

# FOUR LEARNING THEORIES

## *at-a-glance*

### Behaviorism

#### Learning:

Learners are conditioned to elicit the desired response to external stimuli through positive or negative reinforcement (i.e., operant conditioning).

#### Structure:

- Instructors lead activity
- Students in passive role
- Students rewarded for correct response



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#### Examples:

- Lecture
- Drill and Practice Exercises
- Multiple Choice Test

### Cognitivism

#### Learning:

Learners build on existing knowledge by incorporating new information, experiences, and skills with those they have already acquired.

#### Structure:

- Instructor presents information
- Students in active role
- Students solve problems, analyze, and use other critical thinking skills



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#### Examples:

- Discussions
- Concept mapping
- Journaling

### Constructivism

#### Learning:

Learners explore and solve problems in groups to make connections between what they learn together with what they already know.

#### Structure:

- Instructors coach or facilitate
- Students find information and solutions to problems
- Discussion to deepen meaning and support



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#### Examples:

- Case studies
- Research projects
- Problem-based learning

### Connectivism

#### Learning:

Individuals share and create new knowledge in online learning communities and with virtual resources such as libraries, databases, organizations, and websites.

#### Structure:

- No traditional teacher role
- Learning communities develop locally and globally via digital technologies
- Information in a variety of forms (i.e., text, multimedia)



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#### Examples:

- MOOCs
- Online Discussion
- Wikis

#### Sources:

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