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**Western Kentucky University  
College of Education and Behavioral Sciences  
Department of Psychology  
Course Syllabus (Spring 2017)**

**Course:** Educational Psychology: Development and Learning (PSY 310-700)

**Instructor:** Qin Zhao, Ph. D.

**Office:** Gary Ransdell Hall 3015

**Phone:** 745-5023

**E-mail:** [qin.zhao@wku.edu](mailto:qin.zhao@wku.edu)

**Office Hours:** MTWR 2:00~4:00pm; other times by appointment

**Blackboard:** <https://ecourses.wku.edu>

This is a web course. It is offered entirely online. Students will need to have regular access to the Internet and use Blackboard, email, and Microsoft Word. For online learning resources, please go to this WKU website:

<https://www.wku.edu/online/srp/>

**Required Text**

Woolfolk, A. (2015; 13<sup>th</sup> edition). Educational Psychology. (Enhanced Pearson EText with Loose-Leaf Version). ISBN: 9780134013527/0134013522.

**Course Description**

Prerequisite: PSY 100

PSY 310 is a required educational psychology course for students seeking teacher certification. Educational psychology is designed to give the student a survey and a thorough understanding of the theories and principles of psychology as applied to teaching and learning. The student will demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and application of theories of learning, development, individual differences, motivation, and classroom management. Psychology 310 may not be counted toward the psychology major or minor.

**Course Objectives**

Students will:

1. Discuss the nature of effective teaching.
2. Explore scientific research methodology and its impact on our understanding of teaching and learning.
3. Study and evaluate behavioral theories of learning and their classroom applications.
4. Study and evaluate cognitive theories of learning and their classroom applications.
5. Study key theories of human development and their implications for teaching and learning.
6. Evaluate the influence of individual differences on teaching and learning.
7. Study key theories and techniques concerning human motivation.
8. Study various techniques of classroom management.
9. Address central issues related to classroom assessment.

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### **Communication with Instructor:**

1. For more information about me as your instructor (e.g., my teaching and research interests), please go to our Psychology Department Website: [http://www.wku.edu/psychology/staff/qin\\_zhao](http://www.wku.edu/psychology/staff/qin_zhao)
2. Please feel free to contact me if you have any question or concern about the course. If your question is a **general course question**, please post it to the **Discussion Board** because other students may have the same question and would like to see my response.
3. If you need to communicate to me personally, please contact me via email or telephone or come by my office during my office hours. Please type "Psy 310" in the subject line when emailing me. I will try my best to reply promptly.
4. I will check my email and the Discussion Board at least once a day and I will announce it on Blackboard if something comes up that affects my availability.
5. I ask that you maintain a positive, helpful, professional attitude in communication with other students, discussion boards, and with the instructor. Student inquiry regarding grades must be addressed through a requested meeting with the instructor. No discussion of grades will take place via e-mail.

### **Tips for Successful Online Learning**

1. Make sure your computer is working properly during the first week of class. Arrange access to a backup computer, in case your computer is not working. WKU also has several computer labs on the main campus and on satellite campuses. If you cannot submit an assignment from your computer, try another browser or try from another computer.
2. Access the Blackboard course site every day or two to at least check new posts or announcements. Consider setting aside the same time every week to work on this course. Complete the readings and work on your responses to the weekly assessment questions. Once you are done with the questions, log on again to upload your assignment file through Blackboard. It could take 2-5 days to get feedback from your instructor on what you submitted. Feel free to respond back to the feedback if there is any question.
3. Keep up with assignments. It is not recommended to wait until the due date to submit an assignment. Technical difficulties will not be an excuse for a late assignment without a 24-hour notice. In other words, do not wait until the last minute.

### **Course Requirements and Assignments:**

#### **1. Homework Assignments (170 pts)**

There will be regular homework assignments based on the assigned readings (book chapters, lecture notes, and/or journal articles). The assignment links can be found in the weekly material folders in the Content area on the Blackboard course site.

##### **a. Book Chapter Assignments (130 pts)**

You will complete test questions that assess your understanding and application of important concepts covered in the book chapters and lecture notes. They consist of multiple-choice and short-essay questions.

