Stephen F. Austin State University
Perkins College of Education
Department of Human Services and Educational Leadership
SPSY 6301.020: Learning Theory
Fall 2023

Instructor: Elaine Turner, PhD, LSSP, LP
Office: HSTC 214
Office Phone: 936-468-1219
Other Contact Information: D2L

Course Time & Location: M 9:00 am – 11:30 am
HSTC 318
Office Hours: M 7:00 – 9:00 am; 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm; Friday 8:00 am – 10:00 am; or by appointment
Credits: 3
Email: Elaine.Turner@sfasu.edu

Prerequisites: NONE

I. Course Description:
This course is the study of basic processes that determine student learning and cognition with emphasis on applications to the instruction and treatment of learners with disabilities. The course focuses on the basic empirically derived principles of learning and additionally explores learning within the school environment and learning from a cultural perspective. In addition, the course reflects the James I. Perkins College of Education's conceptual framework.

This course will be a face-to-face course which meets once weekly for 2.5 hours and may discuss learning and cognition framed both in a school setting and a clinical one. James I. Perkins College of Education Diversity Statement is found at the following link: http://coe.sfasu.edu/about-us/

II. Intended Learning Outcomes/Goals/Objectives (Program/Student Learning Outcomes):
The complete listing of the standards associated with the PLOs, SLOs, assignments, and assessments are located on the PCOE website.

All students must adhere to the SFA Way:

1. The Principle of Respect: Lumberjacks command respect and treat others with respect. They are considerate of others and tolerant of differences. They demonstrate respect for those around them by avoiding the use of offensive or profane language. They do not threaten or harm anyone and deal peacefully and civilly with conflict.

2. The Principle of Caring: Lumberjacks think of the needs of others and seek to improve the quality of life of those around them. They are compassionate, empathic and kind. They respond with humility to those they have helped and express gratitude freely to those who help them. Lumberjacks prepare themselves to become leaders in their communities and workplaces. They dedicate themselves to excellence in their chosen field of study and to using what they learn in the service of others.

3. The Principle of Responsibility: Lumberjacks do what is right. They persevere in times of adversity. Through self-control and self-discipline, they strive to do their best. Lumberjacks challenge each other to exceed expectations. They are active learners both inside and outside of the classroom. They are reliable; they do what they say they will do. Lumberjacks hold themselves accountable for their decisions.

4. The Principle of Unity: Lumberjacks are loyal to their friends, family, university, state and country. Lumberjacks stand together against any adversary. They recognize that though we are very different from one another, we are united
by the Lumberjack Spirit. Lumberjacks seek to understand the people and world around them. When one lumberjack fails, all fail. When one lumberjack succeeds, all succeed.

5. The Principle of Integrity:
Lumberjacks have the courage to do what is right, even when it is hard or unpopular. They respond to each situation with steadfast values that are not subject to change based on the actions of others. They seek opportunities to practice effective and ethical leadership. Lumberjacks are honest; they do not deceive, cheat or steal. Lumberjacks stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. As lifelong learners, lumberjacks are committed to continuously improving themselves.

All students are to act in a professional manner towards clients, other students, faculty, supervisors, and others they come into contact with, and to represent SFASU, the field of psychology and more specifically school psychology well.

General:

The mission of the Perkins College of Education is to prepare competent, successful, caring and enthusiastic professionals from diverse backgrounds dedicated to responsible service, leadership, social justice and continued professional and intellectual development in an interconnected global society.

In the Perkins College of Education, we value and are committed to:

- Academic excellence through critical, reflective, and creative thinking
- Life-long learning
- Collaboration and shared decision-making
- Openness to new ideas, to culturally diverse people, and to innovation and change
- Integrity, responsibility, diligence, and ethical behavior
- Service that enriches the community

The goals of this course are closely aligned to those of the College of Education (COE). As a step in the process of preparing students to make meaningful contributions in an interconnected global society, the applied knowledge obtained in this course will enable students to develop the requisite knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary in the field of school psychology. In addition, students enrolled in this course will use the principles and procedures learned in previous program courses and those learned throughout the course in an applied manner.

The School Psychology Program at Stephen F. Austin State University is dedicated to producing ethical, responsible, and competent PhD level school psychologists who employ scientific knowledge and methods of problem solving. The program’s philosophy of education holds that one learns best by engaging in practice. The mission of our program is to apply behavioral science knowledge and methods for assessment and treatment of learning, behavior, and psychosocial problems for various populations as well as having foundational knowledge in therapy, psychopathology, diagnosis and treatment to help adults, children, and families in a more clinical setting.

Throughout the course, students are expected to develop critical thinking, communication, personal responsibility, social responsibility, teamwork, and empirical and quantitative skills. Course requirements, assigned readings, experiences, presentations, and discussions are designed to foster these core values.

Program Learning Outcomes:

1. **Human Diversity:** Candidates demonstrate awareness and sensitivity in working professionally with diverse individuals, groups, and communities.
2. **Psychoeducational Foundations:** Candidates must demonstrate appropriate knowledge of historical, political and laws, policies, and procedures that affect the field of psychology and education.

3. **Content Knowledge:** Each candidate must also demonstrate the ability to use knowledge of biological, psychological, sociocultural, ethical, and legal factors to understand typical and atypical behavior.

4. **Research & Technology:** Candidates must demonstrate the ability to use their knowledge of research, statistics, and evaluation methods to inform all areas of practice, from choosing appropriate methods for collecting information to making recommendations for interventions based on empirical evidence.

5. **Professional Skills and Dispositions:** Candidates will conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the values and attitudes alienated with the American Psychological Association policies and guidelines; The candidate will demonstrate knowledge, skills, and professional work characteristics/ dispositions and effectively apply them in the practice.

6. **Application of Principles and Procedures:** Assessment that demonstrates candidates’ knowledge, skills, and dispositions are applied effectively in the practice of psychology. As part of this assessment, each graduate student must document the ability to use both problem-solving (client-centered) and process-focused (consultee-centered) models of consultation.

7. **Communication:** The candidate will demonstrate proficiency in communication skills relevant to the field of psychology both written and spoken. This may include, but not be limited to, effective writing for different purposes, effective presentation skills for a variety of audiences and purposes, and skills for interacting appropriately with others.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. **Psychoeducational Foundations:** Students will demonstrate appropriate knowledge of historical policies, and procedures that affect the field of psychology and education as evidenced by exam.

2. **Content Knowledge:** Students will demonstrate the ability to use knowledge of biological, psychological, sociocultural, ethical, and legal factors to understand typical and atypical behavior as evidenced by exam.

3. **Research & Technology:** Candidates must demonstrate the ability to use their knowledge of research, statistics, and evaluation methods to complete a literature review.

4. **Professional Skills and Dispositions:** Candidates will conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the values and attitudes alienated with the American Psychological Association policies and guidelines; the candidate will demonstrate knowledge, skills, and professional work characteristics/ dispositions and effectively apply them in the practice of school psychology while also learning about professional skills for clinical practice as evidenced by participation and discussion in class and interactions with fellow cohort members online.

5. **Communication:** Students will demonstrate proficiency in communication skills relevant to the field of psychology both written and spoken. For this course, student will demonstrate this skill through presentation and literature review, as well as communication with other students during online discussions.

**III. Course Assignments, Activities, Instructional Strategies, use of Technology:**

**Class Presentation**

Students will be assigned a country and will present to the class how that country approaches learning, especially as it pertains to learning theory and special education. Students will be assigned countries randomly and may use interviews of people from that country, articles, or other reliable sources to gather their facts. Presentations should be creative, engage their fellow students and be at least 30 minutes long.

**Literature Review**
Students will complete a literature review on a topic of their choice related to learning theory. Papers must adhere to APA 7 formatting and the topic must be approved by the professor. While there is no “rule” about how long the paper should be, it must thoroughly cover the topic and contain a title page, abstract, correct heading, etc. More information will be provided in person during class.

**Online Activities & Participation**

A certain number of online activities will need to be completed. These may include online discussions, watching videos, etc. at the professor’s discretion. These activities may be in ADDITION to class attendance in some cases. Class discussion during lecture is a large part of what is expected during class time. Students should come to class having read the material for the day, and ready to discuss/ask questions, and fully participate in class. For online discussions, the student should make an original post and then respond to 2 fellow students in a thoughtful manner.

**Final Exam**

The final exam will be an online exam given during class and may consist of 25 multiple choice, true/false, short answer and/or essay questions. A limited amount of time will be available for testing once the test has been started by the student.

**Grading:**

Students will be provided an opportunity to review all graded content. If a student desires to go over an item in depth, the student may arrange a session with the instructor outside of class. A student wishing to appeal the scoring of a missed item may submit an appeal of the missed item by e-mail to the instructor prior to the class period proceeding reviewing the assignment grade. The appeal shall state support for the student’s choice, citing passages from the required texts that clearly and logically support the student’s choice. The instructor will provide feedback via e-mail.

*All assignments are expected to be completed by the date stated on the calendar. Late work at the graduate level is considered unacceptable. If there are extenuating circumstances, late assignments may be accepted if you contact the professor prior to the date the assignment is due. Failure to communicate with the professor prior to the due date will result in a grade of zero. If the late assignment is accepted, ten points will be deducted for every day the assignment is late.
In addition to failure to earn points for the assignment, failure to complete any assignment will result in one full letter grade reduction for the entire course.*

**I. Evaluation and assessment (grading):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Activities &amp; Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**II. Tentative Outline/Calendar:**
VI. Readings
Text Book and Study Materials


LiveText/Watermark Statement:

This course uses the LiveText/Watermark data management system to collect critical assessments for students who are Perkins College of Education majors (undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral) or majors in other colleges seeking educator certification through the Perkins College of Education. Students who do not have an existing LiveText/Watermark account will receive an access code via the SFA email system within the first week of class. You will be required to register your LiveText/Watermark account, and you will be notified how to do this via email. If you forward your SFA e-mail to another account and do not receive an e-mail concerning LiveText/Watermark registration, please be sure to check your junk mail folder and your spam filter for these e-mails.

If you have questions about obtaining or registering your LiveText/Watermark account, call ext. 7050 or e-mail LiveText@sfasu.edu. Failure to activate the account and/or submit the required assignment(s) within the LiveText/Watermark system may result in course failure.

VII. Course Evaluations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>Syllabus Review and Introduction to Class</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>Online Activity – NO CLASS</td>
<td>D2L</td>
<td>Online Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>Introduction to Learning and Cognition</td>
<td>Morgan Chapter 1</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>Pavlovian Learning Basic Principles</td>
<td>Morgan Chapter 2 &amp; Chapter 3</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>Online Activity – NO CLASS</td>
<td>D2L</td>
<td>Online Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>Operant Learning and Reinforcement</td>
<td>Morgan Chapter 4</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>Operant Learning: Applications</td>
<td>Morgan Chapter 5</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>Social Learning</td>
<td>Morgan Chapter 6</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/23</td>
<td>Remembering and Forgetting</td>
<td>Morgan Chapter 7 &amp; D2L</td>
<td>Online Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>In-Person or ZOOM</td>
<td>Online Activity</td>
<td>Online Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/20</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/27</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>Conceptual Behavior Acquiring and Using Language</td>
<td>Morgan Chapter 8</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM – Online IN CLASS</td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>Literature Review DUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Literature Review Due by 11:59 PM</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Near the conclusion of each semester, students in the Perkins College of Education electronically evaluate courses taken within the PCOE. Evaluation data is used for a variety of important purposes including:

1. Course and program improvement, planning, and accreditation;
2. Instruction evaluation purposes; and
3. Making decisions on faculty tenure, promotion, pay, and retention.

