

Syllabus

Course Overview

Learners in this course gain knowledge of and explain psychology theories and research as applied to development and learning in educational contexts, including behavioral, cognitive, and constructivist theories. Learners analyze the role of motivation in learning, and through a case study and practice approach, apply their knowledge in educational settings.

Course Competencies

(Read Only)

To successfully complete this course, you will be expected to:

- 1 Explain foundational learning theories in educational psychology.
- 2 Apply information literacy and research skills to locate scholarly information in the field of educational psychology.
- 3 Apply learning theories to topics and problem resolution in educational practice.
- 4 Apply research findings to topics and problem resolution in educational practice.
- 5 Communicate in a manner that is scholarly, professional, and consistent with expectations for professionals in the field of psychology.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Syllabus >> Course Materials

Required

The materials listed below are required to complete the learning activities in this course.

Library

The following required readings are provided in the Capella University Library or linked directly in this course. To find specific readings by journal or book title, use [Journal and Book Locator](#). Refer to the [Journal and Book Locator library guide](#) to learn how to use this tool.

- Chih-Yuan Sun, J., Oh, Y. J., Seli, H., & Jung, M. (2017). [Learning behavior and motivation of at-risk college students: The case of a self-regulatory learning class](#). *Journal of At-Risk Issues*, 20(2), 12–24.
- Clark, K. R. (2018). [Learning theories: Behaviorism](#). *Radiologic Technology*, 90(2), 172–175.
- Davidson Films Inc. (Producer). (1989). [Piaget's developmental theory: An overview \[Video\]](#). Films On Demand.
- Davidson Films Inc. (Producer). (2003). [Bandura's social cognitive theory: An introduction \[Video\]](#). Films On Demand.
- Davidson Films Inc. (Producer). (2004). [Maria Montessori: Her life and legacy \[Video\]](#). Films On Demand.
- Mayer, R. E. (2018). [Educational psychology's past and future contributions to the science of learning, science of instruction, and science of assessment](#). *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 110(2), 174–179.
- Miller, A. L., & Dumford, A. D. (2016). [Creative cognitive processes in higher education](#). *Journal of Creative Behavior*, 50(4), 282–293.
- Subhash, S., & Cudney, E. A. (2018). [Gamified learning in higher education: A systematic review of the literature](#). *Computers in Human Behavior*, 87, 192–206.
- Zielinski, D. E. (2017). [The use of collaboration, authentic learning, linking material to personal knowledge, and technology in the constructivist classroom: Interviews with community college faculty members](#). *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, 41(10), 668–686.

External Resource

Please note that URLs change frequently. While the URLs were current when this course was designed, some may no longer be valid. If you cannot access a specific link, contact your instructor for an alternative URL. Permissions for the following links have been either granted or deemed appropriate for educational use at the time of course publication.

- BlueSofaMedia. (2013). [Use a learning theory: Cognitivism \[Video\]](#). | [Transcript](#) Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=177&v=gugvpoU2Ewo
- Cherry, K. (2018). [An overview of educational psychology](#). Retrieved from <https://www.verywellmind.com/behavioral-psychology-4157183>
- Educational Broadcasting Corporation. (2004). [Constructivism as a paradigm for teaching and learning](#). Retrieved from <https://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/constructivism/index.html>
- McLeod, S. (2016). [Bandura – social learning theory](#). Retrieved from <https://www.simplypsychology.org/bandura.html>
- Mendo-Lázaro, S., León-del-Barco, B., Felipe-Castaño, E., Polo-del-Río, M.-I., & Iglesias-Gallego, D. (2018). [Cooperative team learning and the development of social skills in higher education: The variables involved](#). *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9, 1536.

Suggested

The following materials are recommended to provide you with a better understanding of the topics in this course. These materials are not required to complete the course, but they are aligned to course activities and assessments and are highly recommended for your use.

Optional

The following optional materials are offered to provide you with a better understanding of the topics in this course. These materials are not required to complete the course.

Integrated Materials

Hardware

Capella University requires learners to meet certain minimum [computer requirements](#). The following hardware may go beyond those minimums and is required to complete learning activities in this course. **Note:** If you already have the following hardware, you do not need to purchase it. Visit the [Course Materials](#) page on Campus for more information.

Presentation Hardware

1. Headset with microphone
2. External or built-in webcam

External Resource

Please note that URLs change frequently. While the URLs were current when this course was designed, some may no longer be valid. If you cannot access a specific link, contact your instructor for an alternative URL. Permissions for the following links have been either granted or deemed appropriate for educational use at the time of course publication.

- Howtech. (2013). *How to make a brochure in Microsoft Word* [Video]. | Transcript Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-wuhi2W-Yc>
- Techboomers. (2015). *How to search for videos on Google search* [Video]. | Transcript Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fYD6q2h0Cw>

Unit 1 >> Introduction to Educational Psychology

Introduction

Educational psychology is the application of psychological theories, principles, and concepts to the process of teaching and learning, which can be applied to various educational settings.

This course will focus on four educational psychology theories:

- Behavioral learning theory.
- Cognitive learning theory.
- Social learning theory.
- Constructivist theory.

In this course, we will explore the theories through four students: Gwen Getsrewarded, Paul Puzzles, Sheila Saystoomuch, and Nally Knowitall. Each of these students will help you understand a different theory through their struggles in their higher education courses.

This week you will:

- **Research Activity:** Find a video to use for your discussion this week.
- **Discussion:** Participate in a discussion about observation and the importance of research in understanding teaching and learning and supporting theories.
- **Prepare:** Start researching scholarly journal articles for next week's assignment.

Learning Activities

u01s1 - Discussion Overview

Find and post a video of someone learning a new skill or task, and make observations about their learning.

This course uses a tool called Yellowdig to facilitate our course discussions. Yellowdig makes it easier to post and respond to discussions and makes posting media within your discussions simpler. Get more information in **Write Your Discussion Post**.

u01s2 - What You Need to Know

Educational psychology is the science of teaching and learning. It integrates theories of learning with research on variables that impact teaching, learning, and what maximizes learning. Understanding factors that interfere with and maximize learning reduces learner frustration and leads to greater learning.

To learn more about the history, evolution, and contributions to educational psychology, read the following resource.

- Mayer, R. E. (2018). *Educational psychology's past and future contributions to the science of learning, science of instruction, and science of assessment*. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 110(2), 174–179.

u01s3 - Research Activity: Find a Video for Your Discussion

Find a video of someone learning a new skill or task. Be sure your video includes a transcript or captioning. If you need help searching for videos, you may wish to view the following:

- Techboomers. (2015). [How to search for videos on Google search \[Video\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fYD6q2h0Cw). | [Transcript](#). Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fYD6q2h0Cw>

u01d1 - Write Your Discussion Post

Discussion

This week, we are learning about the discipline of educational psychology and the importance of research in understanding teaching and learning and supporting theories. Theory begins with observation, but sometimes observation isn't enough to draw conclusions about how learning happens.

For this discussion, do the following:

1. Find and post a video of someone learning a new skill or task. Your video should include either a transcript or captioning.
2. To practice concision in writing, write one sentence for each of the following, based on your selected video:
 - Summarize your observation.
 - What evidence in the video is available to support your observation?
 - What do you conclude based on the observation?
 - What information might you need to confirm your conclusion?

Response Guidelines

Respond to other learners' pins. Your responses should be at least 30 words in length. For more information on how to earn points, visit your Yellowdig discussion forum.

u01s4 - Prepare: Start Your Research for Next Week's Assignment

Your first assignment, due in Week 2, is to create and deliver a PowerPoint presentation that explains behavioral learning theory and relates the theory to a college-level learning task, which requires the use of at least two scholarly journal articles.

This week, start to conduct research. The Mayer (2018) article you read this week is a good example of the type of article you should be searching for in the Capella library. When in the Capella library, some key words to get you started with searching are *behaviorism*, *behavioral learning theory*, *higher education*, or *application*. Try different phrases using these words.

Unit 2 >> Behavioral Learning Theory

Introduction

Gwen Getsrewarded is struggling in her advanced foreign language class. Her grade is not what she would like, and she does not feel confident speaking in front of the class. Her classmates feel this way too, and participation is minimal. Halfway through the semester, her instructor implements an incentive: if a student participates orally twice during each class, they will receive extra credit on the comprehensive final exam.

Gwen knows she needs to raise her grade, so she participates in each class in hopes of getting the extra credit. However, as she and her classmates see each other participate more and converse with each other, she finds that she also becomes more comfortable speaking, and her skills increase.

Gwen is an example of the application of behavioral learning theory, also known as behaviorism. Behaviorism focuses on observable behaviors and how those behaviors are shaped by environmental factors.

This week you will:

- **Research Activity:** Find a video to use for your discussion this week.
- **Discussion:** Continue the discussion from last week using the behavioral learning theory.
- **Research Activity:** Select at least two scholarly articles to use for your assignment this week.
- **Assignment:** Complete your assignment about the behavioral learning theory.

Learning Activities

u02s1 - Discussion Overview/Assignment Overview

Discussion Overview

Find and post a video of an adult learning something new through a method aligned to the behavioral learning theory that can be applied to the higher education setting.

Assignment Overview

Create and deliver a PowerPoint presentation that explains the behavioral learning theory and relates the theory to a college-level learning task.

u02s2 - What You Need to Know

Behaviorism

The behavioral learning theory, or behaviorism, explains how our interaction with the external environment shapes behavior, which results in learning. When Gwen learned she could receive extra credit, she participated in class more, which helped her improve her speaking skills and raised her grade.

For a brief history on behaviorism and top concepts to know from the theory, review the following resource.

- Cherry, K. (2018). [An overview of educational psychology](https://www.verywellmind.com/behavioral-psychology-4157183). Retrieved from <https://www.verywellmind.com/behavioral-psychology-4157183>

Classical and Operant Conditioning

Behaviorism is based on the theory that behaviors are learned through two types of conditioning:

- **Classical:** Learning can occur through associations.
- **Operant:** Learning can occur through reinforcement and punishment.

This article provides further definition of classical and operant conditioning and their implications on teaching and learning.

- Clark, K. R. (2018). [Learning theories: Behaviorism](#). *Radiologic Technology*, 90(2), 172–175.

Founding Contributor: B. F. Skinner

B. F. Skinner is a founding contributor to behaviorism and the practice of applied behavior analysis (ABA). This media piece puts his discoveries in context, which will help you with your assignment.

- [B. F. Skinner: A Fresh Appraisal - Part 1](#).

Behavioral Learning Theory in Action

Read the following resource to learn about how behaviorism is used at the college level.

- Chih-Yuan Sun, J., Oh, Y. J., Seli, H., & Jung, M. (2017). [Learning behavior and motivation of at-risk college students: The case of a self-regulatory learning class](#). *Journal of At-Risk Issues*, 20(2), 12–24.

u02s3 - Research Activity: Find a Video for Your Discussion

This week's discussion is a continuation of last week's discussion, but this week, find a video of someone learning a new skill or task in relation to the behavioral learning theory. Make sure your video has a transcript or captioning.

u02d1 - Write Your Discussion Post

Continue the discussion from last week, but this time post a video of someone learning something new through a method aligned to the behavioral learning theory. Be sure your video has a transcript or captioning. Address the same points as you did in Week 1:

- Summarize your observation.
- What evidence in the video is available to support your observation?
- What do you conclude based on the observation?
- What information might you need to confirm your conclusion?

Response Guidelines

Respond to other learners' pins. Your responses should be at least 30 words in length. For more information on how to earn points, visit your Yellowdig discussion forum.

u02s4 - Research Activity: Select Articles for Your Assignment

Select at least two scholarly articles to use in your assignment due this week. The Clark (2018) and Chih-Yuan Sun (2017) articles assigned this week are good examples of the type of articles you should be searching for in the Capella library. When in the Capella library, some key words you can use are *behaviorism*, *behavioral learning theory*, *higher education*, or *application*.

u02a1 - Applying the Behavioral Learning Theory

You have explored behavioral learning theory, classical and operant conditioning, and how behaviorism is applied at the college level. Create and deliver a PowerPoint presentation that explains behavioral learning theory and relates it to a college-level learning task. You have the choice of either recording a screen-capture narration of your presentation or including written, detailed speaker's notes in the "notes" section.

If you need help with creating a PowerPoint in either Windows or Mac, visit **Tools and Resources** in the courseroom navigation menu.

Assignment Instructions

In your presentation:

- Describe the perspective presented in the theory (1–2 slides).
 - Use scholarly research to support the perspective.
- Describe a learning task on the higher education/college level related to the theory (1 slide).
 - Tasks should be in an educational setting.
- Using at least two scholarly research articles, explain how the learning task applies the theory (1–2 slides).
- Include a References page (1 slide).