**b. Article Responses (40 pts)**

For some weeks, you will also read journal articles relevant to the course and respond to short-essay questions that assess your understanding of the articles.

Your completed assignments (typed, in MS Word documents) must be posted on Blackboard via the assignment links **by the end of each Sunday at 11:59pm**. Late assignments without documentation of a valid excuse will not be accepted. Note: Keep a saved copy of ALL assignments. Assignments will not be counted as late if you have dated documentation of saved files.

**2. Proctored Exams (250 pts)**

There will be three proctored unit exams. See the Course Schedule in this syllabus for the time frame during which you can schedule to take each exam. Please contact the Distance Learning (DL) Testing Center to schedule these exams.

<http://www.wku.edu/testing/index.php>

The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions that assess your understanding as well as application of important concepts covered in the course. The exams are non-cumulative: each exam includes only material covered since the previous exam. The tentative dates for the exams are indicated in the course outline.

No exams will be given early. A make-up exam will be given *only* if:

- 1) The student has a legitimate excuse for missing the exam, and
- 2) The student calls or e-mails me in advance of the exam that he/she must miss the exam. My voicemail or e-mail will record any messages if I am out of the office when you contact me.

**3. Discussion Board (DB) Entries (50 points)**

I will post 5 questions on Blackboard Discussion Board. Students will be required to respond to each question **by Thursday** at 11:59pm (**5 points**) and then read other students' posts and respond to one of them **by Sunday** at 11:59pm (**5 points**).

**4. Case Study Report (30 pts)**

The case study project is designed to facilitate critical thinking and application of the psychological theories and principles covered in the course. You will analyze and solve a real-life classroom problem presented in a "case study" (see Blackboard).

Your case study report (typed, single-spaced, in MS Word document) must include the following parts:

- (1) **Summary:** sum up the case and identify the problems in the case in your own words. For example, who are the key persons in the case? Why are they behaving the way they are?

(2) **Analysis:** decide what psychological theories and principles you have learned best explain the problems in the case. Use information from the case to substantiate your analysis.

(3) **Solution:** following from the theories and principles you used in analysis, state as many solutions as you can that can be used to deal with the problems. Pick the best solution in the end.

Your report must be posted on Blackboard via the case assignment link **by the end of Finals Week (5/12; 11:59pm)**. Late submission without documentation of a valid excuse will not be accepted.

### **Grading Scale:**

A = 450 to 500 points

B = 400 to 449 points

C = 350 to 399 points

D = 300 to 349 points

F = 0 to 299 points

### **Field Experience Requirement:**

If you are a middle or secondary education major, you will need to complete **10** observation hours for PSY 310. This includes anyone who is getting K-12 certified, including music and physical education majors. Elementary education majors DO NOT have to complete observations hours for PSY 310. Other education majors, check with Teacher Services. These hours contribute to the overall Kentucky Education Professional Standards required 200 hours needed prior to student teaching.

**1. Placement Information:** These observations will need to take place in a P-12 setting during the normal school day. If you want to observe in Warren County, Teacher Services will secure your placement. In order to be eligible for placement, students must be cleared by the Office of Teacher Services and submit a **Placement Request** at ([www.wku.edu/teacherservices/fpra.php](http://www.wku.edu/teacherservices/fpra.php)). The Placement Request will be emailed to you from the [field.placements@wku.edu](mailto:field.placements@wku.edu) – please watch for this.

If you want to observe outside Warren Country, you will need to secure your own placement and submit the **Out of Area request form**. You may contact [field.placements@wku.edu](mailto:field.placements@wku.edu) for an Out of Area Request Form.

### **CEBS Field Placement Guidelines:**

[www.wku.edu/cebs/programs/undergraduate/policies/field\\_placement\\_guidelines.php](http://www.wku.edu/cebs/programs/undergraduate/policies/field_placement_guidelines.php).

**2. Pre-observation requirements:** To be cleared for observation, students must submit to the Office of Teacher Services (GRH 2052 in Dean's Suite)

- 1). A TB test; 2). Physical exam results; 3). A criminal background check

Physical/TB screenings cannot be over one year old from the date student turns in copy to Teacher Services. Physical forms can be printed from the Teacher Services website. [http://www.wku.edu/teacherservices/documents/physical\\_tb.pdf](http://www.wku.edu/teacherservices/documents/physical_tb.pdf) Please be sure that your TB test also includes the date the test was read and the results.

