

**Columbia College**  
**Approaches to Learning (HSPD151)**  
**Lecture 1**  
**Course Outline**

Semester Dates: March 12, 2018 to April 14, 2018

Please note that when a holiday falls during the week, your class will be rescheduled for the Friday of that week. Students are required to make arrangements to be present at the rescheduled class.

Facilitator: Raisa Alarakya, *M.Ed.*

Email: [raisaa@columbia.ab.ca](mailto:raisaa@columbia.ab.ca)

Class Time: 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM (Tue./Thur.)

Room: 805-114

Credit: 3

Prerequisite: None

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Note: It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the information contained in the Course Outline and to clarify any areas of concern with the facilitator.

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to help students gain an understanding of the learning process. The course will focus on helping students to understand how children learn. Emphasis will be placed upon learning modalities and styles. There will also be an examination of theories of child development, behavioural, cognitive, and social approaches, teaching and learning, intelligence, socio-cultural diversity, exceptionalities, and motivating students to learn. Prerequisite: None

**Learning Outcomes:**

As a result of active participation in these sessions, a student can expect to:

- Identify and discuss different ways that students learn.
- Develop an understanding of how individuals develop cognitively, physically, emotionally, and socially and how these aspects work together to impact behavior and learning.
- Identify how educators can accommodate for the diversity of students in an educational setting.
- Describe how educational research in the areas of behavioral, cognitive, and constructivist perspectives of learning and motivation can enhance educational practice.
- Understand and evaluate various learner centered approaches to planning and instruction.
- Define student motivation and identify factors that influence it.
- Begin to develop an understanding of assessment instruments and their interpretations.
- Identify the attitudes and skills of effective instruction.
- Understand, compare, and evaluate various cooperative learning approaches.
- Identify the stages of cognitive development and adjust approaches to learning accordingly.
- Identify strategies to improve learner's social skills and prosocial behaviours.
- Describe, analyze, and compare learning and thinking styles.
- Understand and explain the concepts and theories of intelligence.

## Course Format:

This course uses a variety of teaching/learning methods including discussion, personal reflection, experiential exercises, student presentations, role-plays, group activities and especially case studies. Our faculty aims to create a learning environment where the learner is actively engaged in inquiry, critical thinking and problem solving. The classroom provides you with a place where you can learn with and from others in a cooperative and collaborative manner.

You are expected to take a very active part in class discussions and take responsibility for your own learning. Be a positive and co-operative team member. Columbia College uses a facilitation model of instruction where the facilitator's role is to facilitate your learning. The expectation is that you will come to class prepared with pre-class homework completed. Your facilitator will engage you in activities that are based on your completed homework and readings. Your enthusiastic and positive approach in the classroom will create an atmosphere that will help every student develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes that are needed for success.

How you conduct yourself in our classes will, to a large extent, mirror your conduct in society and your future work site. For example, if you have a tendency to ask questions, challenge the ideas of others in a respectful manner, draw out the best from your colleagues, and encourage both group development and task accomplishment in this class, it is likely you will do the same at work. A high level of student involvement and developing professionalism is expected in the classroom as you work towards your goal.

## Required Textbooks and Equipment:

Woolfolk, A., Winne, P. H., & Perry, N. E. (2015). *Educational Psychology, Sixth Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Pearson Education Canada.

*Making A Difference: Meeting diverse learning needs with differentiated instruction*. Government of Alberta Education (2010).

Haig, J., MacMillan, V., & Raikes, G. (2017). *Cites & Sources; an APA document guide (5th ed.)*. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education Ltd.

## Recommended Readings and Resources:

*Students may access this source from the College and from home.*

GALE InfoTrac Custom Journals

- o <http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/calg145?db=SP00>  
Password: cclibrary09

Also, use other academic sources like Google Scholar.

*Further Recommended Readings and Resources:*

N/A

## Homework Assignment Due for the First Class:

1. Read this course outline and be prepared to discuss in class.
2. Read Chapter 1 (Educational Psychology) and Chapter 1 (Making A Difference).
3. As a result of your reading assignment, write down at least three (3) questions that you would find beneficial to discuss in class.
4. Prepare for a test on the assigned readings.

