

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELING
FALL SEMESTER
PSYC 8600
THEORIES OF LEARNING
3 HOURS**

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Hergenhahn, B. R., & Olson, M. H. (1997). An introduction to theories of learning, (5th ed.). New Jersey:Prentice Hall (ISBN 0-13-241787-1)

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

There are several books on reserve in the library listed under "Psychology 8600" which may be used as resource information.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of the major historical (and contemporary) theories of learning and the theorists' positions on typical issues of learning, teaching, and counseling.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to introduce the students to some of the major learning theorists of the past and present in psychology. The course will involve the various learning theorists and their positions and explanations of various phenomena of learning, such as acquisition, reinforcement, continuity, rehearsal, etc.

COURSE ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

Each student will present one of the learning theorists to the class. The instructor will randomly assign the theorists to the students. You will be limited to 2-hrs. maximum per theorist, therefore, organize your presentation within that time frame. As can be seen on the schedule, some meetings 2 theorists will be presented limiting us to half the meeting per theorist. After each presentation, the instructor will supplement the presentation possibly on some aspect that was not covered, or reiterate some of the topics that were covered.

Before your presentation, provide the class with an outline for your theorist, preferably the class meeting before your presentation so that the group can use your outline in preparing for class. You may use any college equipment you need (slide projector, overhead projector, etc.) in making your presentation. (It is suggested that you reserve any needed equipment a few days in advance to avoid it possibly not being available at the last minute.)

After your presentation, present the class with 6 study questions to be used for quiz preparation.

COURSE EVALUATION

The quizzes will be a combination of multiple-choice and discussion items. To help with quiz preparation, there are discussion items at the end of each chapter in the text plus the 6 study questions provided after each presentation. During the "Review for Quiz" sessions, the student(s) who presented the theorists and the instructor will conduct the review. Questions should be addressed to the presenters. The instructor will supplement their answers -- not answer for them.

The course grade will be the average of (a) quiz scores, (b) presentation scores, and (c) class participation. All quizzes (tests, exams) will be weighted equally. Quizzes I, II, and III will only cover the material since the previous quiz. The Final Exam will be comprehensive and will be primarily comprised of your items. The grading, will be:

A = 90%+, B = 80% - 89%, C = 70% - 79%, D = 60% - 69%, F = 59% and below.

The presentations will be evaluated by each class member and the instructor on a 0 - 100 scale. Evaluations will be submitted to the instructor any time prior to the subsequent class meeting. Each presenter will be given a list of their scores so they can see how their peers (and instructor) evaluated them. "Class participation" refers to a variety of relevant intangibles that will be evaluated by the instructor, such as class attendance, pertinent comments during class, relevant questions during the presentations, class preparation, etc.

The weighting of the grade components is as follows:

Average of Quizzes 65%

Presentation(s) 25%

Participation 10%

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Three TOTAL absences (1 week) will be permitted. There is no distinction between what some people call "excused" and "unexcused" absences. Either you are in class that day or you are not in class. If you leave class at the break, you will be counted absent for that day. If you come into class late after the roll has been called, it is YOUR responsibility to stop by immediately after class (not one hour later, or the next day) and see that you are marked present. Absences in excess of the allotted three will result in one letter-grade reduction per absence from the final course grade. JURY DUTY is the only absence for which any make-up will be permitted.

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Kelly Wells

Office: Psychology and Counseling Building

Voice: (912) 333-5930

Office hours: MTWRF, 8:00-9am, 4:00-5:00pm

Email: kwells@valdosta.edu

SPECIAL NEEDS STATEMENT

VSU, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, will make accommodations for students who require special assistance because of a disability. If you require some assistance, do not hesitate to make me aware of your situation, but you must also register with the Special Services Program in Nevins Hall, room 226-A, or call 245-1498.

COURSE SCHEDULE

JUNE 21 Course Policy, etc. TEACHER

Chapter 1 TEACHER

22 Chapters 2 - 3 TEACHER

26 Chapter 4 (Thorndike) Chapter 5 (Skinner)

28 Chapter 6 (Hull)

Review for Quiz I TEACHER

29 QUIZ I

JULY Chapter 7 (Pavlov)

Chapter 8 (Guthrie)

Chapter 9 (Estes)

Review for Quiz II TEACHER

6 QUIZ II

10 Chapter 10 (Gestalt) Chapter 12 (Tolman)

12 Chapter 11 (Piaget) Chapter 13 (Bandura)

13 Review for Quiz III TEACHER

17 Quiz III

FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, 21 JULY (8:00 AM - 12:30 PM)