# IND-1208A
# Learning Theories with Common Core in Mind
# Course Syllabus

- **Instructor: Dr. Maryam Torbati**
- **Number of Credits/Units: 3 Semester Credits/Units**
- **Format: Online Self-Paced Course**

## Course Description:

This online course is an introduction to the important classical treatments of the nature of learning. As such, it covers some of the most influential psychological thinking of the 20th and 21st Centuries. In part, the course will deal with learning theories as they relate to Common Core, and the history of psychological thought, because to study the past leads to an appreciation of the present and an anticipation of the future. In large measure we will concentrate on intellectual and theoretical issues, but we will have to be sensitive to considerations of empirical research verification. And even though the course emphasizes theoretical matters, there is the hope that we will also gain insights into practical applications. We will assume that relatively permanent behavioral change is the hallmark of learning, and, therefore, by studying the independent and dependent variables of learning, we might come to understand the dynamics of human development, therapeutic modification, educational achievement, and other significant forms of behavioral change.

Finland knows more about how to build effective schools than the US does, and they use Learning Theories and American education research. Almost all education research takes place in the US, and American schools can't seem to learn from any of it — and yet Finnish people do. According to Sahlberg, the most influential figure behind Finland's achievements in education is the American philosopher John Dewey. Additionally, Bandura, Piaget, Skinner, Pavlov, Maslow, Bloom, Erickson, Goleman, and Gardener are studied and practice throughout their educational system.   Psychology is especially important to Finnish society. "Many Finnish schools have adopted and implemented many of our learning theories and points of views in their education for national equality through enhancing students' access to decision-making regarding their own lives and studying in school," Sahlberg wrote for the Washington Post in 2019.  Over time, the ideas have helped shape the Finnish education system as one that prizes

autonomy, peer learning, collaboration, and varied forms of assessment. These were all ideas developed at one time or another by American theorists, yet modern American classrooms — noted for their heavy reliance on tests and teacher-guided lectures — bear little resemblance to those up north. They know more about American educational theories than we do.

## Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand and discuss the major categories of variables that have been studied in educational LEARNING THEORIES in an attempt to answer the question "Why do some students learn more than others?" and arrange these in the form of a model of the teaching/learning process;
- Explore and discuss the major categories addressed in a systems model of human behavior, describing how behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, and learning/development theories address different factors in this model.
- Define learning and compare and contrast the factors that behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, CONSRTUCTIVISM, and social cognition theorists believe influence the learning process, giving specific examples of how these principles could be used in the classroom & bring out the best of common core.
- Discover and discuss the major components and techniques of classroom planning, management and instruction that have been addressed in the study of the teaching/learning process as well as how these general techniques can be modified to address individual differences.
- Explore varieties of learning theories.
- Define the "strength and weakness" of these theories.
- Identify techniques and strategies associated with these contemporary models of learning theories
- Organize the classroom environment to maximize learning.
- Explain concepts that bring the positive side of learning theories.
- Discuss methods of discipline, motivation, and general classroom climate that are required to accommodate student's learning.
- Analyze each of the learning theories.
- Identify possibilities of success
- Identify ways that technology can be used to assist learning.

- Demonstrate a deep knowledge of learning theories. Apply a variety of diverse strategies to bring enhancing learning, improving knowledge, and power of solving problems.
- Discuss and identify what learning strategies align to common core standards.
- Develop, expand, or adapt effective and practical diverse learning theories to enhance lessons.
- Implement these learning theories in different setting like reading, language arts, math, science, social studies, and many other subjects.
- Explain effective techniques that you can use immediately.
- Identify habits of diverse classrooms and how they work step by step.
- Identify major benefits of employing learning theories.
- Discuss problem solving through cooperative learning.
- Describe how this can help ELD and Special Ed students.
- Summarize the importance of learning theories in the classroom.
- Formulate questions about these theories
- Analyze how learners learn.
- Align all of these to Common Core.

