

EDUC 2130 Spring 2012 Syllabus

Vicki Walker

Conger 303

Instructor: Vicki Walker
Office: Conger 303
Email address: vwalker@abac.edu
Office Hours: 11:00-12:00 M-F
3:15-4:30 M-R Other times by appointment

Required text: Eggen and Kauchak. (2010). Educational Psychology (8th ed.). Pearson.

What this course is about:

This course is primarily intended for people who are considering a career in education, but it is also very appropriate for those planning to work in other professions dealing with people, such as medicine, law, or even sales. It is a course for anyone who wants to know more about how people (including themselves) learn, develop, and are motivated. Therefore, we will be studying the psychology of education very broadly. Teachers educate, but so do doctors, nurses, therapists, good salesmen, and, of course, parents. In this course, you will read about, discuss, and investigate theories, ideas, and research that address the following key questions:

1. How have I myself learned in and outside of school, and how do I learn most effectively?
2. How do personal factors (e.g., motivation, family and cultural background, temperament, and learning preferences, prior knowledge and experiences) impact people's learning in various educational settings?
3. How do instructional practices and structures impact people's learning in various settings?
4. How do other factors in the learning environment impact learning in various settings?
5. How may I use this knowledge as a future professional to inform my professional planning and decision-making so as to maximize learning of all types in all students or clients.

Your role:

You will be doing a lot of reading, assignments, and in-class activities during this course. In all of them, try to understand what you hear and read, but also try to think about what you hear and read and ask questions. Agree, disagree, but connect your experiences to other things you have heard or

read both in this class and in your own life. Share your thinking in discussions or journals and don't be afraid to express yourself. I want the class to be a safe place for sharing ideas; and as long as we respect others' rights to disagree, we should be able to have some good conversations.

Expect:

- readings. We will be covering 8 or 9 chapters in depth and you will be expected to read them.
- to participate. Your class participation will be reflected in your grade. Everyone will be called upon.
- journal assignments. You will be asked to write about ideas we discuss or experiences you have had.
- pop tests. If students are not participating or if I feel readings have not been done, pop tests may result.
- exams. In addition to quizzes, several big tests-midterm and final- will be given.

Midterm and final exams will be multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay. Pop tests and in-class activities may not be made up if you are not in class when they are given. If you miss class on a day that we do a class activity, you will miss the points for that day with the exception of ABAC pre-approved absences. Have someone bring your assignment in for you or email it to me to avoid being late. Late assignments lose 10 points each day they are not turned in.

Grades:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D (If you make a D, you must retake the class. All area F classes require a C or higher.)
Below 60	F

Your grades for this class will be averaged this way:

Midterm and final	65 %
Journals, quizzes	15 %
Participation, projects	20 %

Absences

Attendance and participation are very important. On your 4th absence, you will be warned of your precarious standing. On your 5th absence, you will be given an F for the course. If you are representing ABAC in some way, exceptions will be made if your supervisor sends an email notifying me of your participation in an ABAC event. Three incidents of coming late to class or leaving early will equal an absence. If you are late to class, remind me at the end of class to change your absence to a tardy; failure to notify me may result in your being counted absent for that day. If you are absent when an assignment is due you must turn the assignment in on the day you return.

Attendance policy:

More than 4 absences =Failure. _____

(Sign here to indicate that you have read this policy.)

Cell phones, pagers, headphones, and other such devices should not be audible or visible. Five points may be deducted from your participation grade when class is interrupted by one of these devices.

(Sign here to indicate that you have read this policy.)

If you need to withdraw from a class, do so by February 29 at 4:30. It is your responsibility to initiate this process. A student who stops attending class without officially withdrawing from the course is subject to the instructor's attendance policy and will receive a grade of F for the course.

Helpful rules for EDUC 2130:

1. Complete field experience hours as agreed upon with the site-based teacher/s and participating organization. During field experiences, represent yourself and ABAC in positive ways.

Rationale: Teachers are busy and plan you into their schedules. Failing to follow policies will give you a negative name within the school. You do not want potential employers to remember your lack of following instructions or lack of professionalism.

2. Come to class on time.

Rationale: There is no tolerance in the school system for irresponsible teachers. Latecomers in this class are a distraction to your instructor and others.

3. Do not bring phones, I-pods or other electronic devices to class.

Rationale: This is distracting and disrespectful to classmates and instructor. You are presenting the picture that you do not care about your education. You will be warned on the first instance, and you will lose participation points. Continued disregard of class policies may result in your being removed from the class.

4. Be respectful of others. Do not talk while others are talking.

Rationale: Rude and immature behavior is not appropriate for future teachers. You are distracting classmates and your instructor.

5. Actively participate in class. Do not sleep or do homework for other classes.

Rationale: This class requires discussion and group participation. You will benefit more from this class if you are fully attentive.

