

Spring Semester 1998

EDUC 320 - 3
Instructional Psychology

E01.00

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PREREQUISITE

Educ 220

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Instructional psychology applies theories of cognition, motivation and learning to educational settings. As a field of research, instructional psychology studies techniques, strategies, and environments that assist students to master subjects and to become independent and self-directed learners.

In this course, education students and teachers will gain an understanding of research and theory underlying current trends in the subject areas. They will acquire knowledge and skills that contribute to the planing and implementation of effective teaching.

For psychology students this course extends classical experimental research about cognition and motivation into the context of the classroom.

TOPICS

- Models of cognition, motivation, and self-directed learning
- Beliefs and cognition
- Fostering cognitive growth: problem solving and critical thinking; building knowledge and reflective thought
- Cognition in the classroom

EVALUATION

The grade for this course will be based on:

1. Design two projects (30% each).
Students create plans for instruction that apply methods based in cognitive psychology; e.g., design educational program to promote problem solving and critical thinking skills in science and justify why this design should be effective.
2. A cumulative final exam (40 %)

REQUIRED TEXT

Bruning, R. H. , Schraw, G. J. , and Ronning, R. R. (1995) Cognitive Psychology and Instruction
Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall.