

EPSY 5803 X10 Human Behavior, Development and Learning Theory

Part of Term A Online

Fall 2025 Syllabus

Midwestern State University

Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education

Class Meets

Online; 8 Week Course

August 25, 2025- October 17, 2025

Instructor/Contact Information:

Christina Wickard, PhD

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Phone: 940-397-4528

Office: BH 308H

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursdays 11:30 AM-1:30 PM, Wednesday 9AM-10AM. Appointments are recommended to avoid conflicts. Zoom appointments also available for other times outside of office hours- contact by email to discuss times.

Instructor Response Policy

The best way to contact me is via email. I will check my email between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00 PM Mon-Fri. I will attempt to contact you within 24 hours; however, this does not apply on weekends or holidays. Once you contact me via email, we can then set up a virtual, phone, or in-person meeting, depending on your needs.

Course Description

Concepts of learning theory and applications, motivation, and measurement and evaluation.

Learning activities include assorted readings, videos, and activities that require you to demonstrate competencies and learning.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Instructor provided textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings Textbooks - Numerous links and files will be provided within the course. Link for the downloadable, FREE textbooks can be accessed in the online course.

Required Technology

All students must have Internet access and the following technology applications: appropriate hardware in order to access D2L, Word Processing software. If you are new to D2L or if you are having technical difficulty with any part of D2L, please contact [Distance Education](#).

Course Objectives/Standards

	Assessments, Assignments
Students recognize, understand, and address in both writing and discussion the implications of the many developmental phenomena associated with teaching and learning	Final, Quizzes, Module Activities
Students recognize, understand, and address both in writing and discussion the implications of the many cognitive and behavioral phenomena associated with teaching and learning	Final, Quizzes, Module Activities
Students recognize, understand, and address in writing and discussion, the many aspects of developing an environment for learning and a positive environment of respect and rapport. Specifically, candidates will verbally discuss and write about factors affecting children's learning.	Final, Quizzes, Module Activities
Students will develop a vision of learning that promotes the success of all students based on relevant knowledge and theories, including but not limited to an understanding of the learners and learners' needs.	Final, Quizzes, Module Activities
Students recognize, understand, and address in writing and discussion the nature and implications of both student-centered and teacher-centered approaches to teaching and learning. Specifically, candidates will analyze instructional techniques that influence student learning.	Final, Quizzes, Module Activities
Students learn and practice reflective habits while in the classroom.	Final, Quizzes, Module Activities
Students will recognize children at-risk of suicide. Students will recognize children who are, or may be the victims, or who engage in bullying. Students will recognize children displaying early signs and a possible need for mental health or substance abuse intervention, warning signs may include declining academic performance, depression, anxiety, isolation, unexplained changes in habits, and destructive behavior toward self or others. Students will learn strategies and the appropriate action to take to intervene effectively with children at-risk or with early warning signs.	Training Modules

Students in the program follow the *TEACHER STANDARDS, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 149, Subchapter AA*, §149.1001). Objectives align with [NAEYC standards](#), [National Association for the Education of Young Children \(NAEYC\) Principles of Human](#)

[Development](#) and [Principles of Child Development and Learning and Implications that Inform Practice](#) available on their web site at: [NAEYC](#).

Note: Ideas and opinions expressed in course materials are those of the respective authors and do not imply endorsement by the professor or university.

Table 1- Assignments and Points

Assignments	Points
Course Pre-Assessment	10
Module Quizzes (3@100 points each)	300
Module Activities (3 @ 100 points each)	300
Training Modules	50
Observation and Reflections	50
Final Exam	200
Total Points	910

Table 2- Grading

The percentage of total points will determine final grade.

Percentage of total points for final grade.

Grade	Percent
A	90% or Greater
B	80% to 89.9%
C	70% to 79.9%
D	60% to 69.9%
F	Less than 60%

Participation and Reading

Read all assignments carefully. Take notes during reading and any related lecture and /or discussion. Whether or not it is discussed in class, you are responsible for the content of **all assigned reading**. Take notes over your reading and review these after each class. You will be engaging in numerous in-class activities as individuals and in groups. Participation is very important and contributes to the quality of your learning experience. You are expected to participate in all class activities; therefore, attendance is crucial. Class participation in activities such as the in-class case study analyses activities cannot be made up.

Module Activities

For each of the first three modules you will be completing an application activity to demonstrate your understanding of the concepts. Specific instructions are available in the corresponding D2L folders.

Quizzes

You will be quizzed on your knowledge for each of Modules 1, 2, &3. After using the study guide, readings, and notetaking, take the quiz.

Final Exam

This will be in multiple choice format, and items will be drawn from the course videos and readings, and will be administered through D2L and will be open from the beginning of the course so you can work ahead if you choose.

Classroom Observation and Reflection Assignment

Using the link provided you will watch teachers and students in a classroom setting. You will discuss moments in the videos that correspond to concepts from the course. Detailed instructions are in the D2L folder. Graduate students will provide research-based evidence with documentation supporting their observations of best practice.

