

Marist College Graduate Programs

Course-Standard Reflection Form

EPSY 510: Learning Theories Applied to the Classroom

Assignment	Teaching Standards Addressed	How did this assignment address the standard?
Teaching Demonstration	Standard 10: The candidate understands and uses formal and informal assessment strategies to evaluate and ensure the continuous intellectual, social, and physical development of the learner.	The teaching demonstration I designed used both informal and formal assessments. Contingency contracts were used as a way for both the teacher and student to assess and monitor student behavior. Additionally, the corresponding lesson plan used a checklist to assess students understanding of the material.
Research News	Standard 7: The candidate understands and can apply disciplinary knowledge from the humanities and social sciences to interpreting, and bringing normative and critical perspectives to bear on, the meanings of education and schooling in diverse cultural contexts.	The research news assignment required me to review and reflect upon a research article. In doing so, I evaluated the information presented within the article and its usefulness on teaching practices.
Wiki	Standard 9: The candidate models effective verbal, nonverbal, and media communication techniques to foster active inquiry, collaboration, and supportive interaction in the classroom.	Through creating the Wiki I have modeled effective collaboration as I have created it with one of my peers. In working together we have designed a Wiki that effectively presents information. The Wiki pages allowed me to gain an overview of a topic and make comments and address the ideas presented through the comments I wrote on each Wiki.
Final Project	Standard 8: The candidate uses an understanding of individual and group motivation and behavior to create a learning environment that encourages positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation.	In evaluating and integrating theories of motivation, behaviorism and social cognitive theory through a paper and lesson plan, I became aware of the importance of a positive social learning environment. Additionally, I gained an understanding of how such a learning environment can be achieved through the use of a

		variety of strategies and theories.
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Describe some of the choices you made in this assignment. What theoretical or research-based perspectives from the course did you bring to bear on these choices?

The final project required me to compare and contrast three theories and design a lesson plan integrating these three theories. Additionally, teacher workshop activities were presented to the class. To begin, we first had to decide which three theories we wished to focus on, I was sure to pick theories that could fit together and fill in any gaps left by the other theories. The project focused on expectancy-value theory of motivation, positive reinforcement under behaviorism, and vicarious learning described through the social cognitive theory. These topics were chosen because they may be implemented into the classroom in an effort to address the learning needs of all students. The effectiveness of these theories along with the various ways in which they can be used to influence students learning was researched. These theories were chosen as they motivate students in both extrinsic and intrinsic ways. Additionally, through implementing these strategies we are able to vary instruction and use multiply teaching strategies to vary instruction. Furthermore, students take an active role in their own learning and value education.

Reflect on the effects of this assignment on your future teaching. What will be different because of the work you did?

This assignment has many components that will influence my future teaching. In completing this assignment I have gained familiarity in researching and reviewing theories from peer reviewed journal articles. I have additionally learned the importance of incorporating research findings into ones teaching practices. Through this assignment I have designed a lesson plan supported by research from a variety of sources. It is important that teachers utilize up to date strategies supported by research findings and through this project I have been able to gain experience in doing so. Additionally, through this assignment I gained an understanding of the many factors which influence student motivation and learning. Through research I am aware of a variety of motivators which positively influence students academically and socially within the classroom. The strategies that I have researched will be used in my future classroom to ensure that students are motivated and that my classroom is a positive learning environment for all my students.

Reflect on your understanding of the standard addressed by this assignment, and on how the assignment will help your teaching in the area of that standard.

This project focused greatly on motivation strategies used within the classroom. I have researched many motivation strategies and theories related to motivation. In doing so, I became aware of how motivation can be used to support positive social interactions among peers, active engagement in learning, and student self-motivation. Theories of motivation, behaviorism, and social-cognitive can be used in many ways to motivate individual students, or groups of students.

Did this assignment address the teaching of any learning standards? Yes. If so how?

The lesson plan that was created for this project was aligned to NYS science standards and ELA Common Core standards.