George Mason University’s Graduate School of Education and Human Development

EDUC 672:002 Human Development and Learning: Secondary Education
(3 Credits)
Spring Semester, 2006

Instructor: Dr. Candace A. Strawn
Date and Time: Jan. 26-May 11 (Thursday—4:30-7:10 pm)
Class Location: Robinson B, Room 111
Telephone: 703-993-4240
E-mail: cstrawn@gmu.edu
Office: Robinson A, Room A355
Office Hours: Thursday (3:00-4:00 p.m.) and by appointment

Required Textbooks


Other articles/handouts will be distributed in class or posted on-line at the course website. (Your GMU email address is required for communication with the course instructor and for using Blackboard!)

Optional Textbook

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed.).
or

Course Description

Education 672 explores the processes that influence the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development of middle and high school students. Within that context, the course further examines the processes and theories that provide a basis for understanding the learning process. Particular attention is given to constructivist theories and practices of learning, the role of symbolic competence as a mediator of learning, understanding, and knowing, and the facilitation of critical thinking and problem solving. Processes of developing and learning are considered as they impact the design of instruction and the selection of curriculum. The course also explores the relation of theories of learning to the construction of learning environments, student motivation, classroom management, assessment, and how technology supports teaching and learning.
Course Methodology

The course is structured around readings, case analyses, reflections on those readings, conceptual analyses of developmental psychology and learning theories, expert group projects, a review of current research, and technology activities. EDUC 672 seeks to build clear bridges between theoretical/research perspectives and classroom practice. Student participation and involvement are crucial for making the course successful for everyone.

Course Objectives

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of stages and processes relating to adolescents’ social, emotional, moral, cognitive, and physical development by writing a five-page paper on adolescent behavior.

- Students will develop an understanding of how individuals differ in their approaches to learning and how to create instructional opportunities that are adapted to learners from diverse cultural backgrounds and with exceptionalities by attending in-class lectures given by experts in these fields and by working on individual case studies.

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of how theoretical approaches to learning and development relate to classroom management, instruction, and assessment by passing midterm and final examinations.

- Students will identify theoretical/research frameworks associated with student motivation and with creating learning environments that promote adaptive forms of motivation by writing a five-ten page paper on adolescents and motivation.

- Students will develop and reinforce their critical thinking, problem solving, oral, and writing skills by participating in a collaborative group that researches and presents various aspects of psychological theory and research using PowerPoint slides.

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the role in the learning process of constructing knowledge, prior knowledge, problem solving, and social/environmental scaffolding through successfully completing an analysis of a case study.

- Students will be able to use the writing style described in the Fifth Edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) or a similar style manual.

Course Requirements

It is expected that each of you will:

1. Read all assigned materials for the course.
2. Attend every class session.
3. Participate fully in all small/large group activities and online assignments that reflect critical reading of the materials.
4. Complete three fieldwork assignments.
5. Research and orally present, using PowerPoint slides, a psychological theory and its application to the classroom.
6. Complete all instructional technology assignments.
7. Take a midterm test and final examination in class.

Out-of-Class Sessions

One or more of our class sessions may be held out-of-class (online). This class (or classes) is to be considered a regular instructional time, and the assignments given are the equivalent of a full, in-class session. The out-of-class hours include research, use of professional websites, online discussions, readings, analyses of case studies, writing the research project, preparing the PowerPoint presentation, and other assignments. Formal online discussions will take place at: http://blackboard.gmu.edu

Course Evaluation

1. Fieldwork Assignments: Students will complete three writing assignments about teenagers and teaching. The assignments will deal with adolescent levels of development (e.g., physical, social, and cognitive), adolescent motivation, and case studies for teacher problem solving. (The paper on the case study must demonstrate mastery at the level of 80% or higher.)

2. PowerPoint Presentation: Students will be assigned to groups of two to four people. Each small group will be asked to analyze readings and research in a specific psychological area, and present it to the class. All research must draw upon social scientific work on adolescent development, citing a minimum of ten scholarly references. The oral presentation, utilizing PowerPoint, will last approximately 20-40 minutes.

3. Classroom Participation and Attendance Policy: Due to the importance of lecture and classroom discussion to your total learning experience, I encourage you to both attend and participate in class regularly. Readings must be completed before class. Attendance, punctuality, preparation, and active contribution to small and large group efforts are essential. These elements of your behavior will reflect the professional attitude implied in the course goals and will account for 10% of your course grade. (Please see the rubric in the grading section of this syllabus.) If you must miss a class, notify the instructor (preferably in advance), and you are still responsible for completing all assignments and readings for the next class. You are responsible for getting assignments in on time and catching up if you are absent. [Anyone missing more than two classes should see the instructor to discuss dropping the class.]

4. Written Assignments: All written assignments must be completed on a word processor. Assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of class on the date due. If you are absent, send your assignment to the instructor as a Word attachment. Late assignments will not be accepted without making prior arrangements with the instructor. In addition, all work submitted in this course must be your own or attributed to the proper author using the appropriate research reference format (APA). Please read the following GMU Honor Code:
5. Examinations: There are two multiple-choice in-class examinations, a midterm and a final.