**Areas Addressed:**

A. Cognitive and affective dimensions of the classroom environment.
B. Major theories on cognitive and psychosocial development as related to common core.
C. Behavioral and cognitive theories on learning; differences in perception and practice.
D. The application of research to the practice of education.
E. Contemporary learners: differences (cultural, physical, and academic); influences (media, technology, for example); and evolving familial patterns / realities.
F. Varying theoretical positions on teaching and learning, constructivism.

## Course Outcomes:

**D**ispositions Principle: Productive dispositions positively affect learners, professional growth, and the learning environment as it relates o common core.

**E**quity Principle: All learners deserve high expectations and support.

**P**rocess Principle: Learning is a life-long process of development and growth.

**O**wnership Principle: Professionals are committed to, and assume responsibility for, the future of their disciplines.

**S**upport Principle: Successful engagement in the process of learning requires collaboration among multiple partners.

**I**mpact Principle: Effective practice yields evidence of learning.

**T**echnology Principle: Technology facilitates teaching, learning, community building, and resource acquisition.

## Recommended Textbooks (Choose One):

- [Learning Theories: An Educational Perspective (6th Edition)](#) by [Dale H. Schunk](#) (Jan 15, 2018).
- [ An Introduction to Theories of Learning (7th Edition)](#) by [B. R. Hergenhahn](#) and Matthew Olson (Jun 13, 2018).
- [How Learning Works: Seven Research-Based Principles for Smart Teaching (The Jossey-Bass Higher and Adult Education Series)](#) by Susan A. Ambrose, Michael W. Bridges, Michele DiPietro and Marsha C. Lovett (May 17, 2017).
- [Contemporary Theories of Learning: Learning Theorists ... In Their Own Words](#) by Knud Illeris (Jan 22, 2017).
- [Learning Theories: An Educational Perspective (6th Edition)](#) by Dale H. Schunk (Jun 15, 2017).
- [The Art of Changing the Brain](#) by James Zull (2017).

## CCSS Standards for the Art and Science of Assessment:

- Describe and define what are learning theories.
- Recognize the purposes of learning theories.
- Create learning environments.
- Compare and contrast different learning theories.
- Development of critical thinking based on the best inclusion strategies.

- Why learning theories are important.
- How learning theories improve student learning.

**<u>Takeaways – What this course gives you:</u>**

- A focus on how students are thinking and how they can relate to each other and how they are growing as thinkers and learners.
- Insight on ways students develop problem-solving through the well diverse thinking.
- A vision of building classrooms based on real life problems.
- Information on the expression of multi perspectives in learning theories.
- Tools for implementing learning theories.
- Strategies for going beyond the classroom.
- Methods of classroom participation in self-reflection and self-evaluation.
- Capability identify learning theories.
- Tools to help teachers shape timely instructional strategies targeted to immediate student needs through various learning theories.
- Rationale for how learning theories relate to CCSS.

**<u>Assignments</u>**

**Assignment 1.1 Reflection and Goals**

Reflect on your past experience with learning theories and describe your future goals for enhancing learning through the Learning Theories course.

**Assignment 1.2 Assessment Book Review and Application**

Choose a book of your choice from the list of the instructor recommended textbooks.

**Assignment 2.1: Readings/Videos to Acquaint You with Learning Theories**

This assignment will help you to understand and reflect on what you have read about and viewed and how you can transfer this knowledge to your classroom.

**Assignment 3.1: Learning Theories Lesson Pre-Planning**

Produce creative activities for implementing learning theories in your teaching curriculum.

**Assignment 4.1 & 4.2: Lesson Plan and Presentation**

Create a detailed, multi-paged, 3-Day lesson plan for applying learning theory methods in your curriculum.
Create a <u>10-slide</u> *PowerPoint* project based on the course readings, to present to an audience of peers.

**Forum Posting**

Share your experience with other course participants