As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Please know that the PCOE faculty is committed to excellence in teaching and continued improvement. Therefore, your response is critical!

In the Perkins College of Education, the course evaluation process has been simplified and is completed electronically through MySFA. Although the instructor will be able to view the names of students who complete the survey, all ratings and comments are confidential and anonymous, and will not be available to the instructor until after final grades are posted.

VIII. Student Ethics and Other Policy Information: Found at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/

Class Attendance and Excused Absence: Policy 6.7

Regular, punctual attendance, documented participation, and, if indicated in the syllabus, submission of completed assignments are expected at all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which the student is registered. Based on university policy, failure of students to adhere to these requirements shall influence the course grade, financial assistance, and/or enrollment status. The instructor shall maintain an accurate record of each student's attendance and participation as well as note this information in required reports (including the first 12 day attendance report) and in determining final grades. Students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for up to three weeks of absences during a semester or one week of a summer term, depending on the nature of the missed work. Make-up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Policy 6.1 and 6.6

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 936-468-3004 as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

Student Academic Dishonesty: Policy 4.1

Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members must promote the components of academic integrity in their instruction, and course syllabi are required to provide information about penalties for cheating and plagiarism, as well as the appeal process.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
- using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam;
- falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment;
- helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.
Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
submitting an assignment as one’s own work when it is at least partly the work of another person;
submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source;
incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

Penalties for Academic Dishonesty
Penalties may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university.

Student Appeals
A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic dishonesty should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals by Students (6.3).

Use of AI:

Use of AI in any form, including applications such as ChatGPT, are strictly prohibited in the completion of class papers, assignments, tests, or any activity which is part of the student’s grade.

Withheld Grades: Policy 5.5
At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Student Code of Conduct: Policy 10.4
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This policy applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program at SFA.

Student Wellness and Well-Being
SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Additional Information:

To complete Certification/Licensing Requirements in Texas related to public education and other professional settings, you will be required to:

Candidates must undergo a criminal history background check prior to clinical teaching and prior to employment as an educator. The public school campuses are responsible for completing the criminal background check. A person who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a State Board for Educator Certification-approved educator preparation program or planning to take a certification examination may request a preliminary criminal history evaluation letter regarding the person's potential ineligibility for certification due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

A Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation is a non-mandatory, non-binding evaluation of an individual’s self-reported criminal history. In addition, the agency obtains your name-based Texas criminal history information. The service is provided to the requestor for a non-refundable fee. The requestor will receive an evaluation letter by email from agency staff advising of potential ineligibility for educator certification. You are eligible to request a Preliminary Criminal History Evaluation if:

You enrolled or planning to enroll in an educator preparation program or
You are planning to take a certification exam for initial educator certification, and
You have reason to believe that you may be ineligible for educator certification due to a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

You are not eligible for a preliminary evaluation of your criminal history if you do not have a conviction or deferred adjudication for a felony or misdemeanor offense.

In addition, you must complete the fingerprinting process when you apply for certification. Participation in the evaluation does not preclude you from submitting to a national criminal history review at the time you apply for your educator certification. Your criminal history will be reviewed, and you may be subject to an investigation based on that criminal history, including any information you failed to submit for evaluation.
Additional information can be found at https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Educators/Investigations/Preliminary_Criminal_History_Evaluation-FAQs/.

Provide one of the following primary ID documents: passport, driver’s license, state or providence ID cards, a national ID card, or military ID card to take the TEExES exams (additional information available at http://www.tx.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Tests.html. YOU must provide legal documentation to be allowed to take these mandated examinations that are related to certification/licensing requirements in Texas. If you do not have legal documentation, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

Successfully complete state mandated a fingerprint background check. If you have a history of criminal activity, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

For further information, contact the Office of Assessment and Accountability at 936-468-1282 or edprep@sfasu.edu.