Educational Psychology for Teachers
PSY 500-903, 3 credits, Online from June 8, 2015 to July 31, 2015

Instructor: Dr. Cassandra Bergstrom
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Office Hours: I am available by email (excluding weekends and holidays)
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Required Text

Blackboard Site: http://unco.blackboard.com

Course Objectives
This course examines education through a psychological lens, including information on how teachers can apply principles from educational psychology to their teaching. We will utilize theories on development/individual differences, learning/memory, classroom strategies and motivation/group differences to understand more about education and the classroom environment. Ideally, your knowledge of learning and motivation will help shape the practices you utilize within your classrooms, increasing effectiveness and student learning.

During this course, students should be able to answer:
- What is the goal of education?
- How is learning defined and how does it take place?
- What roles do experience, prior knowledge, and other people play in learning?
- What instructional methods are effective at achieving different educational goals?

Course Description
This course will cover several large topics: Development, Individual and Group Differences, Learning/Memory, Classroom Strategies, and Motivation. For each topic, you will complete activities designed to help you see how these large topics relate to and can help improve teaching and learning outcomes. These activities include reading assignments, PowerPoint slides, and the assignments described below. The reading assignments and PowerPoint presentations can be found in the Course Materials on our class’s Blackboard site.

Course Format
This course is completely online. Depending on how fast you read and type, expect this course to take around 10-15 hours per week. You are responsible for keeping up with the readings and activities listed on the course schedule. You will need average computer skills and a reliable internet connection to participate in this class. While I can answer some technical questions, your best bet is
UNC’s Help Desk, which is available 24 hours a day. You can reach them at 970-351-HELP (970-351-4357) or 1-800-545-2331. Also see: http://www.unco.edu/blackboard/supportu.html

Points and Grading

Your grade for this course will be determined by the number of points that you receive in each of the following sections. I will keep track of your points on Blackboard. Final grades will NOT be rounded.

A = 93.0% - 100.0%
A- = 90.0% - 92.9%
B+ = 87.0% - 89.9%
B = 83.0% - 86.9%
B- = 80.0% - 82.9%
C+ = 77.0% - 79.9%
C = 73.0% - 76.9%
C- = 70.0% - 72.9%
D+ = 67.0% - 69.9%
D = 60.0% - 66.9%
F = 59.9% and below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Activities</th>
<th>8 X 5 pts</th>
<th>40 pts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Assessments</td>
<td>4 X 25 pts</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflections/Connections Blogs</td>
<td>4 X 15 pts</td>
<td>60 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>200 pts</strong></td>
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Please contact me at any time with questions concerning grading.

Learning Activities

The Learning Activities are activities and discussion questions related to each topic, and there will be one set of learning activities due each week. Completing these activities will help you make sense of the readings and cue in to the “big ideas.” Generally, you should complete these activities first as they will prepare you for the other assignments. There are learning activities to complete for each module and I give choice in completing them (e.g., “Complete 2 of the 4 listed activities”). It is a good idea to view responses to all the learning activities even though you don’t have to respond to all of them. Grading is fairly simple. I either give you full credit (5 points) or partial-credit (3 points). You get full credit if you complete the required number of activities and post thoughtful responses (i.e., more than just a sentence or two) to the queries in each activity. You get partial credit for completing only some of the activities or for providing minimal responses. If you don’t do the week’s activities, of course you don’t get any points. For more information and to complete the assignments go to the Discussion Board tab on Blackboard.

Short Assessments

There will be four (4) short assessments (or exams) during the course. Each will have 25 items and will be worth 25 points. The short assessments will focus on the application of class information; to do well on these exams, you must have a deep understanding of the content and be able to apply it. Most material will come from the textbook, with some coming from required videos and/or articles posted for the topic. Each short assessment must be completed by 11:55 pm by the date listed on the assessment and in the course schedule. Short assessments must be finished prior to the time they are due, unless arrangements have been made ahead of time with the instructor or extenuating circumstances prevent the notification. Short assessments will be available under the Short Assessments tab on Blackboard.
Reflections/Connections Blogs

The Reflections/Connections Blogs give you the opportunity to write about intriguing connections between the topics and “big ideas” we will cover and your everyday life. You will complete four blogs. I hope you have fun with this. Consequently, I don’t want you worrying about how I will grade your blog. You will get full credit (15 points) simply for completing a full blog (i.e., the equivalent of about 2 double-spaced pages) by the due date on the course schedule. You will get partial credit for a partial blog. For more information and to complete the assignments, go to the Blogs tab on Blackboard.

Honor Code

All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community’s academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate. [www.unco.edu/dos/communityStandards/honor_code](http://www.unco.edu/dos/communityStandards/honor_code)

Academic Conduct

Students are expected to follow the rules of academic conduct as set forth in the University Student Handbook. Plagiarism on any work submitted for this course is unacceptable and will be addressed with the possibility of receiving a zero on the assignment or even an F in the course. Plagiarism includes acts such as submitting the work of another as your own, collaborating on an assignment without prior instructor approval, and incorrect citation of paraphrased content in both intentional and unintentional cases. All homework assignments and papers will be scanned with Safe Assign to detect plagiarism.

UNC's Policies

UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student's website, Student Handbook link and current catalog. [http://www.unco.edu/](http://www.unco.edu/)

Accommodations Statement

Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services ([www.unco.edu/dss](http://www.unco.edu/dss)) at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. I would also encourage you to meet with me to discuss your needs as soon as possible.

Diversity Statement

The College of Education and Behavioral Sciences (CEBS) is committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach her or his own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic
excellence, CEBS seeks to develop and nurture diversity, believing that it strengthens the organization, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life. CEBS prohibits discrimination against any member of the College’s community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability status, health status, political affiliation or veteran status.

Please visit the CEBS Diversity and Equity Committee website for more information on our commitment to diversity (http://www.unco.edu/cebs/diversity).