

ALD 320: COGNITION, HUMAN LEARNING, AND MOTIVATION

Spring 2019, Unique # 09350

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00PM – 3:30PM, SZB 370

The University of Texas at Austin

Instructor: Veronica Yan (she/her/hers)

Office: SZB 506M

Email: veronicayan@utexas.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays 3:30pm-4:30pm, and
by appointment

Teaching assistant:

Office:

Email: _____

Office hours:

Course objectives

The purpose of this course is to give you a solid foundation in theories of learning and motivation that inform learning and teaching strategies. When you have completed the course, you should be able to:

1. discuss and apply the various theoretical perspectives
2. recognize examples of the theory in everyday instructional practice
3. relate them to yourself as a learner through examples and scenarios
4. relate them to your future professional work even if it's not in education

The semester will be divided into three units:

Unit 1 – Cognition: learning and memory

Unit 2 – Critical thinking, assessment, and socially-based learning

Unit 3 – Motivation and metacognition

Each unit will be evaluated on a separate test and have a set of activities associated with it. You will work individually and in groups throughout the semester.

Website and Communication

This course has a Canvas site associated with it (<http://canvas.utexas.edu/>). Canvas will be used to post announcements, course documents, assignments, supplementary materials, and lecture slides. Canvas allows me to email the whole class and to have announcements and assignment reminders posted to your page, so be on the lookout for messages from us on occasion. Please check which email address is being used by the University for you. If you have problems with computer access, please let me know immediately so we can make other arrangements.

The best way to reach me outside of class is via email. In the email subject title, make sure to include “ALD320”. I try to respond to email as promptly as possible; if 24 hours have passed without a response, please feel free to re-send the message. I would be happy to meet with you individually, so please come talk to me during office hours or make an appointment for another time.

Course Overview

This class heavily relies on team-based learning. As such, you will be assigned to small groups based on your personal interests, preferences, and goals for each unit. Most class days will involve you working in your group to do in-class activities that will expand on the basics from the readings and prepare you for the exams.

It is expected that readings will be completed before the class in which lecture on the topic is scheduled. Reading responses should be submitted by 9am each Tuesday (except for Week 14, where the reading response is due by 9am on Thursday).

On Tuesdays, we will cover the week's content with an interactive lecture, with activities interspersed. Thursdays are generally used to discuss any material not covered the previous class day, do in-class activities that will expand on the basics from the readings and lecture, and review material covered the previous class day. Some class periods will be devoted to more in-depth work on application of theories to class design scenarios.

On occasion, we'll ask you to complete some online surveys that will be used to help us gauge class interest in various topics and activities.

There will also be two application assignments to be completed outside of class for credit. These writing assignments allow you to apply what you have learned. Examples of the types of assignments you may receive include analyzing a classroom scenario, analyzing yourself as a learner, collecting and analyzing peers' reflections on group work, analyzing a video of a classroom, designing a class period, or finding a video that illustrates a unit's topic. You will be given two options for each of the application assignments.

Text

No textbook will be required in this course. However, some students prefer to have a textbook to supplement their learning in the course. Here are is a textbook that cover most of the key concepts that you will be learning:

Human Learning by Jeanne Ormrod

Any edition of the book will be useful, and older editions are likely to cost much less.

Instead of a textbook, all of the assigned readings will be taken from various sources and posted in the "Readings" folder on Canvas.

OUTLINE OF COURSE

Week	Tuesday	Thursday	Application Assignments Due
1 1/22, 1/24	What is learning: activities	Memory 1: Encoding and working memory	
2 1/29, 1/31	Activities: Memory 1	Memory 2: Long-term memory & learning strategies	
3 2/5, 2/7	Activities: Memory 2	Expertise	
4 2/12, 2/14	Activities: Expertise	Unit 1 extension, review, & activities	
5 2/19, 2/21	Unit 1 Exam	Critical thinking & conceptual change	
6 2/26, 2/28	Activities: CT & CC	Assessment & transfer	Application #1 (Tue)
7 3/5, 3/7	Activities: Assessment & transfer	Peer learning	
8 3/12, 3/14	Activities: Peer Learning	Unit 2 Exam	
SPRING BREAK			
9 3/26, 3/28	Needs and goals	Activities: Needs & Goals	Application #2 (Thu)
10 4/2, 4/4	Self-efficacy and value	Activities: Self-efficacy & value	
11 4/9, 4/11	Attributions and mindsets	Activities: Attributions & mindsets	
12 4/16, 4/18	Metacognition	Activities: Metacognition	
13 4/23, 4/25	Unit 3 Exam	Education around the world	
14 4/30, 5/2	Design-a-class	Design-a-guide	
15 5/7, 5/9	Final wrap-up and review	Final Exam	

For Reading Summary deadlines, check your Canvas!

