends and family relationships are often the most fulfilling aspects of our lives. However, our students with autism find the world of social relationships confusing and frightening. Children with autism need to learn specific rules to navigate social relationships, make good choices in friends and understand the “silent” language of facial gestures, intonation and posture. In this course, you will learn how to teach students with autism to build positive relationships and to use the “10 Unwritten Rules of Social Relationships” explained by Dr. Temple Grandin and Sean Barron on a daily basis. The interventions learned in this class will improve student motivation, mental well-being, self-esteem and quality of life, resulting in increased academic achievement. Students will develop important social skills that will serve them throughout their lifetimes. They will learn how to build and maintain long-lasting friendships and learn how to interact appropriately in a variety of social settings at home, work, school, and in their communities.

This self-paced course can be started and completed at the student’s own leisure **within four months from the UND course registration date.**

### **Course Objectives**

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The purpose of the online course is to help participants learn how to teach students with autism to build positive relationships and how to use the “10 Unwritten Rules of Social Relationships” explained by Dr. Temple Grandin and Sean Barron on a daily basis.

### **Learning Objectives**

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Individuals in this course will:

- Learn how to interact with peers and adults appropriately in a variety of social situations at home, school and in the community.
- Increase student self-esteem and develop healthy peer relationships.
- PreK-12 students will learn how to interpret facial expressions, body language, and literal and non-literal language to increase academic achievement.
- Students will learn how to appropriately respond to negative peer interactions to avoid being bullied, build self-esteem and avoid school suspension for physical altercations.

- Make school a pleasant, safe experience for students, promoting understanding of academic instruction, and build positive adult relationships and satisfying peer friendships.
- Understand the defining characteristics of the autism spectrum disorders and how they impact social relationship and quality of life.

## Session Highlights

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The course content is provided in three parts:

Part One – Chapter Readings and Packet Assignments

Part Two – Lesson Plans

Part Three –Critical Thinking Essay

## Course Materials

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The required reading is found in the text listed below. The required text is:

Grandin, T. & Barron, S. (2005). *Unwritten rules of social relationships: decoding social mysteries through the unique perspectives of autism*. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons, Inc. (383 Pages)

National Institute of Mental Health. (2008). *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Pervasive Developmental Disorders*. Washington, D.C.: Department of Health and Human Services.  
URL address for this article will be provided in the course syllabus.

**Technical Requirements** – Any online browser should work but IE 7 or Google Chrome are recommended.

## Assignments

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- Reading/Packet Assignments (60% of final grade)
- Lesson Plans/Interventions (30% of final grade)
- Critical Thinking Essay (10% of final grade)

## Grading & Grading Criteria

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**This online course uses Letter Grading (A – F) or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U). The grading option must be selected at the time of course registration.**

The course instructor will review students' answers and provide feedback generally within 24 to 48 hours.

## Scholastic Dishonesty

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Students enrolled in this course are expected to be aware of the seriousness of scholastic dishonesty. Unacceptable behavior such as submitting someone else's work as your own, cheating on exams, or plagiarizing can result in failure of the course or other sanctions. For a more detailed description of these policies, please refer to the UND Code of Student Life; Appendix IIIa-3, at: <http://und.edu/student-affairs/code-of-student-life/>

Last Updated: 5/10/2017