

P540 Learning and Cognition in Education (Web-based section)

Instructor: J. David Perry, Ph.D., Adjunct Asst. Professor of Education and Director of Evaluation & Testing, IU Instructional Support Services

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Required text: Driscoll, M. (2005). *Psychology of learning for instruction, 3rd edition*. New York: Allyn & Bacon.

Course format: This is a Web-based course taught entirely via Oncourse. There are no class meetings or other events that require participation at a specific time. However, the course is taught on a regular semester basis and requires frequent and timely interaction.

Learning objectives: The course examines several different theoretical perspectives on learning, cognition, and cognitive development. By looking at a variety of theoretical perspectives, we can identify a range of tools that may be useful in understanding learning and teaching in various settings. Our primary goals will be

- to become conversant with the basic assumptions, concepts, and principles of each theory
- to determine the possible implications of each theory for instructional settings
- to compare the usefulness of the theories in the various settings of interest to you and other education professionals
- to develop a personal theory of learning suited to your educational practice

Course units:

Pre-Unit: Course orientation

Unit 1: Approaches to the study of learning / Radical behaviorism

Unit 2: Cognitive information processing

Unit 3: Meaningful learning and schema theory

Unit 4: Motivation and learning

Unit 5: Cognitive development theories

Unit 6: Gagne's instructional design theory

Unit 7: Constructivism

Course wrap-up

Course requirements: Student achievement will be assessed on three short application papers due throughout the semester, an essay-type final examination (distributed at least two weeks in advance), and regular participation in the online (asynchronous) discussion forums.