

Spring 2024 Course Syllabus
PSY 325.01: Educational Psychology
ONLINE CLASS
Department of Psychology

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Course Description

This is a psychology course. Educational psychology is a sub discipline of psychology that generates knowledge relevant to education via the use of scientific methods. This course will review some important findings, theories, and research methods from the science of psychology that are relevant to the study of learning, knowledge acquisition and teaching. The course is broad in scope and will cover issues as diverse as research methods, learning theory, classroom management, motivation, cognitive development, memory processes, individual differences, intelligence, standardized testing, and critical thinking.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Describe how the science of psychology can inform our understanding of teaching and learning.
2. Explain how the use of scientific research methods is relevant to educational psychology and highlight its enormous value in adjudicating conflicting positions in educational matters.
3. Summarize the implications of some current research on psychology on our understanding of how people learn.
4. Illustrate effective teaching and learning strategies that are geared towards maximizing student learning.

Textbook (Required):

Educational Psychology. (2023). **15th Ed**, by Anita Woolfolk & Ellen Usher, Pearson.
The textbook will be made available on the course Blackboard site via **GVSU Save Course Material**.

eReadings:

Several required readings will also be made available to you via the course Blackboard site. Weekly reading assignments will often require that you read one or more of these eReadings.

Course Evaluation

I. Lecture Assignments (LAs)	90 points (45% of grade)
II. Reading Assignments (RAs)	75 points (37.5% of grade)
III. Final Exam	35 points (17.5% of grade)

200 points total

Course Grade Schedule & “rounding-up” policy:

	B+	88-89 %	C+	78-79 %	D+	68-69 %	
A	93-100 %	B	82-87 %	C	72-77 %	D	60-67 %
A-	90-92 %	B-	80-81 %	C-	70-71 %	F	< 60 %

For purposes of letter grade submission, numerical scores are rounded up from the **second decimal place value** to the nearest whole number (i.e., xx.45 and greater). For example, 81.45, would be rounded up to an 82 (a straight **B**). An 81.44, however would remain a B- (the border needs to be placed somewhere).

Lecture Assignments (LA)

There will be a weekly LA that will require you to have thoughtfully engaged with content presented in that week’s lecture presentations. Lecture presentations will be made available to you every Tuesday morning in Blackboard. These assignments will consist of a series of questions requiring short written responses that range anywhere from a single word to an entire paragraph. There will be a total of six LAs, each worth 15 points. **Each LA will be due on the Friday of that week’s presented material (at 10 pm). Your responses to these LAs must reflect the lecture material that was presented in this class**—responses based on internet searches will most likely result in deductions. Do not incorporate the work of anyone else (including fellow students) into your responses. Doing so will be considered plagiarism (as described in the catalog and in the Student Code.) Assignments incorporating plagiarized material may result in a failing grade for the course.

Late Deductions Lecture Assignments:

- Assignments less than 24 hours late will receive an automatic 2 point deduction
- 24 - 48 hours late will receive an automatic 4 point deduction
- 48 - 72 hours late will receive an automatic 5 point deduction
- Assignments more than 3 days (72 hours) late will not be graded and scored a zero

Reading Assignments (RA)

There will be a weekly RA that will require you to thoughtfully read some assigned material and answer a set of provided questions. The assigned reading material may consist of textbook page ranges and/or (an) eReserve reading(s). The quality and completeness of your responses to the questions will factor into the grading. **Avoid skimming the assigned readings for “the answers” as this strategy will likely result in superficial responses that will affect your score.** It is vital to take note that the

nature of these assignments ask that **all your responses are made using your own wording**—e.g., do not make use of any quotations from the assigned reading(s). There will be a total of five of these assignments each worth 15 points. These will always be **due on Mondays at 10 pm** (except for RA 3 which will be due on Tuesday May 28). Do not incorporate the work of anyone else (including fellow students) into your written responses. Doing so will be considered plagiarism (as described in the catalog and in the Student Code.) Assignments incorporating plagiarized material may result in a failing grade for the course.

Late Deductions for Reading Assignments:

- Assignments less than 24 hours late will receive an automatic 8 point deduction
- Assignments more than 24 hours late will not be graded and scored a zero

Final Exam: Tuesday June 18

An online administered final exam will be made available on **June 18 between 8:00 am and 12 midnight** (i.e., you will be able to take it anytime in that window). The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions that draw upon all the material covered in this course. It is recommended that you take notes of presented material and review the covered material often in preparation for this final. The length of the exam is yet to be determined.

Topics covered:

Please note that it is only coincidental that the number of topics below is the same as the number of instruction weeks in this course. Topics are **not** of equal time duration (some of the below topics have more content to be covered than others). Thus, we will **not** be covering one topic per week. Please also note that the topic numbers below do **not** align with the textbook chapter numbers. The assigned readings for these topics will typically be communicated via the required **Reading Assignments** along with their associated due dates.

Topic # ≠ Chapter # ≠ Week #

- 1. Introduction to educational psychology**
- 2. Research methods in educational psychology**
- 3. Learning theory (and applications to classroom management & motivation)**
- 4. Memory processes and knowledge acquisition (or knowledge construction)**
- 5. Individual differences (and their relevance to education)**
- 6. Cognitive theories and implications for education**

Important dates:

Last day 100% refund	May 10
Last day 75% refund	May 17
Drop deadline with a grade of “W”	June 7
Final Exam	Tuesday June 18 [8am – 12 midnight]

Important note: Your continuation in this class indicates your acceptance of the above schedule and procedures. The above schedule and procedures, however, are subject to some modification in the event of extenuating circumstances (as assessed by the instructor).

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies>