



PSY 341.01W Learning Theories & Processes

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Leon King, MS, COTA

Office Location: Zoom

Office Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:30 – 5:00 pm

University Email Address: leon.king@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: E-mail or via Zoom

Communication Response Time: The instructor will respond to students within 24 hours Mondays through Thursdays and within 48 hours Fridays through Sundays

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Merriam, S. B., & Bierema, L. L. (2013). *Adult learning: Linking theory and practice*. John Wiley & Sons.

Course Description

The aim of this course is to provide a general understanding of the basic principles and theories of learning. We will essentially be focusing and devoting the first half of the semester to developing your understanding of the different learning theories from birth through adulthood while devoting the second half of the semester to refining and developing a better understanding of learning processes. Because most college students are young adults with an increasing amount of college students earning their degrees in middle adulthood, this course will focus on learning theories and processes among adults while touching on childhood and older adults as well.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to identify the various learning theories within educational psychology and pedagogy.

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2. Students will be able to identify key psychologists, theories and frameworks within the field of both psychology and education as well as how these theories and frameworks apply to students of all ages and backgrounds

3. Students will be able to apply different learning theories to a variety of learning situations to best foster learning within a variety of environments

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

The student must be able to access the online learning system, (D2L) for accessing and completing assignments. Students must also be able to properly utilize Microsoft Office as well as their school e-mail to ensure adequate communication with the instructor throughout this class.

Instructional Methods

This is an online class in which most of this course will meet asynchronously. This means that we will not be meeting face-to-face at any of the East Texas A&M University campuses. I will however try to host a few online sessions throughout the semester to help students with working on their major teaching project. Attendance for the online Zoom sessions will be optional, and I will record the meetings for students who are unable to attend if major material is discussed. Even though this course is taught online, this is NOT a self-paced course! In other words, you will have assignments with due dates and assignments will not be accepted after the due dates.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

While I do not have a set requirement for number of times a student must log onto D2L throughout the semester, the more interactive the student is within D2L, the more likely the student will find the material easier to understand. Additionally, as we progress through this course and begin working on the teaching project, communicating questions/concerns and interacting with the instructor as well as other students will make the project easier to navigate. If a student has questions, the sooner the student emails and conferences with the instructor, the quicker the student will find him/herself back on track and understanding the material better.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

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D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Threaded Discussions	30%
Personal Learning Syllabus	30%
Personal Special Topics in Psychology Course	10%
Personal Graded Assignment(s)	10%
Teaching Philosophy	20%
Total	100%

Assessments

Threaded Discussions: Most weeks throughout this course, each student will be expected to write an initial post responding to a writing prompt by the instructor. Initial posts must be at least 200 words in length and demonstrate proper in-text citations as well as properly citing the source at the end of the initial post in APA format. Students will need to write their initial post by Wednesday of each week. Each student must respond to at least 2 classmates by Saturday night (11:59pm) in at least 100 words. If references are used, the student must properly cite their references in APA format, both using in-text citation as well as properly referencing the source at the end of the post. Grading for the threaded discussions will be as follows, 80% content and 20% proper use of APA citation, spelling and grammar. The student must complete all parts of the threaded discussion, (initial post AND 2 responses) to receive credit for the discussion assignment.

Personal Learning Syllabus: Each student will be expected to create a major teaching assignment of their choice. Prior to starting this major teaching assignment, each student will create a syllabus for their learning activity or activities. A syllabus template, (which will look very similar to this syllabus), will be made available to the student. The student will download the template, complete the required sections of the syllabus and submit their syllabus in the appropriate drop box. Within this assignment, the student will create their own "special topics psychology course" that is not currently being offered at ETAMU. For example, creating an abnormal psychology course will not be accepted as ETAMU already offers a course in abnormal psychology, however creating a class focusing on personality disorders would be accepted because ETAMU does not have a class specifically dealing with personality disorders. More details will be provided in the full assignment. The student will also be required to select their learning theory for their course format and provide evidence of the selected learning theory within current literature.

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Personal Special Topics in Psychology Course/Report: After the student has created/developed their “special topics psychology course,” the student will then execute all activities listed within their learning syllabus. This means that if a student puts in their personal learning syllabus that they are going to read a 300-page textbook on personality disorders and write a 20-page paper, then the student will need to read their chosen 300-page textbook and write a 20-page paper. If the student states that he/she will take an exam on the material covered in their chosen textbook, then the student will need to locate an exam, (or create) an exam on the material covered in their chosen textbook. During this 5-week period of the course, there will be one Mid-Term Discussion Board, threaded discussion, in which students will be required to “check in,” letting the instructor and the rest of their classmates know how they are doing on their teaching assignment that they have created, as well as discuss what/which aspects of their course is working and which ones are not working.

Personal Graded Assignments: At the end of the “special topics psychology,” course the student will then be required to turn in their graded assignments. Essentially, this will be a pass/fail grade, as either the student will demonstrate to the instructor that the student met the requirements of their designed “special topics psychology” course, or they did not. The student will also turn in a 2 – 3-page reflection paper on how well he/she navigated through their designed course, along with how well they felt their chosen learning theory worked for their learning throughout their designed course.

Teaching Philosophy: The final assignment for this course will be for the students to create their own personal teaching philosophy, based on all the material covered from the start of this class. This assignment will give the student an opportunity to reflect on what worked well and what did not work well, while they had to play the role of both “teacher” and “student.” Additionally, students who may in the future consider teaching children, or even a different subject other than psychology, may determine to use a different learning philosophy than that of the one they chose for their “special topics psychology” course.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

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Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Students may E-mail the instructor at leon.king@tamuc.edu at any time. I will answer E-mails within 24 hours during the week and 48 hours on weekends. Students may also communicate with the instructor via Zoom by appointment during office hours listed at the top of the syllabus.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

There will be NO make-up opportunities provided for missed threaded discussion assignments. If a student does not complete a discussion forum, the student will automatically receive a 0. It will be impossible to return to a discussion topic as the class has moved on, and we are done discussing the missing discussion topic. Likewise, late work will not be accepted unless there is a documented excused absence

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by the Student Life Office at ETAMU, or arrangements have been made with the instructor in advance. There will be no after-the-fact late work accepted in this course.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-code-of-conduct/>.

If you believe someone has engaged in behaviors that do not align with the Code of Student Conduct or you have other concerns, please visit the File a Report page at <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy
[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Graduate student academic dishonesty policy:
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

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TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage.

Artificial Intelligence

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, Chatbots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5930

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Website: <http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx>

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or

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webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week:	Dates:	Topic(s):	Assignment(s):
1	08/25 - 08/30	Ch. 1 Adult Learning in today's World, Ch. 2 Traditional Learning Theories	Discussion Forum
2	08/31 - 9/06	Ch.3 Androgyny, Ch. 4. Self-Directed Learning	Discussion Forum
3	09/07 - 09/13	Ch. 5. Transformative Learning, Ch. 6. Experience and Learning	Discussion Forum
4	09/14 - 09/20	Ch. 7. Body and Spirit in Learning, Ch. 8. Motivation and Learning	Discussion Forum
5	09/21 - 09/27	Ch. 9 The Brain and Cognitive Function, Ch. 10 Adult Learning in the Digital Age	Discussion Forum
6	09/28 - 10/04	Ch. 11 Critical Thinking and Critical Perspectives, Ch. 12 Culture and Context	Discussion Forum

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7	10/05 - 10/11	Begin working on Personal Learning Syllabus	
8	10/12 - 10/18	Finish working on Personal Learning Syllabus	Personal Learning Syllabus and have learning resources ready
9	10/19- 10/25	Personal Psych. 497 Begins	
10	10/26 - 11/01	Personal Psych. 497 Cont.	
11	11/02 - 11/08	Personal Psych. 497 Cont.	Mid-Term Discussion Forum
12	11/09 - 11/15	Personal Psych. 497 Cont.	
13	11/16 - 11/22	Personal Psych. 497 Cont.	
14	11/23 - 11/29	Personal Psych. 497 Ends	Submit graded assignments and short reflection paper
15	11/30 - 12/06	Start working on personal teaching philosophy	
16	12/07 - 12/12	Cont. working on personal teaching philosophy	Submit Personal Teaching Philosophy

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