Deliverable Format

Your PowerPoint presentation can be delivered in one of two ways:

- Record your presentation in screen-capture format with narration (5–7 minutes).
 - Visit **Tools and Resources** in the courseroom navigation menu for assistance with recording audio and video.
- Prepare written, detailed speaker's notes and include them in the "notes" section of your presentation.

Submission Requirements

- **Written communication:** Written communication is free of errors that detract from the overall message.
- **APA formatting:** Resources and citations are formatted according to APA style and formatting.
- **Number of resources:** Include a minimum of two current scholarly or professional resources.
- **Length of presentation:** Create 6–8 typed slides, including the title and reference slides. If you record your presentation, it should be 5–7 minutes.
- **Font and font size:** Use your creativity and images to enhance your presentation.

Competencies Measured

By successfully completing this assignment, you will demonstrate your proficiency in the following course competencies:

- **Competency 1: Explain foundational learning theories in educational psychology.**
 - Describe a perspective presented in the behavioral learning theory.
- **Competency 2: Apply information literacy and research skills to locate scholarly information in the field of educational psychology.**
 - Apply findings from a minimum of two scholarly research articles to support the relationship between a learning task and the behavioral learning theory.
- **Competency 3: Apply learning theories to topics and problem resolution in educational practice.**
 - Describe a learning task related to the behavioral learning theory.
- **Competency 4: Apply research findings to topics and problem resolution in educational practice.**
 - Explain how a learning task applies a theory.
- **Competency 5: Communicate in a manner that is scholarly, professional, and consistent with expectations for professionals in the field of psychology.**
 - Communicate clearly with appropriate purpose, organization, tone, and sentence structure.
 - Cite the source using author and year.

Unit 3 >> Cognitive Learning Theory

Introduction

Paul Puzzles struggles in his Medical Terminology class because he needs to memorize many medical prefixes and suffixes. One night, he realized that he could remember *my* (muscle) and *cardi* (heart) by associating them with a medical term, *myocardial infarction*, which he knows means "heart attack." He remembered this term from his favorite TV show, which is based in a hospital. Now, Paul tries to use this method when he studies medical terminology, as it helps him associate prefixes and suffixes to terms he already knows, which makes studying easier.

The cognitive learning theory, or cognitivism, is about the neurological, or cognitive, processes of thinking and learning. It explains how we make sense of and store incoming information. This process also impacts retrieval of information, memory, and perception.

This week you will:

- **Research Activity:** Find either a video or article that applies the behavioral learning theory to adult learning or higher education.
- **Discussion:** Participate in a discussion that applies the cognitive learning theory to adult learning or higher education.

Learning Activities

u03s1 - Discussion Overview

Post either a video of an adult learning through a method aligned to the cognitive learning theory or an article on the cognitive learning theory that can be applied to the higher education setting.

u03s2 - What You Need to Know

Cognitivism

The cognitive learning theory, or cognitivism, explores the mental and neurological process of thinking and learning. It also explores how we receive and store information.

Think of the brain as a file cabinet. As new information comes in or we adapt new ways of thinking, we store it and create “file folders,” also known as *schemas*. When we learn, we try to either “file” the information in existing folders by basing the knowledge on what we already know, or we can create new file folders. Paul stored “my” and “cardi” in his “myocardial infarction” file folder, which helped him associate the prefixes.

This short video explains the cognitive learning theory and offers strategies for incorporating principles of cognitivism.

- BlueSofaMedia. (2013). [Use a learning theory: Cognitivism \[Video\]. | Transcript](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=177&v=gugvpoU2Ewo). Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=177&v=gugvpoU2Ewo

Cognitive Load

The term *cognitive load* relates to the amount of information we can process at a given time. This short media piece explains the cognitive load theory and the effects of a heavy cognitive load.

- [Efficiency in Learning: Applying Cognitive Load Theory to Distance Learning](#).

Founding Contributor: Jean Piaget

Jean Piaget was a founding contributor to the cognitive learning theory. Access the following video to watch demonstrations of concepts founded by Piaget.

