EPSY 2010: How People Learn

Fall 2025 Section 001

# Instructor

Dr. Max K Sherard

# Course Description

This course examines human learning across the multiple contexts of our daily lives, especially those outside of school. This course will consider the role of social context and culture in shaping learning processes; the various ways learning is demonstrated; and the ways people engage with/in disciplinary

practices in their daily lives.

# Course Prerequisites

None

# Course Goals

Course goals are focused on exploring four primary questions:

1. What is 'learning' and what does it mean 'to learn'? How do we know when someone has learned something?
2. What is 'knowledge' and what does it mean 'to know'? How do we know when someone knows something?
3. How are learning and knowing shaped by the context in which teaching, learning, and knowing occur?
4. What is smartness? What does it mean to be intelligent? Who "gets" to be "smart"/"intelligent"?

To address these questions, students will come to understand multiple theories of knowledge, learning, and assessment. Students will study historical theories, expand those theories with more recent updates from ongoing research, and apply those expanded understandings to analyze real world data of learning in action.

# Course Texts

None. All course readings will be provided via Canvas.

# Learning Activities and Assignments

In addition to course readings and class activities, the instructor will use the following graded learning activities as indicators of progress and understanding over the duration of the semester. These primary activities are described briefly below. Additional details will be provided at the beginning of the semester and/or prior to each assignment due date. All assignments will be submitted through Canvas or in class.

* 20% Class Preparation & Learning Community Participation
* 20% Modeling Learning Assignments
* 20% K12 Autobiography Assignments
* 20% Observations of Learning
* 20% Analysis of and Reflection on Learning Arrangement “in the Wild”

If a student wishes to know the instructor’s assessment of their participation and current understanding, they are encouraged to seek a conference. The instructor will notify any student if there is a concern regarding their participation.

# Course Topics

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| Part | Weeks | Topic |
| 0 | 1-2 | Course Introduction  |
| 1 | 3-5 | Past and Present Theories of Knowledge, Learning, and Assessment |
| 2 | 6-11 | Deepening Theories of Knowledge, Learning, and Assessment |
| 3 | 12-16 | Applying our Theories of Knowledge, Learning, and Assessment  |