

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY - Faculty of Education**  
**EDUC 320**  
**D100**  
**Instructional Psychology**  
**Course Outline – FALL 2007**

**INSTRUCTOR** Dr. Tracey Leacock  
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Office: EDB 7506

**Whole Class Meetings (D1.00)**  
Wednesdays 09:30-11:20  
WM 3210

**PREREQUISITE EDUC 220**

**DESCRIPTION** Research in instructional psychology examines aspects of both teaching and learning. This course will address questions such as: How do students learn when an instructor tries to guide the learning process? How do ways of thinking about teaching influence students' learning and motivation? Students will gain knowledge and skills that contribute to planning, delivering and evaluating teaching. This course extends classical experimental research about cognition and motivation and brings it into the context of one of our most influential and pervasive institutions, the classroom.

This course will draw heavily on the *content* covered in EDUC 220 (some students find it useful to keep their 220 textbook as an additional resource for 320) and will focus on deeper understanding of research-based theories and applications. Key objectives of this course include developing skills in a) reading and comprehending educational research articles b) interpreting the research for teacher-audiences and c) explaining how the design of instruction can be effectively guided and justified by research.

**EVALUATION** Grades will be based on several criteria. Details to be provided in class.

- Discussions (online & in-class)
- Paper(s) & peer feedback activities
- Quizzes

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK** Alexander, P.A. (2006). *Psychology in Learning and Instruction*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall. ISBN 0-13-974874-1.

**RECOMMENDED REFERENCE BOOK** McMahan, E., Funk, R., Way, B. T. W. (2005). *Print Preview: A Guide to Academic Writing Success*. Toronto: Pearson. ISBN 0-321-26963-2 (We will be using several chapters in this book as the basis for tutorial discussions about your papers. Having this book is best, but if cost is an issue & you have another writing guide or time to refer to the library copy, that should suffice.)

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Students will be expected to find and read additional peer-reviewed research articles to complete assignments.
- This course will require students to use WebCT and to participate regularly in graded online course discussions. Students may also have the opportunity to use other technologies that may be helpful in mastering course materials.

**SFU POLICIES ON ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Please note that all SFU policies on academic honesty apply in this course (especially *T10.02 Code of Academic Honesty* and *T10.03 Academic Dishonesty and Misconduct Procedures*). *Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with these policies*. Students are also strongly encouraged to review the information on plagiarism on the SFU Library website – *it's not as straightforward as you might think!*

Note: Tutorials will be **ONLINE** in the first week of classes. Please log into WebCT prior to the first Wednesday to ensure you have access to this course and that you know how to navigate to the discussions.