

**Educational Psychology
Psychology 222
Fall Semester 2006**

Dr. Janet Panter
Clough 129

email: PanterJ@rhodes.edu
phone: 843-3582

Course Details

MWF 10-10:50 Clough 114
CRN: 17275
Credit Hours: 3

Office Hours

TR 10-11:00
Other times by appointment

Course Description

A study of thoughts and actions as they relate to how we teach and learn, particularly in school settings. Emphasis will be placed on the use of theory to guide practical instruction and the use of assessment to determine instructional effectiveness. Cognitive processes, individual differences, strategies for instruction, motivation, critical thinking, and self-regulation of learning will be stressed.

Goals

Learning fundamental principles, generalizations or theories.
Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in education.

Objectives:

Course objectives will require students to understand and apply the major concepts and theories of educational psychology in the following areas:

- Human development (cognitive, social-emotional) and the use of developmentally appropriate classroom practices.
- Learning theory and how it is manifests in various curricula.
- Factors affecting motivation and ways to positively motivate students to learn.
- Learner characteristics, including individual differences, diversity, and special needs students.
- Critical thinking skills important to teachers and learners.
- Student assessment, including standardized testing, curriculum-based measurement, and informal evaluation of student progress.
- Creating a positive learning environment, including strategies for classroom management.
- Evaluating empirical evidence, relating it to specific learning theories, and applying it to classroom practices.

Required Readings

Ormrod, J.E. (2006). *Educational Psychology: Developing Learners, Fifth Edition*. Columbus, OH: Prentice-Hall.

Vygotsky, L.S. (1978). *Mind in Society: The Development of Higher Psychological Processes*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Evaluation Procedures

Students can earn a total of 1,000 points in this course. Available points are as follows:

Reading Quizzes	200 points
Research Papers	300 points
Exams	350 points
Group Presentation	75 points
Class Participation	75 points

1. Quizzes (20%). After reading a major chapter or article, students will be required to take a short quiz on WebCT. These quizzes will be multiple choice & fill-in-the-blank. Quizzes must be taken by 9:00 am the day the reading is due.
2. Exams (35%). Exams will consist of multiple-choice and/or short answer questions on the assigned readings and lecture material. One or two essay questions may also be included. Three exams will be given over the course of the semester. The first two will be worth 100 points each; the final exam will be 150 points.
3. Research Papers (30%). All students will be required to write 2 research papers on the topics listed below. Specific assignments and topics will be discussed in class. It is recommended that you act quickly to meet with the instructor and get approval for your first topic. Papers must be 5-7 pages in length, double-spaced, and using a 12-point font. Further, they must be written using the APA format. All papers should be proofread with particular attention to spelling, grammar, and formatting.
 - a. Paper #1: Choose one aspect or concept of the developmental theories discussed in the text or lectures (e.g., Piaget, Erikson); examples will be discussed in class. Your topic must be approved by the course instructor. Review *current* (i.e., last 15 years) research on that on the concept you have chosen. Your paper should include the following information: definition/description of the concept, empirical evidence supporting or discrediting it, and its application to educational psychology today. Length of this paper limit expected to be 10-12 pages, excluding title page and references.
 - b. Paper #2: Collect data from 2 schools regarding their group achievement test scores (i.e., Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program or TCAP). Analyze this data for student performance, differences among groups according to racial ethnic status, SES, and special needs. Make comparisons, too, between the two schools you have chosen. Examples and specific instructions will be given in class.
4. Group Presentation (7.5%). This short presentation must be well organized, address the particulars listed here, and involve all members of the group. Each group will be given school curricula to evaluate. Evaluation factors will include the theory on which it is based (if any), areas that utilize or violate the principles of education learned during the semester, and whether the curriculum is developmentally appropriate, based on material learned this semester. Each group will give a brief 10-15 minute presentation about their material and conclusions they reached.
5. Class Participation (7.5%). All students are expected to participate actively in class discussions (e.g., asking and/or answering questions). Students' participation in their groups will be included in this evaluation component.

