

ECI 660 - Cognition & Instructional Design

Syllabus

Spring Semester, 2004

Instructor Information

John Hollenbeck, Ph.D.
Old Dominion University
Darden College of Education
Room 165-2
Norfolk, VA 23529-0161

Office: (757) 683-3850
Fax: (757) 683-5862
Email: jhollenb@odu.edu
AIM Handle: drjohnonaim
Office hours: Mondays 1 PM - 4 PM
Thursdays (online only) 4 PM - 7 PM
Others by appointment

Course Description

During this semester our work together will be concerned with one over-arching question: How can research into cognition, mind and learning inform our practice as educators? To answer this question, we will review this century's various research trends in the science of the mind, including behaviorism, cognitivism, developmental theory, motivation and neuroscience. More recent social theories of cognition will also be considered.

This class will utilize a common text to guide our discussion, but will equally rely upon your independent work into issues as they apply to your educational practice. Class meetings will consist of lectures and small group interactions based upon the week's readings.

Course Goals and Objectives

The ends in view for this course include:

- An understanding of the various theories of learning from the sciences of mind.
- An ability to participate fully in debates regarding learning
- Knowledge and experience with the application of concepts drawn from cognitive science and how they are applied to learning situations
- A basic understanding of social learning theories
- The development of a personal theory of human cognition

Course Organization

This course emphasizes learning by participation. Application of theories of cognition and learning will be blended with theoretical inquiries. You will be asked to critically read course texts and be prepared to engage issues raised each week. Please allow for ample time to complete and reflect upon the course readings.

This class will be supplemented by online interaction using Blackboard. Discussions will take place in an active bulletin board environment. Student work will be submitted electronically where Dr. Hollenbeck can access and comment upon the work.

Prerequisite

ECI 530 or equivalent computer skills

Course Texts

Required Texts

- Driscoll, M.P. (2000). Psychology of Learning for Instruction, Second Edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon
- One additional book to be chosen by individuals or small groups. A report on this extra reading will be presented to the class. Book selections must be approved by the instructor
- Readings accessed by the World Wide Web and distributed in Adobe Acrobat. A free reader is available
- Lectures accessed by the World Wide Web and distributed in Microsoft PowerPoint. A free reader is available

Optional Texts

- American Psychological Association (APA); ISBN: 1557987912; 5th edition (July 2001)
- Gregory, R.L. and O. L. Zangwill, O.L. (Eds) (1998). The Oxford Companion to the Mind. Longon: Oxford University Press; ISBN: 0198602243; Reprint edition

Required Skills and Access

- Use of Internet, including electronic mail and the World Wide Web
- Ability with PowerPoint, Web Graphics, and an authoring program
- An active ODU email account
- Access to the Internet from the main location of study

Class Policies

Interaction Policy

Students are responsible for weekly material, and are valued for contributions to discussion. It is understood that most students are involved with professional and personal obligations, but in taking this course you are responsible to complete the assigned work and interact online with fellow participants.

There are regularly scheduled meetings on Mondays from 4:15PM to 7:00PM. These classes will be treated largely as working seminars with each participant responsible for sharing insights from the weeks work. In addition, each participant log into the Blackboard course environment at least one time during th week and contribute at least two postings directly related to the week's work. See Participation Information (below) for the course Web address.

Please note: This class may not be taken as an independent study.

Coursework Policy

Competency is graded by the grasp of assigned weekly material. This assessment will be made through written quizzes, quality of discussion and assigned homework. It is expected that assigned work be completed in a timely manner and in such a way that it reflects a considered effort towards mastery of the subject.

Participation

Blackboard is a secure online course environment maintained by Old Dominion University. Each participant receives an account in the ECI 660 course environment upon successful enrollment in the class. Once enrolled, the course may be found at the following Web address:

- <http://www.blackboard.odu.edu/>

To log into Blackboard, you will need to know your ODU email account name and password. It will also be helpful to have some basic understanding of Blackboard prior to beginning the class. Please access the following Web address to address these issues:

- http://www.odu.edu/dl/ctt/bb/student_help_page.html

Instructional Activities

Investment

Investment in the class is evidenced by

- A regular presence in class
- Participation
- Creative contributions
- Critical Reflection

Online participation is required. The minimum amounts of participation should be:

- Logging onto Blackboard at least one time per week.
- Posting at least two meaningful interactions per week on Blackboard in areas devoted to course topic discussion.