Note: This syllabus is subject to change.

Evaluation

You can demonstrate your efforts and learning in the class and earn credits toward your final grade on a variety of assignments. A total of 400 points will be available throughout the course.

Grades will be distributed according to the following scale:

A:	92.5-100%	370-400 points
A-:	89.5-92%	358-369.5 points
B+:	86.5-89%	346-357.5 points
B:	82.5-86%	330-345.5 points
B-:	79.5-82%	318-329.5 points
C+:	76.5-79%	306-317.5 points
C:	72.5-76%	290-305.5 points
C-:	69.5-72%	278-289.5 points
D:	59.5-69%	238-277.5 points
F:	<59.5%	<237.5 points

IMPORTANT: If you wish to contest the grading of any item, you will be asked to fill out an Item Review Form, which is provided on the course Canvas site.

Please check your point status after each exam or assignment. Please keep your records up to date because **late assignments will not be accepted**. I also recommend that you keep a copy of all group work so that we have a way to verify your work if there are discrepancies.

Reading Responses (5%).

In each week, there will be several assigned readings. You are expected to read the assigned articles for each week before lecture. In addition to reading them, each week, you will also be asked to write a reading response about the content of the articles. Sometimes these reading responses will be due *before* the lecture; sometimes these reading responses will be due *after* the lecture. **Check Canvas for the deadlines!** Reading responses must be completed by 9am each due date. Each of the 10 reading responses will be worth 2 pts, for a total of 20 pts.

There is not a mandatory reading response for the first week, but there is a place where you can write a summary for bonus points.

Why do I have to write reading responses?

1. You will come to class better aware of what you do or don't understand and can be ready to ask questions.
2. You will become an active participant in your learning rather than a passive, empty vessel waiting to be filled.
3. You will be ready to do extension activities in class, and so will learn more and better remember the applications.

In-class activities (10%).

There will be 10 in-class activity opportunities (on Tuesdays in the first half of the semester; on Thursdays after Spring Break). Thinking up and comparing examples and active practice are excellent ways to learn new material. To help you do this, we will have small in-class groups in which you can work cooperatively to generate a set of examples and activities to submit for credit. Each daily set of activities is worth 4 points, for a total of 40 points. These in-class activities assignments should be uploaded to Canvas within 30 minutes of the end of each class.

There will be no make-ups for missed in-class activities. The lowest in-class activity score, however, will be dropped and replaced with a 4.

Group Design-A-Class and Design-a-Guide (12.5%).

These are group assignments at the end of the semester that require application of what we've learned across the course. In the design-a-class, you'll be applying what you've learn to designing a class. In the design-a-guide, you'll be applying what you've learned to designing a guide for incoming freshmen. Points are available only to people in attendance on the application day. Specific instructions for the activity will be given in class the day before the activity day so that students may prepare individually before working together. Each activity is worth 25 points, for a total of 50 points. These design activities should be uploaded to Canvas within 30 minutes of the end of each class.

If you are absent you will have to do the assignment by yourself to get credit. This make-up, individual Design-a-X assignment will be due by Sunday, May 5th at 11:59pm.

Unit exams (45%).

After each unit, there will be a unit exam. Exams will consist of a mix of multiple-choice items and short-answer items. There will be three unit exams (Feb 19, Mar 14, and Apr 23), worth 60 points each, for a total of 180 points.

There are no make-ups for unit exams. If your final exam score is higher than your lowest unit exam score, then your final exam will replace that lowest unit exam score.

Application assignments (12.5%).

There will be two application assignments. These will be out-of-class assignments due on Feb 26th, and Mar 28th. Specific instructions for the application assignment will be made available at least three-weeks in advance of the due date. Examples of the types of assignments you will receive include analyzing a classroom scenario, analyzing yourself as a learner, collecting and analyzing peers' reflections on group work, analyzing a video of a classroom, designing a class period, or finding a video that illustrates a unit's topic. You will be given several options for each of the three application assignment opportunities. Each application assignment is worth 25 points, for a total of 50 points. These application assignments should be submitted to Canvas by 11:59pm of the due dates.

