

What is the AMI Inclusive Education Course?

Summary of live webinar information session on March 30th, 2016

Silvia C. Dubovoy, Ph.D.



Why this Course Was Created

- About 1 in 6 children in the United States had a developmental disability
- We want to change the concept of disability for **inclusivity** based on differences (neurological and physical), not disorders.

Goals

- To use all means of Montessori education to support the **personality of all children** so they can fulfill their potentialities to their maximum and have happy, satisfied and productive lives.
- **To make exceptional children capable of crossing the dividing line** so that they can enter into society as individuals, independent of care from other people and capable of supporting themselves through meaningful work.
- To educate Montessori practitioners so they can **advocate for all children**, to promote the ability to create multidisciplinary teams, support teachers and parents, and to be prepared to convey through lectures and writings their understanding of inclusion of all children.

Course Schedule & Content

First Summer

- Overview of **characteristics & challenges of exceptionalities**
- Explore fundamental course themes:
 - **Celebrate the uniqueness** of each child
 - **Character and personality** are the most important
 - **Avoid labels, nature makes differences**
 - **Observation, protocols and interventions**
 - Who knows what skills are needed for our **future society**?
- **Finding ways to reconcile public school approaches** and AMI standards
- **Topics Covered**
 - Exceptionalities/Learning disorders
 - Behavioral and Emotional aspects
 - ADD/ADHD
 - Autism Spectrum (Asperger's)
 - Language and Speech disorders
 - Auditory & Visual impairments

Second Summer

- Presentation and discussion of **case studies**
- How to write a **Montessori IEP**
- **Designing approaches** from the “outside world of experts” with our Montessori system
- New research in **neurosciences (Neurodiversity)**
- **Family dynamics** and education
- **Media** and its effects on Executive Functions
- **Topics Covered**
 - Gifted Children
 - Children at risk: poor communities, orphanages, foster homes
 - The technological revolution and its consequences
 - Physical and health disabilities
 - Diagnosis & assessments

Academic Requirements

- Assigned reading
- Brief weekly essays
- 8-10 page case study paper
- 30 observation hours (related to case study paper)
- Personal reference album
- 15 page final written reflection paper
- At least 90% attendance

Time Commitment Outside of Class

- 2-3 hours of homework (reading & writing essays) per night when classes are in session
- 30 observation hours
 - Complete during the interim year
 - School, home, and other settings are acceptable
- Case study paper
 - Complete during the interim year
- Personal reference album
 - Ongoing project throughout the year, for your personal use, that can be as general or detailed as you wish



Faculty

- Montessori practitioners & experts at the top of these fields: Medicine, Psychology, Psychiatry, Neuroscience, Academia (Special Ed)
- **Silvia C. Dubovoy, Ph.D., Director of Training**
 - AMI trainer** (A-I, Primary, Inclusive Education)
 - AMI consultant
 - More than 50 years experience
 - Served on AMI board in Amsterdam for 28 years
 - Ph.D. in Psychology. Worked closely with Dr. Carl R. Rogers.

- **Annabeth Jensen, M.Ed., Course Assistant**
AMI Elementary guide for 24 years; 18 years at upper elementary
AMI Elementary consultant
Recipient of the Susie Huston Memorial Award for dedication in teaching
AMI Inclusive Education Certificate, 2015
 - **Mario Salguero, M.D., Ph.D., Lecturer**
Ph.D. in Molecular Biology
Focus on **integrative medicine**- nutrition & mindfulness applied to neuropsychiatry
Father of two Montessori children
 - **Adele Diamond, Ph.D., Lecturer**
One of the founders of the field of **Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience**
One of the world's leading researchers on Executive Functions
Featured on NPR, PBS, TED Talks, and the New York Times
 - **Edith Eger, Ph.D., Lecturer**
Clinical psychologist & internationally renowned speaker
Uses her experience as a Holocaust survivor to help people transcend limitations
Talks about stress and resilience
 - **Lorna Swartz, M.D., Ph.D., Lecturer**
Opened the Lorna Swartz Achievement Center in 1969 in her native South Africa
Hosted a weekly radio program on mental health issues, esp. ADD&ADHD
Has delivered **more than 100 seminars on learning disabilities**
 - **Sharyn Rhodes, Ph.D., Lecturer**
Professor Emeritus of Special Education, Loyola University Maryland
Served on the National CHADD Board
Facilitates a support group for Parents of Adults with ADHD
Lecturing on **Speech & Language Disorders**
 - **Elizabeth Bacon, Ph.D., Lecturer**
Postdoctoral researcher at the UCSD Autism Center of Excellence, specializing in birth to 3 years.
Board-certified behavior analyst
Interests include measuring response to treatment & understanding the stability of diagnoses over time
-

Professional Outcomes

- What you will learn in this program
- How you can use this training to advance your career

In this course, you will learn how to...

- Coordinate an **interdisciplinary team** for each child (teacher + parents + specialist)
- Create a “**Montessori IEP**” (Individualized Education Program)
- Craft a strong **referral to a specialist**
- Write a **case study** for a Montessori audience
- Develop an Inclusive Education observation **protocol for your school**
- Build a **resource library** for your school
- Deliver **staff workshops**

And you'll also get...

- Specialized, in-depth **observation skills** related to special needs
- Ideas for intervention and “**best practices**” within the Montessori environment
- Membership to the **MISD Inclusive Education Think Tank**, an international community of colleagues who support each other professionally

Benefits to Schools

- In-house consultant
- Reduce drop-out rate
- Resources to serve *every child*

2016-17 Application Details

- **Schedule:** June 27 – July 29, 2016 (5 weeks) ; June 26 – July 25, 2017 (5 weeks)
- **Tuition & Financing:** **\$8,750**. Several payment plans, including monthly option.
- **Housing:** Offered at the University of San Diego, 15 minutes away by car.
- **Admission Requirements:** AMI diploma. Three years classroom experience preferred.
- **Application:** Apply online or download PDF.
- **Space & Application Deadline:** Spaces still available as of 4/5. Rolling admissions until course is filled. Contact the office if you have questions: training@misdami.org or (858) 535-0500 x101.
- **Will you offer this course again? Will you offer it in other locations?** Ideally, we would like to make this course available to more people in the future. Students in the 2016-17 class will have the unique opportunity to train with Dr. Silvia Dubovoy, the creator of the course.