Tests and Examinations

Weekly quizzes and challenges will help give practice and anchor the readings. These quizzes will count towards the Participation grade.

A midterm performance exam will cover course topics to this point. It will consist of a Web assignment to be completed within one week. Resources and design guidelines will be given.

A final performance exam will encompass all course topics. Students will be asked to perform various tasks in line with the course objectives. This exam will be given during ODU's final exam week.

Assignments

All assignments are more completely defined and operationalized in BlackBoard.

Book Review

A five page essay review should be submitted covering a book read independently for this class. In addition, a ten minute oral presentation will be given to class. All papers are to be formatted with Times 12 point font or equivalent, double spaced with 1 1/2 inch margins.

Course Paper

The goal of this course is for every participant to develop and state a personal theory of instruction. As such, this paper should be in development from the first class meeting. As new theories are introduced and discussed, they should be added to (or discarded from) each personal paper. Work in progress will be read at agreed upon intervals throughout the semester.

The final paper should be between 15 and 20 pages length. All papers are to be formatted with Times 12 point font or equivalent, double spaced with 1 1/2 inch margins.

Reading Assignments

Weekly reading assignments will be posted on BlackBoard. A complete schedule may be viewed in the Course Documents area.

Study Guides

Study guides will be made available for all readings assigned in ECI 660. They will be found in the Course Documents section of BlackBoard.

Discussion Questions for Readings

Questions will be posted for the weekly readings in the BlackBoard discussion forums
Assessment Information

Assessment

All work is graded by the instructor based upon the criteria of the assignment according to a clear grading rubric provided with the assignment. Students may revise any work for an improved grade after the work is initially turned in. All revisions are due within a week of the return of the initial grading. Revisions will be awarded partial credit towards an improved grade.

Work is due on the date announced. Late work will be penalized unless an agreement has been reached between the student and the professor.

All work must be turned in to pass the course.

Grade Distribution.

The grade weight ranges for each activity are indicated below:

Participation	30%
Book Review	10%
Course Paper	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%

Evaluation Criteria

Grades will be assigned using the established academic practice of letter grades. The following guidelines will be employed cumulatively for each assignment (based upon Bloom's Taxonomy of Cognitive Learning).

Grade	Concept	Description
F	No evidence of learning.	
D	Knowledge	Ability to recall facts about the subject.
C	Comprehension	Can show understanding of key concepts.
B-	Application	Able to employ the key concepts in practical way.
B	Analysis	Examine and explain how systems work.
A-	Synthesis	Work of superior quality, showing complete grasp of the subject and an ability to apply the knowledge achieve novel results.
A	Evaluation	Can gauge the quality of topic areas based upon knowledge of the field.

Honor Pledge

"I pledge to support the honor system of Old Dominion University. I will refrain from any form of academic dishonesty or deception, such as cheating or plagiarism. I am aware that as a member of the academic community, it is my responsibility to turn in all suspected violators of the honor system. I will report to Honor Council hearings if summoned."

Honor Code

By attending Old Dominion University you have accepted the responsibility to abide by this code. This is an institutional policy approved by the Board of Visitors.

The Honor System at Old Dominion University is based on individual integrity. This system assumes that every student will accept his or her role in the University community with a feeling of self-respect and duty. Lying, cheating and plagiarism all constitute violations of the Honor System. Each piece of work submitted by you such as homework and term papers must be your own work. As a member of our community of scholars at Old Dominion University, you are expected to adhere to the above pledge.

Accommodation

Every effort will be made to accommodate those course participants with learning and/or physical disabilities. Old Dominion University offers a number of services and policies to enable everyone access to learning. A list of resources from Old Dominion University Disability Services is available on the World Wide Web at the following address:

- <http://www.odu.edu/webroot/orgs/STU/stuserv.nsf/pages/dswebpage>

Student Handbook

There are a number of services and policies that can assist and define your interactions with Old Dominion University. Please note that there are two handbooks available from Old Dominion University Student Services: One for students physically present on campus and one for students learning at a distance (TELETECHNET). Choose the document that covers your situation. Both handbooks may be accessed at on the World Wide Web at the following address:

- http://www.odu.edu/webroot/orgs/STU/stuserv.nsf/pages/student_handbook