## Evaluation - Assessment of Student Performance:

The final grade in the course will be based on the following elements. Wherever possible facilitators will use rubrics to assess your performance and offer feedback.

Title of Assignment/Examination	Due Date	Weight
Daily Tests	Daily, Classes 1 through 9	30%
Assignment 1	Class 6	20%
Assignment 2	Class 9	20%
Final Exam	Class 10	30%

Please note that all homework and assignments are due at the beginning of each class. You must submit both assignments, and write the final exam in order to pass the course.

## Grading:

Grades for each component will be added together at the end of the semester. The final total will be translated to the Columbia College's 4.0 grading scale as follows:

### Marking and Grading Conversion:

Description	Letter Grade	Grade Points	Percentage Scale	
Excellent	A+	4.0	100	95
	A	4.0	94	90
	A-	3.7	89	85
Good	B+	3.3	84	80
	B	3.0	79	75
	B-	2.7	74	70
Satisfactory	C+	2.3	69	65
	C	2.0	64	60
	C-	1.7	59	55
Poor	D	1.0	54	50
Failure	F	0.0	49	0

Please note that to pass this course you must earn at least a "D" (a minimal pass).

## Submission and Completion of Assignments:

You are expected to submit assignments by the due date. Any late assignments may be assessed a marking penalty of 5% per day. If you are unable to submit an assignment on the due date, you must request an extension **before** the due date by filling out an *Application for Assignment Extension form (SSPP-F012)* that is to be submitted to the Department Chair for approval. This form is available on Columbia's website, Bldg. 802 – Main Office and from Department Chairs.

### **Requesting an Examination Deferral:**

If you are requesting an exam to be deferred, you must submit an Application for *Deferred Examinations form (SSPP-F012)* to the Department Chair **within 48 hours of the missed examination date and time**. Applications for deferred examinations will only be considered due to medical or personal emergency. A medical certificate or other appropriate documentation may be required. This form is available on Columbia's website, Bldg. 802-Main Office and from Department Chairs.

### **Attendance Requirements:**

Columbia College believes that students are committed to their program and learning experiences. However, it is understood that there are times when students may be absent. Any absences can be viewed as a potentially serious disruption of the learning process and necessary achievement of the learning objectives. Being late is also considered unacceptable as it interferes with the learning opportunities of others. Unavoidable absences or lateness must be reported to the course facilitator in advance. Please refer to Columbia College's *Attendance Policy and Regulations (ADM-P151)* for detailed information on Attendance Requirements.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from Columbia College.

There is no tolerance for academic dishonesty and any student caught plagiarizing is subject to serious sanctions as outlined in the *Student Code of Conduct Policy (ADM-P229)*. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with this policy and avoid any behavior that could possibly be seen as cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting, or putting into question the integrity of one's academic work.

### **Student Conduct:**

It is the responsibility of each student to uphold the expectations and responsibilities outlined in the *Student Code of Conduct Policy (ADM-P229)* and any additional requirements established by your program.

Generally, each student will:

- be respectful and courteous toward others;
- demonstrate appropriate and supportive communication skills, and coach, assist, advise and otherwise support other students in their studies;
- manage any personal stress and conflict in a positive and resourceful manner, and assist others to do the same;
- be dressed in a manner appropriate for their workplace or learning environment, as established by the program;
- conduct themselves in a professional manner with regard to their communication with others and their behavior in class;
- conduct themselves with academic integrity in all of their learning activities, tests, exams, and assignments
- Keep up with day-to-day classroom and course expectations.

## Important Dates:

<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
Last to add/drop courses	5 school operating days from the start of the semester OR before the third scheduled class, whichever is greater
Last day to withdraw without academic penalty	50% or less of the semester has been completed
Final Examination	A final exam may take many formats. If a final exam is scheduled, it will be taken in an assigned room under the supervision of a Test Proctor. <u>Students must be on time as they will not be permitted to enter once the exam has started.</u> Exam schedules are available in each building on a bulletin board, as well as, online at <a href="http://www.columbia.ab.ca/exams">www.columbia.ab.ca/exams</a> . <u>It is the student's responsibility to check this exam posting.</u>

## Appeals:

Please refer to the *Student Appeal Policy (ADM-P177)*.

