

EPSY 3803 X20 Human Development, Behavior, & Learning Theory

Part of Term A Online

Spring 2026 Syllabus

Midwestern State University

Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education

Class Meets

Online; 8 Week Course

January 20, 2026- March 27, 2026

Instructor/Contact Information:

Christina Wickard, PhD

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Phone: 940-397-4528

Office: BH 308H

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursdays 11:00 AM-1:00 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.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Ormrod, J. E. (2020). *Essentials of Educational Psychology* (6th ed.). Pearson.

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/Assessments & Activities

Course Objectives	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	Final, Quizzes, Module Activities

Course Objectives	Assessments, Assignments
cognitive and behavioral phenomena associated with teaching and learning.	
Students recognize, understand, and address in writing and discussion, the many aspects of developing positive environment for learning of respect and rapport. Specifically, candidates will verbally discuss and write about factors affecting children's learning, including candidates' understanding of contextual factors	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 all 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

Table 1- Assignments and Points

Assignments	Points
Module Quizzes (8 @ 10 points each)	80
Module Activities (3 @ 25 points each)	75
Final Exam	100
Online Training	20
Ethics Module	20
Notes (8 @ 10 points each)	80
Course Pre-Assessment	10
Total Points	385

Table 2- Grading

The percentage of total points will determine final grade.

Grade	Percentage of total points
A	90%-100%
B	80%-89%
D	79%-60%
F	59% and below.

Course Assignments and Assessments**Reading and Notes**

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. Participation is very important and contributes to the quality of your learning experience. Each week you have a choice of note taking mode and you will upload these notes to D2L. Complete instructions and examples are available in D2L.

Module Activities

You will be completing application activities to demonstrate your understanding of the course concepts. Specific instructions and grading rubrics are available in D2L.

Quizzes

After reading, taking notes, and studying, you will complete a quiz for each chapter.

Final Exam

This exam will be in multiple choice format, and items will be drawn from the course reading.

Classroom Observation and Reflection Assignment

You will watch classrooms interactions via video and using prompts, will compose a reflection. Complete instructions in D2L.

Training Modules

You have a choice of three free trainings pertaining to issues associated with youth. You will choose **one** to complete. Complete instructions and training access information is available in D2L.

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.

Acceptable Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools:

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 such as providing you an example answer to a question (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, and/or ideas for lesson activities.

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](#)

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 has 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.

Silver, H. F., Strong, R. W., & Perini, M. J. (2000). So each may learn: Integrating learning styles and multiple intelligences. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.

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

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.

Course Calendar

Week	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1	Introduction to Educational Psychology Chapter 1 reading and notes Quiz 1	1/25 11:59 PM
Week 2	Learning, Cognition and Memory Chapter 2 reading and notes Quiz 2 How We Learn Activity Due to D2L	2/1 11:59 PM
Week 3	Complex Cognitive Processes Chapter 3 reading and notes Quiz 3	2/8
Week 4	Learning in Context Chapter 4 reading and notes Quiz 4 Observation Reflection Due to D2L	2/15 11:59 PM
Week 5	Motivation and Emotions Chapter 5 reading and notes Quiz 5	2/22
Week 6	Cognitive Development Chapter 6 reading and notes Quiz 6 Motivation Brochure Due to D2L	3/1 11:59 PM
Week 7	Personal, Social, and Moral Development Chapter 7 reading and notes Quiz 7 Online Training due to D2L	3/8 11:59 PM
Week 8	Ethics, Professional Practices, Instructional Strategies and Classroom Environment Chapters 8-10 reading and notes Quiz 8 Ethics Activity due to D2L Final Exam	3/22 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.

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