- Davidson Films Inc. (Producer). (1989). [Piaget's developmental theory: An overview \[Video\]](#). Films On Demand.
 - Select the **Experience and Mental Maturity** segment to watch the connection between content knowledge and the process of knowing.
 - Select the **Object Permanence** segments to watch a demonstration of the cognitive learning theory in infancy.
 - Select the **Permanent Object Schema** segment to view the explanation of holding a schema to identify and discuss objects with a shared understanding of what they are.

Cognitive Learning Theory in Action

While cognitive learning helps us store and organize information, to understand how it applies to our everyday lives as college students, read this resource:

- Miller, A. L., & Dumford, A. D. (2016). [Creative cognitive processes in higher education](#). *Journal of Creative Behavior*, 50(4), 282–293.

Listen to this discussion about theories of cognition and learning, which provides examples of cognitivism in practice.

- [Theories of Learning and Instruction: Cognition and Learning](#).

Educational psychology is a broad field. Are you feeling fascinated? Are you interested in pursuing a career in educational psychology? Delve further into educational psychology by reviewing this resource.

- [What Can I Do With a PhD in Psychology With a Specialization in Educational Psychology?](#)

u03s3 - Research Activity: Find an Article or Video for Your Discussion

Select one of the following two options for your discussion about the cognitive learning theory:

- Find a video of an adult learning through a method aligned to the cognitive learning theory. Be sure your video has a transcript or captioning.
- Find an article on the cognitive learning theory that can be applied to the higher education setting, either through the Capella library or online from a reputable source.

u03d1 - Write Your Discussion Post

This week, we explore how the cognitive learning theory can be applied to adult learning or the higher education setting. Share the link to your video or article.

If you found a video, write one sentence for each of the following prompts:

- What conclusions would you make as a researcher after watching the video?
- What led you to those conclusions?
- How would you apply this to a real-life scenario?
- Include a hashtag for the study.
 - Examples: #cognitivelearningtheory, #memory, #reasoning.

If you found an article, write one sentence for each of the following prompts:

- Describe how this article supports what you have learned in this course so far.
- Make a connection between what you read and your personal experience learning in an online setting.
- How does this information support your intended work in the field?
- Include a hashtag for your article topic or the idea supported.
 - Examples: #cognitivelearningtheory, #memory, #reasoning.

Response Guidelines

Respond to other learners' pins. Your responses should be at least 30 words in length. For more information on how to earn points, visit your Yellowdig discussion forum.

Unit 4 >> Social Learning Theory

Introduction

Sheila Saystoomuch is struggling in her accounting class. Her assignment is to complete a sample balance sheet, but she has trouble transferring the concepts from reading the textbook to her assignment. She finds an online video tutorial that walks through the act of completing a balance sheet. Following along with the video, she can successfully complete her assignment.

Upon this success, Sheila joins an accounting study group where members work on assignments together and help each other with the concepts. Because of this, Sheila's grade has improved.

This week, we will focus on the social learning theory, which explores how people learn through social interaction, demonstration, or modeling. Through these different modes, we acquire new information.

This Week You Will:

- **Research Activity:** Find either a video or article that applies the social learning theory to adult learning or higher education.

- **Discussion:** Participate in a discussion that applies the social learning theory to adult learning or higher education.
- **Prepare:** Start your research for next week's assignment.

Learning Activities

u04s1 - Discussion Overview

Post either a video of an adult learning through a method aligned to the social learning theory or an article on the social learning theory that can be applied to the higher education setting.

u04s2 - What You Need to Know

Social Learning Theory

The social learning theory explores how people learn through social interaction, demonstration, observation, or modeling behaviors. The social learning theory is seen as a connection between the behavioral learning theory and the cognitive learning theory because it postulates that learning is not only dependent on reinforcement of actions but on learning through processes. Sheila's grade improved when she watched a tutorial that modeled the process of completing a balance sheet, so she was able to mimic that behavior in her own assignment.

Visit this website to see the connection between the social learning theory, behavioral learning theory, and the cognitive theory.

- McLeod, S. (2016). [Bandura – social learning theory](https://www.simplypsychology.org/bandura.html). Retrieved from <https://www.simplypsychology.org/bandura.html>

Founding Contributor: Albert Bandura

Albert Bandura is a founding contributor to the social learning theory. The following video illustrates Bandura's work.