6. Bring all books, notebooks, and required materials every day.

Rationale: You must always be prepared because this is the essence of being a teacher. You will participate in different class activities that require your materials.

7. Do not bring food to class.

Rationale: Food is distracting to you and your classmates, and the noise of candy, gum, and food wrappers is disruptive.

Failure to follow the rules of EDUC 2130 will result in penalties to your grade.

GACE Basic Skills Test:

GACE (Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators): One of the teacher certification requirements in Georgia is passing a basic skills exam. The Praxis I or PPST was used until summer 2006. Beginning in fall 2006 the GACE Basic Skills Test replaced Praxis I. For details, go to the Professional Standards Commission website: <http://www.gace.nesinc.com/index.asp>. To check future test dates you can access the website. Cost is \$20 registration fee, plus \$25 for each of the three components (reading, writing, and math) of the Basic Skills Test= \$95. You can take all three parts at once or you may want to take two tests on one date, and the third on another date.

Important!!! The Praxis I or GACE Basic Skills Test must be exempted or passed for admission to Teacher Education programs in the University System. Check with your transfer institution to see which assessment they require. Failure to sign up, take, and pass the tests will delay your acceptance into Teacher Education programs. Praxis I passing scores are:

Reading-176; Math-176; Writing-174: Composite 526. GACE Basic Skills Test passing scores, when determined, will be posted on the Professional Standards Commission website. Passing scores are required in each of the three areas of the Basic Skills Test. A scaled score of 220 is required to pass a

test; the scaled score is not reported if the student passed, but is shown if the student did not pass one of the areas.

Exemptions: Praxis I or the GACE Basic Skills Test may be exempted if high enough scores are obtained on the SAT, ACT or GRE. Exemptions scores are as follows: SAT exemptions: minimum combined verbal and mathematics score of 1000; GRE exemption: minimum combined verbal and quantitative score of 1030; ACT exemption: minimum combined English and mathematics score of 43.

NOTE: You might want to consider taking the SAT or ACT to try to exempt the GACE Basic Skills Test since those tests are somewhat less expensive and can be taken on the ABAC campus. Talk with Dr. Maggie Martin in the ABAC Student Development Center about registering for the SAT or ACT; testing dates can be viewed at

<http://www.abac.edu/studentdevelopment/RegentsExam/Testing%20Schedule.htm>

Criminal Records Check: Many local school systems require that persons working in schools on a regular basis must have a criminal records check. All students enrolled in the course must complete this in order to be placed in a school to observe young students. Students must go to the Tifton Police Department, 527 Commerce Way, and ask to have a basic records check. You will need to provide the police department with your Social Security Number and \$3.00. You will be given a completed verification form, which must be shown to the instructor before you begin field experiences. Ability to proceed in the course will be determined on a case by case basis for students whose criminal record check does not come back clean.

A note about professionalism....

You will be representing yourself, as well as ABAC, in the area schools. You will be viewed by the children as a teacher. As such, you should begin to think of yourself as a professional. Your actions in and outside of class, in and outside of the school system, and in and outside of the public can help or harm you. As a teacher, you will be scrutinized. Think before you act. Think before you speak.

Guidelines for Observing in Schools:

1. Arrive on time. DO NOT enter a class after it has begun, or leave before it is over. (This does not apply to primary, self-contained classrooms.) Enter and leave quietly.
2. On the first day of observation report to the office, introduce yourself, and state your purpose for being there. Wear your ABAC identification; the school may issue you a nametag as well.
3. Ask about parking, then park where you are told.

4. Dress professionally. Slacks, blouses, and skirts or dresses for females; jeans, sport shirts or golf shirts for males. NO T-SHIRTS, NO HATS, NO SHORTS. Low necklines, exposed abdomens, and low-riding pants create very negative impressions in local schools. Dress like a teacher, not like a student!
5. After the first day, always sign in at the office, both on the school form and on the ABAC form which will be kept at the school.
6. On the first day, give your introductory letter to the teacher and write down his/her email address. Ask where to sit. Send each teacher's email address, name, school name, and county to your ABAC instructor.
7. Participate in the classroom activity if you are invited to do so by the teacher.
8. Take notes on the environment and classroom activities; comment on all aspects of the setting, including situations you do not understand or would like to discuss.
- 9 Students will submit a journal entry for each hour of observation.

Midterm advisory grades:

Students with a C, D, or F will be notified at midterm of their grade. The instructor may notify the students individually, or the grades may be posted on Banner Web along with the number of absences incurred at that time. These are advisory grades only and do not necessarily reflect the final grade in the course. The purpose of this notification is to give students information to improve their performance in the second half of the semester. Plans may include forming study groups, meeting with the instructor, visiting the AAC for tutoring, etc.

Learning Disabilities:

Any student with a documented learning disability may be eligible for special accommodations. Please see your instructor to make sure you receive the help you need.