The Graduate School of Education (GSE) expects that all students abide by the following:

A. Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behavior and dispositions. See gse.gmu.edu for a listing of these dispositions. The Virginia Department of Education and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education promote standards of professional competence and dispositions. Dispositions are values, commitments, and professional ethics that influence behaviors toward students, families, colleagues, and all members of the learning community. The Graduate School of Education expects students, faculty, and staff to exhibit professional dispositions through a:

*Commitment to the profession*
- Promoting exemplary practice
- Excellence in teaching and learning
- Advancing the profession
- Engagement in partnerships

*Commitment to honoring professional ethical standards*
- Fairness
- Honesty
- Integrity
- Trustworthiness
- Confidentiality
- Respect for colleagues and students

*Commitment to key elements of professional practice*
- Belief that all individuals have the potential for growth and learning
- Persistence in helping individuals succeed
- High standards
- Safe and supportive learning environments
- Systematic planning
- Intrinsic motivation
- Reciprocal, active learning
- Continuous, integrated assessment
- Critical thinking
- Thoughtful, responsive listening
- Active, supportive interactions
- Technology-supported learning
- Research-based practice
- Respect for diverse talents, abilities, and perspectives
- Authentic and relevant learning

*Commitment to being a member of a learning community*
- Professional dialogue
- Self-improvement
Collective improvement
Reflective practice
Responsibility
Flexibility
Collaboration
Continuous, lifelong learning

Commitment to democratic values and social justice
Understanding systemic issues that prevent full participation
Awareness of practices that sustain unequal treatment or unequal voice
Advocate for practices that promote equity and access
Respects the opinion and dignity of others
Sensitive to community and cultural norms
Appreciates and integrates multiple perspectives

B. Students must follow the guidelines of the University Honor Code. See http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#TOC_H12 for the full honor code.

Honor Code
To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the University Community have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

C. Students must agree to abide by the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. See http://mail.gmu.edu and click on Responsible Use of Computing at the bottom of the screen.

D. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the GMU Disability Resource Center (DRC) and inform the instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester. See www.gmu.edu/student/drc or call 703-993-2474 to access the DRC.
Grading Policy

Fieldwork Assignments: 30
Attendance and Participation 10
Oral Presentation: 30
Midterm Test: 10
Final Examination: 20

TOTAL: 100 points

Grading Scale

A+ = 98-100%
A   = 93-97%
A- = 90-92%
B+ = 88-89%
B   = 83-87%
B- = 80-82%
C   = 70-79%
F   = Below 70%

Rubric for Attendance and Participation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Level of Performance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>Emerging (C or lower)</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; Participation</td>
<td>Proficient (B)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exemplary (A)</td>
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<td>Aspiring teacher is late for class. Absences are not documented by following the procedures outlined in this section of the syllabus. The aspiring teacher is not prepared for class and does not actively participate in discussions.</td>
<td>Aspiring teacher is on time, prepared for class, and participates in group and class discussions. Aspiring teacher attends all classes and if an absence occurs, the procedure outlined in this section of the syllabus is followed.</td>
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PART I: DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSITY

Jan. 26
Course Overview
Introduction to Case Studies [Case 8: Friends]
(Read Chapters 1 and 2/Middle School Article)

Feb. 2
Cognitive and Linguistic Development
APA format
Form Collaborative Groups
(Read Chapter 3/Complete Fieldwork Assignment #1)

Feb. 9
Development of Self, Social Skills, and Morality
Due: Fieldwork Assignment #1
(Read Chapter 4 and Case 9-Pollution/ Locate a research article that relates to your topic and write a one-paragraph summary of it by Feb. 23)

Feb. 16
Group Differences
Case Analysis: Case 9-Pollution
(Read Chapter 5 and Case 26-The Respiratory System/ Answer Gender Issue Questions Online—one posting and two responses by March 2)

Feb. 23
Individual Differences and Special Educational Needs
Due: One empirical article per student and a paragraph explaining how your article relates to your research topic
(Read Chapters 11 and 12/Study for the Midterm Test)

PART II: LEARNING AND MOTIVATION

March 2
Motivation
MIDTERM TEST
Due: One posting and two responses to the Online Gender Issue Questions
(Read Chapter 9 and Case 28-The Concept Map/Prepare PowerPoint notes and references.)

March 9
Behaviorist Views of Learning
(Read Chapter 10 and Case 27-Coming Back to School)
Due: Each student will hand in 3-5 pages of notes on her/his section of the PowerPoint Presentation and include a minimum of five references.
March 16  Spring Quarter Break  (NO CLASS)

March 23  Social Cognitive Views of Learning
Due: A preliminary group abstract and a distribution of job assignments
(Read Chapter 7 and Case 33-The Perfectionist/Complete Fieldwork Assignment #2)

March 30  Cognition
Due: Fieldwork Assignment #2
(Read Chapter 13 and Case 34-Cheerleading Tryouts)

PART III: CLASSROOM STRATEGIES

April 6  Guest Speaker: Dean Mark Goor
Topic: Students with Special Educational Needs

April 13  Instructional Strategies
(Read Chapter 14 and Case 37-The Stand-Up Comic)

April 20  Creating a Productive Learning Environment
(Read Chapter 15 and Case 43-The Pearl/Complete Fieldwork Assignment #3)

April 27  Basic Strategies in Assessment and Summarizing Student Achievement
Due: Fieldwork Assignment #3
(Read Chapter 16 and Case 42-Under the Bleachers)

May 4  Child Abuse Seminar
(Prepare for the final exam.)

May 11  In-Class Final Examination  (4:30-7:15 p.m.)

Postscript: It is recommended that you retain copies of all course products to document your progress through the Secondary Education Program. Products from this class can become part of your professional portfolio used for job placement.

“Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself.”

John Dewey