- Davidson Films Inc. (Producer). (2003). [Bandura's social cognitive theory: An introduction \[Video\]](#). Films On Demand.
 - Select the **Triadic Model** segment to watch the interaction between personal experience, behavior, and environment.
 - Select the **Modeling and Observational Learning – 4 Processes** segment to watch a demonstration of the four processes of observational learning in children.

Social Learning Theory in Action

While social learning can occur throughout our learning experiences from infancy, it can also apply to your life as a college student.

Cooperative/Collaborative Learning

- Mendo-Lázaro, S., León-del-Barco, B., Felipe-Castaño, E., Polo-del-Río, M.- I., & Iglesias-Gallego, D. (2018). [Cooperative team learning and the development of social skills in higher education: The variables involved](#). *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9, 1536.
 - This article illustrates cooperative learning, which is learning from peers or small groups.
- Social Learning Theory and Collaborative Teaching and Learning.
 - This short video demonstrates the social learning theory through collaborative learning.

Gamification

- Subhash, S., & Cudney, E. A. (2018). [Gamified learning in higher education: A systematic review of the literature](#). *Computers in Human Behavior*, 87, 192–206.
 - This article explains how gamification can be used to improve learning in higher education.

u04s3 - Research Activity: Find an Article or Video for Your Discussion

Select one of the following two options for your discussion:

- Find a video of an adult learning through a method aligned to the social learning theory. Be sure your video has a transcript or captioning.
- Find an article on the social learning theory that can be applied to the higher education setting, either through the Capella library or online from a reputable source.

u04d1 - Write Your Discussion Post

Continue the discussion from last week, but this week, find and share either a video or article that demonstrates how the social learning theory can be applied to adult learning or the higher education setting. Address the same points as you did in the Week 3 discussion. Hashtags this week could include #sociallearningtheory, #collaboration, or #socialinteraction.

Response Guidelines

Respond to other learners' pins. Your responses should be at least 30 words in length. For more information on how to earn points, visit your Yellowdig discussion forum.

u04s4 - Prepare: Start Your Research for Next Week's Assignment

Your final assignment is due next week. You will design a brochure or flyer advertising an educational service for college-level students. Some examples of services you may choose include learning groups, support services, tutoring services, or supplemental instruction. To prepare to complete your assignment, do the following.

Choose Your Theory

Choose one of the three theories that are featured in Weeks 3–5. You may choose from:

- Cognitive learning theory.
- Social learning theory.
- Constructivist theory.

Start Your Research

Like your Week 2 assignment, your upcoming assignment also requires the use of scholarly articles. It may be helpful to review the videos related to your chosen theory, as they provide short segments that focus on direct concepts and examples you could use as key words to use while researching.

Learn About Creating a Brochure

Watch the following tutorial if you need help creating a brochure.

- Howtech. (2013). *How to make a brochure in Microsoft Word [Video]*. | *Transcript*. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-wuhi2W-Yc>

Unit 5 >> Constructivist Theory

Introduction

Nally Knowitall is struggling in her middle-school English student teaching practicum. The last unit, which takes place during her last two weeks of school, is a speech unit. She has been having a hard time motivating her students and getting them to focus as summer approaches.

Finally, an idea strikes her from her educational psychology course related to the constructivist learning theory. She knows the students would be motivated to work on a speech about a topic they like, so she creates a project where the students choose their own topic and create an inquiry around that topic that they research and present.

Each day, the students receive a self-check half-sheet with checkpoints that guide their work, while Nally walks around the room, answering questions and checking in on students as needed. The students are free to roam about the room, which curbs their pre-summer energy, and the students are able to learn the concepts of the speech unit by applying those concepts to a topic they understand or know.

This week focuses on the constructivist theory, or constructivism, which is based upon the theory that learning occurs when we create knowledge and make sense of our surroundings based upon our prior knowledge, experiences, or our own understanding.

This Week You Will:

- **Research Activity:** Select at least two scholarly journal articles for your assignment.
- **Assignment:** Submit your Educational Theories in Practice assignment.