Students need the following to complete their criminal background check with the Office of Teacher Services in GRH 2052:

- Completed Request for a Conviction Records form (to be filled out at the Teacher Services office)
- Photo ID (student ID or driver's license)
- One self-addressed stamped envelope
- Cashier's check, money order, or personal check for \$20.00 made out to Kentucky State Treasurer. Cash is not accepted.

Teacher Services can only accept an existing criminal background check if it is less than one year old from the date they receive it and it was processed through the Kentucky State Police for working with minors. The criminal check needs to be one where the student was finger printed. Teacher Services cannot accept a Court Net criminal check.

\*\*\*In order to observe in Warren County, you must also submit a copy of the TB test, physical exam results, the criminal background check, plus the Confidentiality Affidavit to the Warren County Schools Central Office via email at [personnel.office@warren.kyschools.us](mailto:personnel.office@warren.kyschools.us). You CANNOT be placed for an observation in ANY Warren Co Public School if you are not cleared by their personnel office.

**3. How to Document your Observation Hours:** Here is a Video link to KFETS observation documentation instructions:

[http://www.wku.edu/teacherservices/field\\_exp/kfets\\_videos.php](http://www.wku.edu/teacherservices/field_exp/kfets_videos.php)

You will need to do the following at the end of each semester in which you had required field observations:

1. Enter your hours and data into the KFETS system and then print the Detailed Summary Sheet.
3. Submit the Detailed Summary Sheet to your instructor with your Field Experience Forms ([http://www.wku.edu/ste/documents/field\\_experience\\_form.pdf](http://www.wku.edu/ste/documents/field_experience_form.pdf)).
4. Your instructor will verify that the hours on your KFETS are accurately entered from the data on your Field Experience Forms.
5. Once verified, your instructor will sign the KFETS form and submit to Teacher Services.
6. After all hours have been recorded in your file, Teacher Services will enter them into your CEBS E-PASS electronic portfolio.

Students must keep copies of all student fieldwork forms.

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Letter to Classroom Teachers  
(For middle or secondary education majors only)

Dear Classroom Teacher:

This letter certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ is an undergraduate student enrolled in PSY 310: Educational Psychology at Western Kentucky University (WKU). As part of PSY 310, this student is required to complete 10 observation hours in a public education classroom.

Prior to beginning observations, students are required to complete a Kentucky state criminal background check, TB skin test, and physical examination. According to records forwarded to me by Teacher Services at WKU, the above-named student has submitted proof of a TB test and physical examination, and has passed the Kentucky state criminal background check. These records are available in the Teacher Services Office in Gary Ransdell Hall. Teacher Services can be contacted at (270) 745-6571, if you would like more information about pre-observation requirements.

At the conclusion of every observation, classroom teachers are asked to sign a verification form ([http://www.wku.edu/ste/documents/field\\_experience\\_form.pdf](http://www.wku.edu/ste/documents/field_experience_form.pdf)) which certifies the number of hours the student spent observing. The student should bring you a copy of this form along with this letter. Please keep this form in your possession until the student has completed the entire 10 observation hours within your classroom. Once the requirement has been fulfilled, please sign the form and return it to the student. The student will submit the completed verification form to the course instructor.

Thank you for allowing a WKU student to observe your class. Please contact Teacher Services if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Qin Zhao, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of Psychology  
Western Kentucky University  
Phone: (270) 745-5023  
qin.zhao@wku.edu

**Academic Honesty**

All students are expected to read and abide by the academic honesty guidelines stated in the WKU student handbook ([www.wku.edu/StuAffairs/StuLife/handbook/toc.htm](http://www.wku.edu/StuAffairs/StuLife/handbook/toc.htm)).

