

# EPSY 407 – Adult Learning and Development

[Course Description](#) | [Grading Criteria](#) | [Course Requirements](#) |

## Course Description

EPSY 407 is an educational psychology foundations course that examines perspectives on teaching and learning related to educating adults. By exploring traditional and contemporary theories of learning and of human development, this course entertains a wide perspective of thoroughly researched issues that impact pedagogical practices in adult education. Topics covered include cognitive and behavioral learning, motivation, biological foundations of intelligence, societal context, life-span development, transformation in adulthood, literacy, expert/novice paradigms, personality, stability and change during young adulthood, middle age, and old age, and critical reflection in adult education

[back to top](#)

## Grading Criteria

Criteria	Grade
97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
86-89	B+
83-85	B
80-82	B-
76-79	C+
73-75	C
70-72	C-

[back to top](#)

## Course Requirements

### *Class Participation*

The nature of EPSY 407 requires an extensive amount of class participation. Participation reflects the quality and quantity of your synchronize and asynchronize interactions as well as the way you contribute to the overall course's learning climate. It is, therefore, extremely important that you actively participate during synchronous sessions and asynchronous events.

You are expected to:

- Complete all discussion board activities
- Be an active and regular reader and contributor to the class.
- Make interesting and on target comments and suggestions.
- Offer constructive suggestions and criticism to improve the course learning climate.

- Raise relevant questions and appropriate observations to the topic.
- Participate through a reflection on both your relevant professional experiences and your completed class assignments.
- Challenge the instructor if you have a differing point of view. You, your colleagues, and the instructor will learn from this dialogue.
- Attend and actively participate in ALL synchronous class meetings

### *Position Paper*

In Chapter 4, you were introduced to Malcolm Knowles' concept of *andragogy* as well as some of the critiques of the concept. The 6 assumptions of andragogy are presented on page 84 of the textbook. For this assignment, we ask you to compose a position paper in which you state whether you agree or disagree with each of these six assumptions as well as present evidence for your opinion. You are NOT asked to conduct any research on the concept. Rather, we want you to think about the adult learners you have worked with in the past, and based on these experiences, decide if you agree or disagree. It is important that for each of the six assumptions you 1) take a position of agreement or disagreement and 2) provide evidence for your position. There are NO right or wrong positions -- only positions that are not supported well.

### *Reflection Paper #1*

For this first reflection paper, we are asking that you describe the ways in which each of the 5 traditional learning theories presented in Chapter 11 play or have played a role in your own personal learning. We would like for you to give examples of when you were approaching learning from each of the 5 traditional learning theories. As you think about your examples, also think about some contextual factors as well such as how old you were, the type of situation (i.e., college, work training, high school, etc), and the subject matter. The contextual piece is important to this paper because it may show how your approaches to learning have evolved over time or the ways in which the context influences the learning theory applied. Conclude the paper by discussing what you learned from doing this analysis -- what surprised you?, what didn't surprise you?, what you learned about yourself as a learner.

### *Reflection Paper #2*

In the first reflection paper, you had the opportunity to look at the ways in which the 5 traditional learning theories have influenced your own learning. In this reflection paper, we want you to identify the ways in which you have applied these theories of learning to your own teaching/training activities. Please identify activities you have designed and/or delivered for each of the 5 traditional theories of learning. Be sure to provide enough description of the activity so that we can see how the learning theory is applicable. Conclude the paper by discussing what you learned from doing this analysis -- what surprised you?, what didn't surprise you?, what you learned about yourself as an instructor.

### *Values Identification (The Way Fun Assignment!)*

This assignment aligns with our discussion on Transformative Learning Theory and will provide you with an opportunity to take a look at some of your values and see how closely these align with your behaviors. You have two options for fulfilling this assignment.

### *Option 1: Design a Tattoo*

I think tattoos are very powerful ways to learn about yourself -- your values, beliefs, norms, and attitudes. I actually have 4 myself and am in the process of working on a full back piece. Because a tattoo is permanent, it requires a lot of pre-planning and thought to pick one that truly reflects who you are. If you pick this option, we want you to design a tattoo or find an existing design that reflects your values, beliefs, norms, and attitudes. All of my tattoos reflect my Native American heritage and the values associated with this identity. After you find or design your tattoo, we ask that you answer the following questions (remember that the tattoo needs to be submitted with the paper):

1. What first attracted you to this design?
2. What are your values, beliefs, norms, and/or attitudes that this design reflects?
3. Which of your behaviors are presently NOT aligning with the values, beliefs, norms, and/or attitudes you feel are reflected in the design?
4. What steps can you take to better align your behaviors with the values, beliefs, norms, and/or attitudes reflected in the design?

### *Option 2: Name That Tune!*

Music is another way that I believe we learn about ourselves. We all have that one song that is "our" song. It's the song that makes us think about our lives and what's really important in our lives. For me, it's Barbara Mandrell's "I Was Country When Country Wasn't Cool." I was the one that was always getting teased for liking country music. But, that's who I was and still am. I love all kinds of music and have many favorite songs but this is my song. If you choose this option, we want you to find "your" song. After you find your song, we ask that you answer the following questions (remember that the lyrics need to be submitted with your paper which you can easily find online):

1. What first attracted you to this song?
2. What are your values, beliefs, norms, and/or attitudes that this song reflects?
3. Which of your behaviors are presently NOT aligning with the values, beliefs, norms, and/or attitudes you feel are reflected in the song?
4. What steps can you take to better align your behaviors with the values, beliefs, norms, and/or attitudes reflected in the song?

### *Demographic Profile*

For this assignment, you are asked to investigate a particular segment of the American population of your choice. This might be people of color, individuals with disabilities, the aging, high school drop-outs, or any other group of your choosing. For the segment of the population you select, please provide the following information.

1. Current relevant statistical data
2. Projected growth data for the next 3, 5, and/or 10 years
3. Current needs and challenges as well as current and future contributions
4. Implications for and applications of adult learning theory and practices within the context of work and/or education.
  - a. Which theories and practices are applicable and why?
  - b. Which theories and practices may not be effective why?
  - c. Which theories of adult development are applicable and why?

## *Annotated Bibliography*

This assignment will give you the opportunity to discover how theories of learning are applied and further developed through research. You are asked to develop an annotated bibliography that consists of five entries. In order to complete this assignment, complete the following steps.

1. Identify one theory of learning that interests you the most.
2. Using one or more of the Social Science databases in the Education and Social Science Library (Education Full-Text and PsychINFO are likely to be the best), identify five research studies that have used the selected learning theory as the theoretical framework for the study. The articles should have been published within the last 10 years. If possible, try to stick with articles that have examined the same or related population across all five.
3. For each article, write an annotation that includes the following. Keep in mind that a good annotation is approximately one paragraph in length and provides a succinct summary of the article. However, it is more than simply copying the abstract!
  - a. Full APA reference of the article
  - b. The problem the research was attempting to address
  - c. The purpose of the research study
  - d. Description of the each study's participants
  - e. Summary of the findings
4. After you have completed the five annotations, please summarize your insights by answering the following questions:
  - a. What new knowledge has been gained related to how the theory works as a result of these five studies? (What do we know now that we didn't know before?)
  - b. What are three future studies that should be conducted in order that further understanding of the theory can be expanded? (What do we still need to know about the theory?)
  - c. What has been learned about how individuals learn as a result of the use of this theory that would not have been uncovered by another theory?

[back to top](#)