Training Modules

In this course, you will complete trainings pertinent to the course content. Detailed instructions are in the D2L folder.

Instructor Class Policies**Classroom Climate**

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment which is conducive to learning. Inappropriate behavior in the D2L online classroom or in the face-to-face classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to drop the class and/or a Professional Fitness Form will be filed for review with the college. If the instructor must file a Fitness Alert Form for any reason, including failure to demonstrate appropriate classroom behaviors, the student may receive an instructor drop with an "F" for the course.

An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for failure to participate, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to dropping the student from the class. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student-initiated course drop of a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the first 8 weeks of a long semester, the first 6 weeks of a 10 week summer term, or the 11th class day of a 4 or 5 week summer term consisting of 20 days. After these periods the grade will be an F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar is the official drop date.

Late Work

Assignments are due by 11:59 PM of the date listed on the calendar. Assignments are expected to be turned in by the due date. It is your responsibility to keep up with when assignments are due in the syllabus calendar. *Arrangements must be made at least two

days in advance for any exceptions to be given.

MSU-TEXAS Policies and Procedures

Student Handbook:

Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures

Academic Dishonesty:

Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Acceptable Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism.

AI is an amazing tool and can be a powerful reference and resource; however, it should be used as a reference/resource only. Passing another person or entity's work off as your own is dishonest and can also prevent you from properly learning the material you should in this course. Therefore, using AI to compose/create your assignments for you will not be tolerated. Assignments in which the professor suspects the majority was composed by AI will receive a zero. If a student receives a zero, the student may resubmit the work, revised in their own writing for half credit. The following are acceptable ways to use AI in this course but a citation must be provided to give credit to the AI program used: providing you an example answer to a question as resource (put answer into your own words), give you a template or provide you a format to follow, assist with wording difficult concepts (then put into your own words for your assignment), researching topics to give you additional information or other viewpoints on a topic ideas for lesson activities.

Plagiarism

"By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a 'limited right' in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The 'limited right' shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality, authenticity, and educational purposes." from [Student Handbook](#) . All assignments submitted in BRIGHTSPACE will also be checked through Turn It In for originality. Assignments with more than 50% match will be given a 0.

Please note: By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right

to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. Computer issues are not an excuse for missing a deadline. There are many places to access your class! Our online classes may be accessed from any computer, which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however, they are able to help you be connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request). For specific information and information regarding financial aid policies, contact the MSU business office.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance

through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "*Run. Hide. Fight.*" which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: "[Run. Hide. Fight.](#)"

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick

Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213

laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at [this link to report online](#)

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit [this link to view the policy](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity.

Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Research Based Content and Pedagogy

This course utilizes research on best practices in the field of teaching. Additionally, content delivered for this course is based on accepted up to date research in the field.

The following are some of the resources utilized to provide quality instruction to students enrolled in the class.

Berk, L. E. (2021). *Infants, Children, and Adolescents* 9th ed.). Pearson Education Inc: Boston.

Sprick, R., Garrison, M., & Howard, L.M. (2010). *Champs: A Proactive Approach to Classroom Management*. Longmont, CO: Sopris West

Wong, H., Wong, R. (2018). 2nd Edition. *The Classroom Management Book*. Canada, Transcontinental Printing.

Marzano, Robert J. (2017) *The New Art and Science of Teaching*. Bloomington, IN: ASCD.

Durwin, C. C., & Reese-Webber, M. (2019). *EdPsych: Modules*. (4th) Sage: Los Angeles, CA.

Course Calendar

Week	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1	1. Read Syllabus 2. Course Pre-Assessment 3. Module 1- Theories of Learning: readings, videos, notes and study guide	8/31/2025 11:59 PM
Week 2	1. Continue Module 1 2. Module 1 Quiz 3. Module 1 Survey Activity	9/7/2025 11:59 PM
Week 3	1. Module 2- Theories of Development: readings, videos, notes and study guide	
Week 4	1. Continue Module 2 2. Module 2 Quiz 3. Module 2 Chart Activity	9/21/2025 11:59 PM
Week 5	1. Module 3- Motivation Theories: readings, videos, notes and study guide	
Week 6	1. Continue Module 3 2. Module 3 Quiz 3. Module 3 Brochure Activity	10/05/2025 11:59 PM
Week 7	1. Module 4- Professional Responsibilities 2. Trainings 3. Classroom Observation and Reflection	10/12/2025 11:59 PM
Week 8	4. Final Exam	10/17/2025 11:59 PM

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. Teaching is about being responsive to student needs, as such, the topic dates may change as there may be more or less discussion needed for particular concepts. However, assignment due dates will not be moved up- keep track of due dates as some of the assignments are outside of class (on D2L) and will not be addressed in class.

Appendix A

Inclement Weather: In the event that the university is closed for a short time due to inclement weather, course work that is posted in the course calendar is still due unless a notification is posted in D2L on the News page stating otherwise. In most cases courses will not be offered digitally synchronously unless the closing extends beyond a brief period and is otherwise noted on the D2L News page. Students enrolled in courses with observations, internships, and field work, will be handled on a case by case basis.