Violations of this code of conduct include but are not limited to cheating (collaborating or consulting with another person in an academic activity without authorization) and plagiarism (representing as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another). Plagiarism and cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Either behavior will result in a grade of 'F' for the course. Student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. The phone number is 270.745.5004 [270.745.5121 V/TDD] or email at [sarc@wku.edu](mailto:sarc@wku.edu). Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation (LOA) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

**The Learning Center (TLC)**

Should you require academic assistance with your WKU courses, The Learning Center (located in the Downing Student Union, 2141) provides free supplemental education programs for all currently enrolled WKU students. The Learning Center at Downing Student Union offers certified, one-on-one tutoring in over 200 subjects and eight academic skill areas by appointment or walk in. Online tutoring is offered to distance learners. TLC is also a quiet study area (with side rooms designated for peer-to-peer tutoring) and a computer lab to complete academic coursework. Please call TLC in the Downing Student Union at (270) 745-5065 for more information or to schedule a tutoring appointment. [www.wku.edu/tlc](http://www.wku.edu/tlc)

## Course Schedule

(Tentative and subject to change, up to the first day of class)

### Introduction

#### **Week 1: 1/23 to 1/27**

Assigned reading:

- Review **Syllabus**
- Chapter 1: **Introductions to Ed Psych**

Assignments due:

- Student Information Form
- Chapter 1 Assignment (10 pts)
- DB Question#1 (10 pts)

### Understand Developmental and Individual Differences

#### **Week 2: 1/30 to 2/3**

Assigned Reading: Chapter 2: **Cognitive Development**

Assignments due: Chapter 2 Assignment (14 pts)

#### **Week 3: 2/6 to 2/10**

Assigned Reading: Chapter 3: **Psychosocial & moral development**

Assignments due:

- Chapter 3 Assignment (22 pts)
- DB Question#2 (10 pts)

#### **Week 4: 2/13 to 2/17**

Assigned Reading:

- Chapter 4: **Learner Differences**
- Article: "The learning style myth is thriving"

Assignments due: Article response assignment (20 pts)

#### **Week 5: 2/20 to 2/24      Exam I (90 pts)**

Exam I review guide (Chapters 1~4) will be posted on Blackboard in advance.

**Schedule to take Exam I** between 2/21~2/24

### Apply Theories of Learning and Cognition

#### **Week 6: 2/27 to 3/3**

Assigned Reading: Chapter 7: **Behavioral Theories of Learning**

Assignments due:

- Chapter 7 Assignment (20 pts)
- DB Question #3 (10 pts)

#### **Week 7: 3/6 to 3/10**

Assigned Reading: Chapter 8: **Cognitive Theories of Learning**

Assignments due: Chapter 8 Assignment (14 pts)



**Week 8: 3/13 to 3/17      Spring Break**

Assigned Reading: None

Assignments due: None

**Week 9: 3/20 to 3/24**Assigned Reading: Chapter 9: **Complex Cognitive Processes**

Assignments due: DB Question #4 (10 pts)

**Week 10: 3/27 to 3/31**Assigned Reading: Chapter 11: **Social Cognitive Views of Learning**

Assignments due: Chapter 11 assignment (10 pts)

**Week 11: 4/3 to 4/7      Exam II (80 pts)**

The Exam II review guide (Chapters 7-9; 11) will be posted in advance.

**Schedule to take Exam II** between 4/4~4/7**Master Techniques of Motivation and Classroom Management****Week 12: 4/10 to 4/14**

Assigned Reading:

- Chapter 12: **Motivation**
- Article: "The perils and promises of praise."

Assignments due:

- Chapter 12 Assignment (20 pts)
- Article response assignment (20 pts)

**Week 13: 4/17 to 4/21**Assigned Reading: Chapter 13: **Classroom Management**

Assignments due:

- Chapter 13 Assignment (10 pts)
- DB Question #5 (10 pts)

**Develop Effective Classroom Assessment****Week 14: 4/24 to 4/28**Assigned Reading: Chapter 15: **Assessment and Testing**

Assignments due: Chapter 15 assignment (10 pts)

**Week 15: 5/1 to 5/5      Exam III (80 pts)**

The Exam III review guide (Chapters 12, 13, 15) will be posted in advance.

**Schedule to take Exam III** between 5/2~5/5**Week 16: 5/8 to 5/12 (FINALS WEEK)**

Assignments due: Case Study Report (30 pts)