
Semester: 97-1

EDUC 320 - 3 Instructional Psychology

Tuesdays 16:30 - 19:20

Section: E1.00

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PREREQUISITE

Educ 220

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Instructional psychology is a field of research addressing three main issues:

- * How do students learn when an instructor (or surrogate: text book author, software designer) tries to guide the learning process?
- * How does motivation develop in instructional settings, and how do motivation and cognition influence one another?
- * How do teachers think about teaching, and how do these ways of thinking about teaching influence students' learning and motivation?

PDP students and teachers will gain knowledge and skills in this course that contribute to planning, delivering, and evaluating teaching. For psychology students, this course extends classical experimental research about cognition and motivation into the context of one of our society's most influential and pervasive institutions, the classroom.

OBJECTIVES

- * Knowledge of theories and research-based findings in instructional psychology
- * Skill in reading research articles and reviews of research
- * Skill in designing instruction guided and justified by research

TOPICS

- * Models of cognition, motivation, metacognition, and self-regulated learning
- * Learning in the subject areas: language, reading, composition, mathematics, science
- * Designing instruction: texts, teaching, tutoring, and technologies

EVALUATION

- * Design projects (3 @ 25% each)
Students create plans for instruction that apply research; e.g., design educational software to promote problem solving skills in science and justify why this design should be effective.
- * Final examination (25%)
Brief essays (approx. 150 word) – compare-and-contrast, propose and justify instructional designs for specific objectives, analyze instructional scenarios using theory and research.

REQUIRED READINGS

Bruning, R.H., Schraw, G. J., and Ronning, R. R. Cognitive Psychology and Instruction Englewood Cliffs, NJ:Prentice-Hall.
Xerox research articles on reserve in the library.