Learning Activities

u05s1 - Assignment Overview

Using a learning theory from this course, design a brochure or flyer advertising an educational service for college-level students.

u05s2 - What You Need to Know

Constructivism

Where behaviorism focuses on the environment, constructivism looks at how individuals uniquely build knowledge based on their personal or subjective understanding of what they are learning. This is usually based on their prior knowledge or experiences. For example, when you listen to a teacher or presenter speak, or you read a chapter from a textbook, you will understand the information differently than anyone else sitting in the class or reading the same chapter. Each person will not construct knowledge on the material in exactly the same way. Even though Nally's students were all working on different topics for the speech unit, they were all learning the same basic concepts, just in different ways.

This website provides a definition of constructivism, how constructivism differs from traditional teaching, and examples of the theory in practice.

- Educational Broadcasting Corporation. (2004). [Constructivism as a paradigm for teaching and learning](https://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/constructivism/index.html). Retrieved from <https://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/constructivism/index.html>

Founding Contributor: Maria Montessori

Maria Montessori was a founding contributor to the constructivist theory. You may have heard of Montessori education, where learning is more self-directed and collaborative, and children often make more choices in their learning.

To learn more about constructivism in practice with children, watch the video below.

- Davidson Films Inc. (Producer). (2004). [Maria Montessori: Her life and legacy \[Video\]](#). Films On Demand.
 - Select the **The Learner** segment to watch children learn through work and natural practice.
 - Select the **The Prepared Environment** segment to watch children learning through choice and practical life experiences.
 - Select the **Trained Adult** segment to watch how teachers act more as facilitators in a constructivist classroom.

Constructivist Learning Theory in Action

Although constructivist research can be based on children, the following article applies the constructivist theory to higher education and offers constructivist learning strategies.

- Zielinski, D. E. (2017). The use of collaboration, authentic learning, linking material to personal knowledge, and technology in the constructivist classroom: Interviews with community college faculty members. *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, 41(10), 668–686.

u05s3 - Research Activity: Select Articles for Your Assignment

Your final assignment is due this week. If you haven't done so yet, choose one of the theories from Weeks 3–5 to use for your assignment.

Like your Week 2 assignment, this assignment requires the use of scholarly journal articles. Select at least two scholarly articles to use. Review the articles and video clips in the week that relates to your chosen theory, as they provide examples of the type of articles you should find as well as key words that you could use while researching.

u05a1 - Educational Theories in Practice

Choose a learning theory from Weeks 3–5 of this course, and design a brochure or flyer advertising an educational service for college-level students. Some examples you may choose include learning groups, support services, tutoring services, supplemental instruction, et cetera.

Watch the following tutorial if you need help on creating a brochure in Microsoft Word.

- Howtech. (2013). *How to make a brochure in Microsoft Word [Video]*. | *Transcript*. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-wuhi2W-Yc>

Assignment Instructions

With the theory you selected in mind, include the following in your brochure or flyer:

- Describe the service you are advertising.
- Explain the relationship between the learning theory and the service.
 - Explain how the learning theory is applicable to the service.
 - Explain the benefits of the service using the learning theory.
 - Support your explanation with evidence from scholarly sources.
- Explain three ways that the service will support college-level learning.
 - Support your explanation with evidence from scholarly sources.
 - Include reflections from your college-level student experiences.

Submission Requirements

- **Written communication:** Written communication is free of errors that detract from the overall message.
- **APA formatting:** Resources and citations are formatted according to APA style and formatting.
- **Number of resources:** Include a minimum of two current scholarly or professional resources.
- **Length of advertisement:** At your discretion.
- **Font and font size:** Use your creativity and images to enhance your brochure or flyer.

Competencies Measured

By successfully completing this assignment, you will demonstrate your proficiency in the following course competencies:

- **Competency 1: Explain foundational learning theories in educational psychology.**
 - Explain the relationship between a learning theory and an educational service.
- **Competency 2: Apply information literacy and research skills to locate scholarly information in the field of educational psychology.**
 - Apply information literacy and research skills to use scholarly information to support work.
- **Competency 3: Apply learning theories to topics and problem resolution in educational practice.**
 - Explain three ways that an educational service will support college-level learning.
- **Competency 4: Apply research findings to topics and problem resolution in educational practice.**
 - Use scholarly evidence to justify the importance of an educational service.
- **Competency 5: Communicate in a manner that is scholarly, professional, and consistent with expectations for professionals in the field of psychology.**
 - Communicate clearly with appropriate purpose, organization, tone, and sentence structure.
 - Cite the source using author and year.