## Students with Temporary or Permanent Disabilities or Medical Conditions:

Students with temporary or permanent disabilities or Medical Conditions may apply for accommodations. To be considered for an accommodation, a student must register with Columbia College's Accessibility Services by making an appointment with an Accessibility Services Advisor – Main Office – Bldg. 802 or emailing [accessibilityservices@columbia.ab.ca](mailto:accessibilityservices@columbia.ab.ca). The Department Chair or facilitator is not able to provide you with any accommodations without you taking this step. Please refer to Columbia College's website to review *the Student Accommodation Policy (ADM-P188)* and *Student Guide to Accessibility Services (SSCM-001)*.

## Student Support:

Students should be aware that Life Coaching, Career and Accessibility Services, and Student Support Services (i.e. tutoring, academic strategists, etc.) are provided by Columbia College. Inquire how to request these services at the Main Office in building 802. It is the student's responsibility to discuss their specific learning needs with the appropriate service provider.

## Class Schedule/Overview:

Please note that this schedule is subject to change. Any changes or cancellations will be emailed to you. It is your responsibility to check the email address you have given to the school on a daily basis for any messages from the Department Chair/designate, facilitator or College Administration. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the information contained in the Course Outline and to clarify any areas of concern with the facilitator.

Class Session	Topics	Pre-Class Readings
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions</li> <li>• Introduce Course Outline and Text</li> <li>• Discuss Class Assignments</li> <li>• Learning, Teaching, and Educational Psychology</li> <li>• Differentiated Instruction: An Introduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Educational Psychology</i> Chapters 1</li> <li>• <i>Making A Difference</i> Chapter 1</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cognitive Development</li> <li>• Self and Social and Moral Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Educational Psychology</i> Chapters 2 &amp; 3</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learner Differences and Learning Needs</li> <li>• Developing Learner Profiles</li> <li>• Differentiated Learning Experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Educational Psychology</i> Chapters 4, <i>Making A Difference</i> Chapter 3 &amp; 5</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language Development, Language Diversity, and Immigrant Education</li> <li>• Culture and Diversity</li> <li>• English Language Learners (ELL)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Educational Psychology</i> Chapters 5 &amp; 6</li> <li>• <i>Making a Difference</i> Chapter 9</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral Views of Learning</li> <li>• Cognitive Views of Learning</li> <li>• Complex Cognitive Processes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Educational Psychology</i> Chapters 7, 8, &amp; 9</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Learning Sciences and Constructivism</li> <li>• Leveraging Technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment 1 due</li> <li>• <i>Educational Psychology</i> Chapter 10</li> <li>• <i>Making a Difference</i> Chapter 6</li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Cognitive Views of Learning and Motivation</li> <li>• Motivation in Learning and Teaching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Educational Psychology</i> Chapters 11 &amp; 12</li> </ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating Learning Environments</li> <li>• Teaching Every Student</li> <li>• A School wide Approach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Educational Psychology</i> Chapter 13 &amp; 14</li> <li>• <i>Making a Difference</i> Chapter 7</li> </ul>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classroom Assessment, Grading and Testing</li> <li>• Differentiated Assessment</li> <li>• Review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment 2 due</li> <li>• <i>Educational Psychology</i> Chapter 15</li> <li>• <i>Making A Difference</i> Chapter 4</li> </ul>
10	<b><i>Final Exam – 3 hrs.</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Review all chapters</i></li> </ul>

## Appendix 1 Assignment Outlines

### Tests

**Due Date: Each class from classes 1 through 9.**

**Weight: 30%**

Students will be expected to read the assigned chapters in the text and other assigned readings and be prepared to write a graded test based on these reading assignments.

### Assignment 1: Reflect on an Educational Theory

**Due Date: Class 6**

**Weight: 20%**

Students will be required to create a visually appealing, one-page handout summarizing the theory of one of the educational theorists below:

- Jean Piaget
- Lev Vygotsky
- Howard Gardner
- B.F. Skinner
- Albert Bandura
- Jerome Bruner

In addition to the handout, students will also be complete a reflection based on the following ideas:

- a) Compare and contrast the ideas of two different theorists and explain why you picked this particular theory
  - b) Detail the importance of learning about these educational theories
  - c) Reflect on your experience of this assignment
- **Format:** This assignment should be typed and double-spaced. Do not include title pages. Include your name at the top of each page. A minimum of one inch margins on each side. 12 point Times New Roman font is preferred. The reflection should be a minimum length of 500 words but is not to exceed 750 words.