Final exam (15%).

A cumulative final exam will be held in our final class: May 9th. The final exam will be worth 60 points -- it will be the same length as the unit exams. There will be no make up for the final exam. If you know that you will not be able to make it to the final exam, please let the instructor know as soon as possible, and at least fourteen days prior to the scheduled exam.

If you have to miss the final exam due to unforeseen circumstances, please let the instructor know as soon as you can and provide written proof (e.g., medical note, police report). In this case, you may be assigned an Incomplete for the course at the instructor's discretion and if it meets the university criteria for an incomplete. The instructor will determine the exact procedures by which a student will make up the work.

Guidelines for Assignments

Every component of the course, except for the unit exams and final exam will be turned in via Canvas. In other words, the weekly reading responses, in-class activities, group design-a-class, group design-a-guide and application assignments will all need to be submitted to Canvas.

Note that everything uploaded to Canvas will also be automatically checked against Turnitin.com for plagiarism.

There will not be many essay-type assignments, but if you want to cite sources, then we recommend using APA style. For guidance, see https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html

Classroom and University Policies

Statement on Learning Success: Your success in this class is important to me. We will all need accommodations because we all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. I also encourage you to reach out to the student resources available through UT. Many are listed on this syllabus, but I am happy to connect you with a person or Center if you would like.

Services for Students with Disabilities: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. To determine if you qualify, please contact the Dean of Students at 471-6259; TTY 471-4641.

The twelfth class day is February 6th, which is the last day to possibly get a refund if you drop a class.

Religious Holy Day Observance: Religious holy days sometimes conflict with class and examination schedules. If you miss a work assignment or other project due to the observance of a religious holy day you will be given an opportunity to complete the work missed within a reasonable time after the absence. It is the policy of the University of Texas at Austin that you

must notify each of your instructors at least fourteen days prior to the classes scheduled on dates you will be absent to observe a religious holy day.

Non-medical Absences: If you are going to miss class due to an involvement in university activities at the request of University officials (e.g., athletic events), you must notify your instructor at least fourteen days prior to the classes scheduled on dates you will be absent and provide documentation. You will be given an opportunity to complete the work missed within a reasonable time after the absence.

The University of Texas Honor Code: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism: The University defines academic dishonesty as cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to avoid participating honestly in the learning process. Scholastic dishonesty also includes, but is not limited to, providing false or misleading information to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment, and submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor. Scholastic dishonesty damages both the student's learning experience and readiness for the future demands of a work-career. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. For more information on scholastic dishonesty, please visit the Student Judicial services Web site at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>

Personal Pronoun Use: Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

University Resources

The Sanger Learning Center: Did you know that more than one-third of UT undergraduate students use the Sanger Learning Center each year to improve their academic performance? All students are welcome to take advantage of Sanger Center's classes and workshops, private learning specialist appointments, peer academic coaching, and tutoring for more than 70 courses in 15 different subject areas. For more information, please visit <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/slc> or call 512-471-3614 (JES A332).

Title IX Reporting: Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a

learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When sexual misconduct occurs in our community, the university can:

1. Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.
2. Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
3. Investigate and discipline violations of the university's relevant policies.

Faculty members and certain staff members are considered "Responsible Employees" or "Mandatory Reporters," which means that they are required to report violations of Title IX to the Title IX Coordinator. **I am a Responsible Employee and must report any Title IX related incidents** that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with me, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you want to speak with someone for support or remedies without making an official report to the university, email advocate@austin.utexas.edu. For more information about reporting options and resources, visit titleix.utexas.edu or contact the Title IX Office at titleix@austin.utexas.edu.

Safety information: Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.

In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by The University of Texas at Austin Police Department or Fire Prevention Services office. Other important Emergency Information: <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/preparedness/>

Student Safety and Resources

Behavior Concerns Advice Line: 512-232-5050; <https://operations.utexas.edu/units/csas/bcal.php>

UT Counseling & Mental Health Center: 512-471-3515; 24/7 Crisis Line 512-471-2255; <https://www.cmhc.utexas.edu>

SURE Walk: provides walking companions on campus from the hours of 7PM - 2AM, Monday-Sunday, (512) 232-9255; <http://utsg.org/projects/sure-walk>

UT Student Safety website: <https://operations.utexas.edu/units/csas/>