

ECI 660
Cognition and
Instructional Design

Course Syllabus

Course Description

- ▶ Overview of 20th Century Cognition
- ▶ This course will focus on five issues:
 - *Various theories of learning*
 - *Ability to debate learning theory*
 - *Relation of theory to practice*
 - *Focus on social learning theory*
 - *Developing personal theory*

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 Readings

▶ 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.*
- *Readings distributed in Adobe Acrobat.*
- *Lectures accessed by the World Wide Web*

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 Course Readings

▶ Optional Texts

- *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (5th ed.) (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*

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

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

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Assignments

- ▶ **Investment**
- ▶ **Online participation is required.**
 - *Logging onto Blackboard one time per week.*
 - *Posting at least two interactions per week.*
- ▶ **Performance Exams**
 - *Part One exam, Midterm exam and Final exam*
 - *Oral Format*

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.

Unit Assignments

- ▶ **Book Review**
- ▶ **Course Paper**
 - *15 - 20 pages*
 - *Develop and state personal theory*
 - *Ongoing and revised in semester*
- ▶ **Readings**
 - *Reading notes usually available*
 - *Work with discussion question online*

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.

Evaluation

- ▶ F No evidence of learning.
- ▶ D Knowledge
- ▶ C Comprehension
- ▶ B- Application
- ▶ B Analysis
- ▶ A- Synthesis
- ▶ A Evaluation

Grade	Concept	Description	Example
F		No evidence of learning.	No acceptable work turned in.
D		Knowledge	
		Ability to recall facts about the field.	Pass an objective text on specific concepts associated with online learning.
C		Comprehension	Can
		show understanding of the key concepts of the field.	Explain the meanings of most theoretical and practical concepts of online learning.
B-		Application	
		Is able to employ the key concepts of the field in some practical way.	An ability to perform all functions of the Blackboard conferencing system.
B		Analysis	
		Use knowledge to examine and explain how systems work. Categorize and criticize how elements of an online course work together.	
A-		Synthesis	
		Work of superior quality, showing complete grasp of the subject and an ability to apply the knowledge achieve novel results.	Show how the combination of field practices can be brought to bear in an original manner to solve some educational problem.
A		Evaluation	
		Can gauge the quality of topic areas based upon knowledge of the field.	Develop an original argument for why an online learning strategy will succeed or fail based upon concepts and practices of the field.

University Policy

- ▶ Honor Code
- ▶ Accommodation
- ▶ Student Handbook

Honor Code

Old Dominion University has set out a clear policy in regards to academic honesty. When you enroll in a class, you are seen as bound by this agreement. Basically, it sets out the terms of academic honesty and the consequences for violation of those terms. I strongly urge you to access the following link and review the honor code.

[Old Dominion University Honor Council](#)

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. Please review the following web resources.

[Old Dominion University Disability Services](#)

Student Handbook

There are a number of services and policies that can assist your interactions with Old Dominion University. Please note that there are two handbooks: One for students physically present and one for students learning at a distance (Teletechnet). Choose the document that covers your situation.

[Old Dominion University Student Services](#)