Students will be evaluated according to the attached rubric: Reflect on an Educational Theory Rubric

### Assignment 2: Analysis of a Case Study

**Due Date: Class 9**

**Weight: 20%**

Students will read over the following case studies and will then be required to choose **one** to complete a case study analysis using the following questions as a guide:

- Identify the main issue/problem/key ideas
- Provide an analysis and interpretation of the issue
- Draw a clear conclusion and identify implications
- Demonstrate problem solving skills by showing what your responsibility as an EA could be in this situation
- Show a strong working knowledge and understanding of Educational Psychology.

Students will be assessed using the attached Analysis of a Case Study Rubric and are required to support their analysis with evidence from both of the class texts.

### Writing Assignment Expectations:

- **Objective:** The objective of this writing assignment is to critically apply concepts, ideas, and procedures to facilitate higher level learning. The assignments are designed so students can demonstrate the depth of knowledge related to the course content.
- **Focus:** This assignment is designed to apply knowledge from the chapters and class discussions.

- **Format:** This assignment should be typed and double-spaced. Do not include title pages. Include your name at the top of each page. A minimum of one inch margins on each side. 12 point Times New Roman font is preferred. Each assignment should have a minimum length of 500 words but is not to exceed 750 words.

### **Case Study 1:**

Jack is 7 years old and in mainstream school.

He has difficulties understanding language, particularly:

- Long and complex sentences
- Certain words, particularly relating to the language of time and position words such as in front, behind, next to
- Difficulty understanding the meaning of new words and making links between words, for example knowing that 'short' and 'tall' are opposites
- Poor listening skills and a tendency to become distracted

He has difficulties using language and so:

- He struggles to find the right words to say what he wants
- He uses shorter sentences than other children of his age, and cannot always make himself understood
- He enjoys socializing at playtime but does not always understand the rules of games therefore does not always join in in the right way

When Jack is in the classroom, he sits near to the front of the class, facing the teacher. This helps him to focus his attention on the teacher, and it helps her to see when he does not understand the task. The teacher uses frequent gesture when teaching to help keep Jack focused and to give him extra clues about what he is learning. If she wants him to respond to a question or instruction, the teacher always says his name first so that he knows to listen.

Jack is able to understand the routines of the day by following the visual timetable that is up in the classroom. The visual timetable is a timetable of pictures and words that clearly shows the events of the day in the order that they will happen. Each part can be moved so that any changes in the day can be pointed out.

Jack knows what the targets for learning are as they are clearly shown on the whiteboard. What can you do as an EA to support Jack within and outside of the classroom?

### **Case Study 2:**

Chris is an educational assistant in a large middle school. Chris was working with the grade eight students playing a game with five students, each with different exceptionalities. The students were playing a game similar to Trivial Pursuit that tested their knowledge on key facts that they would need for their upcoming test. An argument broke out between two students about who was going to start first. Soon after that, two students got up and left the group. If you were Chris in this situation, what would you do?

### **Final Exam**

**Due Date: Class 10**

**Weight: 30%**

Students will be required to write a multiple choice final exam covering the content of classroom learning and both assigned texts.



