

Instructional Strategies for Adult Learners
EDUC 5533 X40
Gordon T. and
Ellen West
College of
Education
Summer Session 2
July 6, 2026-August 2, 2026

Contact Information

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Instructor Response Policy

The instructor will attempt to respond to email and voice mail within one business day.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

All materials provided in D2L Content.

Course Description

This course will explore instructional strategies, such as group facilitation, cooperative learning, questioning, discussion, problem-solving, simulation, reflective teaching, and other instructional techniques. Participants are expected to employ various presentation techniques through small group exercises.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

1. The student will develop an understanding of adult learning principles and instructional design.
2. The student will demonstrate an understanding of adult learning theory and various adult learning strategies.
3. The student will better understand the role of learning preferences and how that impacts instruction and learning.
4. The student will develop an adult learning project and create a detailed conference/workshop plan for an adult learning organization.

Grading/Assessments

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment.

Assignments	Points
Self-learning Project	100
Discussion Posts (4 @ 25pts each)	100
Adult Learning Strategies Table	100
Workshop/Conference Plan Project	100
Final Exam	100
Total Points	500

Table 2: 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%

Coursework

Discussion Posts

Each week there will be a discussion question to respond to. I expect well-thought-out, reasoned responses. References aren't necessary. Post an initial response by Thursday of each week and respond to two classmates by the due date. 15 points for the initial response and 5 points for each response to a classmate's post. 25 points each week. Total: 100 points. There is an expectation that students will respond to at least two other student posts each week. The posts should contribute to the discussion, not "You're so right!" "I agree with you!" or similar. As examples: provide your thoughts beyond what the original poster provided, posit a different point of view, ask a question. Please be respectful of classmates and refrain from inflammatory language. Points will be deducted for superficial posts.

Self-learning Project

Employers are putting more emphasis on the ability to learn. At the same time, employers are often reluctant to pay for training. People change jobs frequently and technology is ever changing. In addition, people are finding great satisfaction in developing themselves through hobbies and various educational activities that are not part of formal schooling. This is an

opportunity to develop insight into developing personal learning goals and developing a learning plan to support that goal. It is also intended to analyze how you learn and the types of learning experiences that work better for you. Detailed instructions are provided in D2L.

Workshop Project

You will develop a half-day workshop. You'll do everything except actually put the workshop on. Develop learning objectives, assessments, and activities. What technology and materials do you need? Develop a marketing "flyer". This project is intended to show the complexity of designing instruction and planning workshop event. Detailed instructions are provided in D2L.

Adult Learning Strategies Table

You will create a table that lists, explains and provides an example context for the various adult learning strategies. Detailed instructions are provided in D2L.

Final Exam

The final exam is a series of reflective questions focused on the content of the course. Students may discuss the exam and questions with one another, but I would not expect to see substantially the same answers on multiple tests (in other words, brainstorm together, but write your own answers if you wish.)

Instructor Policies

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 (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, or ideas for lesson activities.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

This is an on-line class and there are no required class meeting. However, weekly discussion posts are a part of the course.

Inclement Weather

In the case of campus closure due to inclement weather, please log on to D2L to check whether any changes will be made to course assignments and due dates. Changes will be posted in the NewsFeed on D2L and will be emailed to students. Depending on the date, online assignments may be required to complete if meeting face to face is not possible. Students in field placements will follow their assigned district's closure recommendations.

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. Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!! There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that 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 get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Student Conduct

Students will be respectful in their interactions with one another and with the instructor.

MSU/College Policies and Procedures

Academic Misconduct Policy & 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. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

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. Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Voids](#)

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).

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](#).

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS 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.

Campus Carry

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](#).

Grade Appeal Process

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

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 7/6 to 7/12	Review the syllabus Complete VARK and post an introduction Read/watch D2L content Respond to discussion question by Thursday: respond to posts of two classmates by Sunday	7/12
Week 2 7/13 to 7/19	Read/watch content Complete Adult Learning Strategies Table Respond to discussion question by Thursday: respond to posts of two classmates by Sunday	7/19
Week 3 7/20 to 7/26	Read/watch supplemental materials Submit Self-learning assignment Respond to discussion question by Thursday: respond to posts of two classmates by Sunday	7/26
Week 4 7/27 to 8/2	Read/watch supplemental materials Submit Workshop Plan Project Respond to discussion question by Thursday: respond to discussion posts of two classmates by Sunday Final Exam (opens 7/26-8/2)	8/2