Advanced Principles of Learning and Cognition (PSCL 587)

Spring, 2011

Instructor

Stephen K. Reed  6475 Alvarado, Suite 206  594-6608  sreed@sunstroke.sdsu.edu
Office Hours: M: 9:30 - 9:50, 11:00 – 11:20; W: 9:30 - 9:50, 11:00 - 11:50 in LS 24C
and by appointment.

Course Objectives

My goal is to provide students with a broad overview of major topics in cognition and learning
through the discussion of assigned readings. The course will be conducted as a seminar, with
students assisting with presentations and discussion. In addition, each student will select an
article to report on at the end of the course.

I like this quote and hope we can apply it:

Reading furnishes the mind only with materials of knowledge; it is thinking that makes what we
read ours.

—John Locke (English philosopher)

Class Presentations

We will take turns volunteering to present the assigned readings. You should prepare a detailed
outline of the article to give others in the course. However, remember that a seminar benefits
from discussion so you should encourage discussion by pausing for questions, raising your own
questions, adding critiques, and initiating discussion by asking (three) questions for the class to
answer. I will also occasionally interrupt to ask questions or provide additional material.

You should check with me regarding the article that you want to present at the end of the
course. Your presentation should include a brief outline with a reference.

Grades

There are two exams; each consisting of four essay questions that are based on material
covered in class. The two exam scores will determine the grade for the course. This grade may
be slightly modified by attendance and participation.
Reading List

Introduction  [January 26]


Embodied Cognition  [February 2]


Imagery  [February 9]


Action  [February 16]


Integration of Codes  [February 23]


EXAM 1  [March 2]
Cognitive Load Theory [March 9]


Constructivist Learning [March 16]


Intelligence and Reasoning [March 23]


Intelligence and Rational thinking [April 6]


Cognitive vs. Sociocultural Learning [April 13]


EXAM 2 [April 20]

Student Articles: April 27, May 4, May 11.