

NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

# EDU 822



## Advanced Psychology of Learning Course Guide

# **EDU 822 Advanced Psychology of Learning Course Guide**

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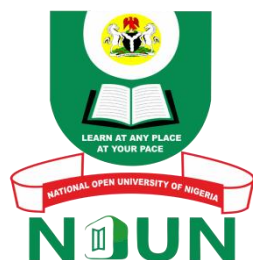
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## Introduction

**EDU 822:** As a Post-graduate/Masters Degree Student, one of the courses central to your profession is Psychology. This is because at the heart of every educational or instructional activity learning is expected to occur. Therefore, you need to equip yourself with major facts and how you can effectively apply these theories to ensure learning occurs. You need to study it with all seriousness.

The course is an important component in the programme of study that will enable you graduate. The course has been designed to consist of three (3) modules of twelve (12) units. It carries two (2) credit units.

The course EDU 822 is compulsory for all students undergoing a post-graduate programme in Education. This is because it has been designed to give you a deeper understanding on the important aspect of education which is 'learning'. Studying the course well, implies that, you have attended to all your self-marked assignments and tutor-marked assignments, and that you have the confidence to develop a good seminar paper you will be proud to present to other colleagues.

This course guide tells you briefly what to expect from reading the accompanying course study material. It provides you with information on how to make the best use of the materials so that you can achieve good success. Make sure you read it very carefully and pay attention to the instructions and suggestions.

Happy study.

## What you will Learn in this Course

This course, EDU 822, titled Advanced Psychology of Learning, has been specifically designed to refresh your memory and sharpen your understanding of the Psychology of Learning to the point that you should be able to discuss confidently on issues concerning human learning, especially learning in educational classroom environment.

In this regard, the course would highlight the importance of investigations and research in resolving issues and challenges in the study of Psychology through various theories.

- You will learn about the various methods of investigation in psychology which researchers adopt.
- You will learn about the thirteen strands that make up the different branches of psychology.
- You will learn how to ensure permanency in learning.
- More importantly you will be exposed to some ways that theories can be applied in classroom situations to make teaching and learning easy.

## Course Aims

It is hoped that after your degree, you will rise to certain influential leadership position in the education sector, therefore the major aims of this course are:

- to refresh your memory on the concept of psychology;
- deepen your understanding of the advanced psychology of learning;
- prepare you to be able to discuss coherently on any issue or matter relating to the psychology of learning or its application in classroom situations.

## Course Objectives

At the end of this course EDU 822, 'Advanced Psychology of Learning', you will be able to select and discuss coherently through seminar presentations of any topic in the area of Advanced Psychology of Learning.

Specifically you will be able to:

- examine the students' differences that may affect learning.
- describe the activities you will adopt to help your students retain information.
- examine the nature of human motivation, explaining the techniques you can adopt to motivate students to perform well in learning activities.
- discuss, illustrating with examples from the various theories of learning the difference between learning and education.

## Working through the Course

To complete this course you are required to read the study units, read books and other materials provided by the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN). Each study unit contains Self-Assessment Exercises (SAEs) and Tutor Marked Assignments (TMAs) and at each point in the course you are required to submit assignments for assessment purposes.

In addition, you will be expected to prepare and present a seminar paper at the end of this course material. This will be graded to form part of your tutor-marked assessment. Certainly: There is an end of course final Examination.

You will also find listed all the components of the course, what you have to do and how you should allocate your time to each study unit in order to complete the course successfully and on time.

## The Course Material

Major components of the course are:

1. Course Guide
2. Study Units
3. References
4. Presentation Schedule.

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## **Study Units**

The study units in this course are as follows:

### **Module 1**

Unit 1 The Concept of Psychology  
Unit 2 Branches of Psychology  
Unit 3 Educational Psychology

### **Module 2**

Unit 1 The Theories of Learning: Ivan Pavlov  
Unit 2 B. F. Skinner's Instrumental Conditioning  
Unit 3 Edward Bandura's Social Learning Theory  
Unit 4 The Theory of Connectionism  
Unit 5 Gestalt/Cognitive Fields of Learning  
Unit 6 Edward Tolman and Benjamin Bloom's 'Theories of Learning'

### **Module 3 Permanency in Learning**

Unit 1 The Theories of Retention in Learning  
Unit 2 Transfer of Learning  
Unit 3 Motivation in Learning and its Implication in Classroom situations

## **Presentation Schedule**

The presentation schedule included in your course material gives you the important dates of this year for the completion of tutor-marked assignments and for attending tutorial. Also included is the date for the seminar. Remember, you are required to submit all your assignments by the due date. You should guard against falling behind in your work.

## **Assessment**

There are three aspects of assessment of the course. First is a set of self-assessment exercises (SAEs), second is a set of tutor-marked assignments (TMAs) which includes the presentation of a seminar paper. The third is a written end of semester examination.

In tackling the assignments, you are expected to be sincere in attempting the exercises; you are expected to apply the information, knowledge and techniques gathered during the course. The assignments must be submitted to your tutor against formal deadline stated in the presentation schedule and the assignment file. The work you submit to your tutor for assessment will make up 40% of your course work.

At the end of the course, you will need to sit for a final written examination of two hours' duration. This examination will make up the remaining 60% (postgraduate) of your course mark.

## Electronic-Based Assessment

There are e-based assessments in this course. You are encouraged to submit all assignments. Assignment questions for the study units in this course are stated within the study units. You will be able to complete your assignments from the information and materials contained in your reading, study units.

However, it is desirable in all degree level academic programmes to demonstrate that you have read and researched more widely than the required minimum. Using other references will give you a broader viewpoint and may provide a deeper understanding of the subject. You can select the seminar topic you wish to develop and present. However, it must be an aspect of the psychology of learning. Your seminar paper is a compulsory assignment.

When you have completed each assignment, submit online through your e-portal. Make sure that each assignment is submitted on or before the deadline given in the presentation schedule and assignment file.

## Final Examination and Grading

The final examination for Advanced Psychology of Learning will be of two hours' duration and it has a value of 50% of the total course grade.

The examination will consist of questions which reflect the type of self- testing, practice-exercises and electronic-based assignments you have previously encountered. All areas of the course are assessed.

Use the time between finishing the last study unit and sitting for the examination to revise the entire course. You might find it useful to review your self-tests, electronic-based assignments and comments on them before the examination. The final examination covers information from all parts of the course.

## How to Get the Most from this Course

In Open and Distance Learning (ODL), the study units replace the University Lecture. This is one of the great advantages of ODL. You can read and work through specially designed study materials at your own pace, and at a time and place that suit you best. Think of it as reading the lecture. In the same way that the lecturer might set you some reading to do, the study units tell you when to read your other materials. Just as a lecturer might give you an in-class exercise, your study units provide exercises for you to do at appropriate points

Each of the study units follows a common format. The first item is an introduction to the subject matter of the study unit and how a particular study unit is integrated with the other study units and the course as a whole.

Next is a set of learning objectives. These objectives let you know what you should be able to do by the time you have completed the study unit. You should use these objectives to guide your study. When you have finished the study unit, you must go back and check whether you have achieved the objectives or not. If you make a habit of doing this, you will significantly improve your chances of passing the course.

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The main body of the study unit guides you through the required reading from other sources. This will usually be either from a reading section or some other sources. You will be directed when there is need for it.

Self-Assessment Exercises (SAEs) are interspersed throughout the units. Working through these SAEs will help you to achieve the objectives of the study units and prepare you for the assignments and examination.

You should do every SAE as you come to it in the study unit. There will also be numerous examples given in the study units. Work through these when you come to them too.

The following is a practical strategy for working through the course. If you encounter any problem, telephone your tutor immediately.

Remember, that your tutor's job is to help you. When you need help, don't hesitate to call and ask your tutor to provide it.

1. Read this course guide thoroughly.
2. Organise a study schedule: Refer to the course overview for more details. You should note that it is expected of you to devote at least 2 hours per week for studying this course. The number of hours to be devoted for intensive study stated above is outside other need driven academic activities like self-help, group discussion and instructional facilitation. Note the time you are expected to spend on each unit and how the assignments relate to study units. Important information e.g. details of your tutorials, and the date of the first day of the semester is available. You need to gather together all these information in one place, such as in your diary or a wall calendar. Whatever method you choose to use, you should write in your own dates for working on each unit.
3. Once you have created your own study schedule, do everything you can to stick to it. The major reason why students fail is that they get behind with their course work. If you get into difficulties with your schedule, please let your tutor know before it is too late for him to help you.
4. Turn to unit 1, read the introduction and the objectives for the unit.
5. Assemble the study materials. Information about what you need for a unit is given in the table of content at the beginning of each unit. You will almost always read both the study unit you are working on and one of the materials for further reading on your desk at the same time.
6. Work through the unit. The content of the unit itself has been arranged to provide a sequence for you to follow. As you work through the unit, you will be instructed to read sections from other sources. Use the unit to guide your reading.
7. Keep in mind that you will learn a lot by doing all your assignments carefully. They have been designed to help you meet the objectives of the course and, therefore, will help you pass the examination. Submit all assignments not later than the due date.
8. Review the objectives for each study unit to confirm that you have achieved them. If you feel unsure about any of the objectives, review the study materials or consult your tutor. When you are confident that you have achieved a unit's objectives you can then start on the next unit. Proceed unit by unit through the course and to pace your study so that you keep yourself on schedule.

9. When you have submitted an assignment to your tutor for marking, do not wait until you get it back before starting on the next unit. Keep to your schedule. When the assignment is returned, pay particular attention to your tutor's comments, both on the tutor-marked assignment form and also as written on the assignment itself. Consult your tutor as soon as possible if you have any questions or problems.
10. After completing the last unit, review the course and prepare yourself for the final examination. Check that you have achieved the unit objectives (listed at the beginning of each unit) and the course objectives (listed in the course guide).

## Facilitators/Tutors and Tutorials

There are 12 hours of tutorials provided in support of this course. You will be notified of the dates, time and location of these tutorials, together with the name and phone number of your facilitator/tutor, as soon as you are allocated a tutorial group.

Your tutor will mark and comment on your assignments. He will also keep a close watch on your progress and on any difficulties you might encounter, and provide assistance to you during the course. You must mail your tutor-marked assignments to your tutor well before the due date (at least two working days are required). They will be marked by your tutor and returned to you as soon as possible.

Do not hesitate to contact your tutor by telephone, e-mail, or discussion if you need help. The following might be circumstances in which you would need help. Contact your tutor:

- Do not understand any part of the study units or other assigned readings.
- You have difficulty with the self – assessment exercise.
- Have a question or problem with an assignment, with your tutor's comments on an assignment or with the grading of an assignment.

You should try your best to attend the tutorials. This is your only chance to have a face to face academic contact with your tutor and to ask questions on problems encountered in the course you are studying. To gain the maximum benefit from course materials' tutorials, prepare a question list before attending them. You will learn a lot from participating in discussions actively.

## Summary

This Course has refreshed your memory on the psychology of learning. The carefully organized units have also exposed you, to:

- the importance of investigations and research in psychology
- various methods of investigation in psychology which researchers adopt
- the different branches of psychology
- the various theories of learning
- the theories of permanency in learning including, the theory of transfer of learning
- More importantly, the course has sharpened your focus on learning at the classroom level by applying the psychological findings of researchers to improve learning.

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