**Appendix 2  
Assignment Rubrics**

**Columbia College  
Reflect on an Educational Theory Rubric  
Last Revised: January 22, 2018**

<b>Student's Name</b>	<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Facilitator/Evaluator's Name</b>			<b>Score</b>
<b>Skills</b>	<b>10-9</b>	<b>8-7</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>4-3</b>	<b>2-1</b>	
<b>Depth of Understanding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrates a conscious and thorough understanding of the theory chosen.</li> <li>Demonstrates excellent insightful reflection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrates a thoughtful understanding of the theory chosen.</li> <li>Demonstrates good reflection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrates a basic understanding of the theory.</li> <li>At times, information is not always clear.</li> <li>Demonstrates satisfactory reflection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrates a limited understanding of the theory.</li> <li>Needs to develop more effective reflective practice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrates little or no understanding of the theory.</li> <li>Response is not clearly written.</li> <li>Limited to no reflection demonstrated.</li> </ul>	
<b>Use of examples and details to support points being made</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses specific and convincing examples and details making the handout insightful.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses relevant examples and details to create a good handout.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses some examples and details to support points being made. More examples, details and explanation needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses incomplete or vaguely developed examples and/or details. More examples, details, and explanation needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No examples or details to support points being made. Limited attempt.</li> </ul>	
<b>Cohesiveness of Response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This reflection provides a clear picture of the student's thinking on this subject matter.</li> <li>Thoughts are presented in a good logical, convincing order.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This reflection gives a good understanding of the student's thinking on this subject matter.</li> <li>Thoughts are usually presented in a clear and logical way.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most of the time this reflection provides an acceptable indication of the student's thinking on this subject matter.</li> <li>Most of the time thoughts are presented in a sequential manner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This attempted reflection does not provide a clear picture of the student's thinking on this subject matter.</li> <li>Thoughts are often presented in an inconsistent and illogical order.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This response is confusing and ideas do not tie together.</li> </ul>	
<b>Presentation</b>	5	4	3	2	1	
<b>Professional Presentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professionally presented, meeting all requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mostly professionally presented, meeting most requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Satisfactory presentation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lacks adequate professional presentation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not presented professionally.</li> </ul>	

**Total Score out of 35:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

**Columbia College**  
**Analysis of Case Study Rubric**  
 Last Revised: December 8, 2017

<b>Student's Name</b>	<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Facilitator/Evaluator's Name</b>		
<b>Area</b>	<b>10.0 – 7.0</b>	<b>6.9 – 5.0</b>	<b>4.9 – 3.5</b>	<b>3.4 - 0</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Identification of main issue/problem/ key ideas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly identifies the main issue/problem and summary of key ideas. Provides a clear position statement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly identifies the main issue/problem and summary of most key ideas.</li> <li>Provides a relatively clear position statement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies the main/problem and some key ideas, but the statements are not clear.</li> <li>Provides a vague position statement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unable to identify the main issue/problem and key ideas.</li> <li>Doesn't identify own position.</li> <li>Identifies some irrelevant ideas.</li> </ul>	
<b>Quality of analysis and interpretation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides a comprehensive, insightful analysis and interpretation of the issue.</li> <li>Draws clear conclusions and identifies implications.</li> <li>Demonstrates excellent problem solving skills.</li> <li>Supports main ideas with a range of varied, timely and relevant references.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides very good analysis and interpretation of the issue.</li> <li>Draws most conclusions and identifies most implications.</li> <li>Identifies original and well developed solution/strategies, demonstrating effective problem solving skills.</li> <li>Provides sufficient</li> <li>Uses relevant, timely and varied sources to convince.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides partial analysis and interpretation. Issue needs further exploration.</li> <li>Draws a few conclusions and identifies some implications.</li> <li>Provides some solution/strategies, showing limited problem solving skills.</li> <li>Uses limited resources that are not well selected to support the response.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analysis and interpretation is limited.</li> <li>Conclusions and implications of the issue are missing.</li> <li>Unable to provide solution/strategies. Lacks problem solving skills.</li> <li>Lacks fundamental resources to write an effective response.</li> <li>Inadequate reference support.</li> </ul>	
	<b>5</b>	<b>4 - 3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1 - 0</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Mechanics, Grammar, Professional Format</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mainly error free.</li> <li>Meets all requirements for an excellent response.</li> <li>Meets all case study written requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A few minor errors in usage, grammar, or mechanics.</li> <li>Meets most requirements for a well written response.</li> <li>Meets most case study written requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frequent errors in usage, grammar, and mechanics, beginning to interfere with readability and meaning.</li> <li>Meets a few requirements of an acceptable response.</li> <li>Meets a few case study written requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numerous errors in usage, grammar, and mechanics, affecting the readability and meaning of the paper</li> <li>Does not meet requirements for an acceptable response.</li> <li>Does not adequately meet any case study written requirements.</li> </ul>	

**Plagiarism: A "0" grade will be given to a paper where significant sections of the paper were copied from other, unattributed sources.**

**Total Score out of 25:**

**Facilitator/Evaluator's Comments:**