Grades

<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
950-1000	A	740-769	C-
900-949	A-	670-739	D+

870-899	B+	640-669	D
840-869	B	600-639	D-
800-839	B-	590 & under	F
770-799	C+		

Other Policies & Information

1. **Course Preparation.** According to the 2006-07 Rhodes College Catalogue,
A student is expected to spend a minimum of forty-six hours of academic study for every enrolled credit... Time spent on a per assignment basis will vary depending on the nature of the class assignments; however, on an average, a minimum of seven hours per week outside of class is expected for active preparation for a three credit course. (p. 71)
2. **Attendance.** The 2006-07 Rhodes College Catalogue states:
Rhodes, as a residential college of the liberal arts and sciences considers interactive engagement with other students and the professor, in a structured setting to be one of the essential and central components of the academic program. Students enrolled at the institution make a commitment to participate fully in their education, which includes attending class. Absenteeism is not to be taken lightly. (p. 70)
 In this course, attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. Students with 4 or more absences will have their final grade dropped by one grade level. Students with more than 6 absences (20%) will not pass this course. Excused absences require a doctor's note or other verification. See me with questions.
3. **Late work** will result in grade reduction (one letter grade for each day the work is late). No work will be accepted after 3 days.
4. **Special Needs.** If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services at 843-3994 as soon as possible. If you have already worked through the Disability Services office, please speak to me privately about academic accommodations or other concerns you may have.
5. **Honor Code** policies apply to this course, and all students are required to read the Honor Code (included in the Student Handbook). Plagiarization or any failure to properly attribute work is a violation of the Honor Code. Pledges will be required on papers and exams.
6. **E-mail** must be checked daily. Scheduling, topic changes, and other important information will only be available through e-mail.
7. **WebCT** will be an active part of this course. This web-based learning tool will allow you to take quizzes, discuss issues, and download lecture notes. You must register for this course on WebCT. To do so, go to the "Log In" page from the Rhodes homepage. Click on WebCT, and select Rhodes College on the next page. When you reach the WebCT page, select "Course List." This course is listed under Psychology as "Psych 222, Educational Psychology." Note that you must open this folder, and then the course is there under the same name. To the right on that line, there is a link for self-registration. Your Log In name is the same as your Rhodes email ID (e.g., panterj), and the password is your Rhodes R number. You will be promoted once you enroll to change your password. I suggest you use your email password so that it will be easy to remember.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE (Subject to Change!) – Revision #1

Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
8/23	Introduction	--
8/25	Educational Research	Ormrod, ch. 1
8/28	Cognitive Development: Piaget	Ormrod, ch. 2 (Quiz #1)
8/30	Cognitive Development: Vygotsky	Vygotsky, ch. 1-5
9/1	Cognitive Development: Conclusions	
9/4	Labor Day/No Class	
9/6	Social Development	Ormrod, ch. 3
9/8	Social Development continued 1st Paper Assigned	
9/11	Group Differences	Ormrod, ch. 4 (Quiz #2)
9/13	Individual Differences	Ormrod, ch. 5 (Quiz #3)
9/15	Exam #1	
9/18	What is Learning?	Ormrod, ch. 6 (Quiz #4)
9/20	Role of Memory in Learning	
9/22	Knowledge Construction	Ormrod, ch. 7 (Quiz #5)
9/25	Higher-Level Thinking	Ormrod, ch. 8 (Quiz #6)
9/27	Vygotsky & Education	Vygotsky, ch. 6-8
9/29	Behaviorism	Ormrod, ch. 9 (Quiz #7)
10/2	Behaviorism	
10/4	Social Cognitive Perspectives	Ormrod, ch. 10 (Quiz #8)
10/6	Cognitive Theories	
10/9	Cognitive Theories Wrap-up	
10/11	Learning Theories in the Classroom	1st Paper Due
10/13	Exam #2	--
10/16	Fall Recess/No Class	
10/18	Motivation & Affect	Ormrod, ch. 11 (Quiz #9)
10/20	Motivational Factors	--
10/23	Cognitive Factors in Motivation	Ormrod, ch. 12 (Quiz #10)
10/25	Motivation in Today's Schools	--
10/27	<i>Question & Answer; 2nd Paper Assigned</i>	
10/30	Assessment Overview	Ormrod, ch. 15 (Quiz #11)
11/1	Informal Assessment	--
11/3	Formal/Standardized Assessment	Ormrod, ch. 16 (Quiz #12)
11/6	Assessment Conclusions	
11/8	<i>Question & Answer Session; Presentation Assigned</i>	
11/10	Instructional Strategies	Ormrod, ch. 13 (Quiz #13)
11/13	Instructional Strategies	--
11/15	Curriculum & Instruction	
11/17	Curriculum & Instruction	
11/20	Classroom Environments	Ormrod, ch. 14 (Quiz #14)
11/22	Thanksgiving Break/No Class	
11/24	Thanksgiving Break/No Class	
11/27	Classroom Environments	2nd Paper Due
11/29	Group Presentations	
12/1	Group Presentations	
12/4	Group Presentations	
12/6	Final Review	
12/12	1:00 pm – Exam	