**IDH 2930: I Didn’t Learn Anything In That Class: The Science of Learning**

**1 credit**   
Thursdays --- P 9 (4:05-4:55) --- LITTLE 0117

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**Course Description**

This course allows students to reflect on their own learning experiences, consider research about typically-suggested habits and practices of learning that may not be as productive as they seem, and set learning goals for future coursework at UF and lifelong learning endeavors.

**Course Goal and Guiding Questions**

The goal of this course is to help students optimize their learning based on the latest cognitive science research. We will consider the following questions during our weeks together: What does it mean to be a learner? What have we heard since we were really young about how people learn best? What have we heard about how people learn best is supported by the latest cognitive science research? How can we apply the latest cognitive science research about learning to our coursework and life?

**Course Text**

Brown, Roediger, & McDaniel (2014). *Make it stick: The science of successful learning.* Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press.

Supplemental Readings (to be provided online)

**Expectations**

* Students will attend each class session.
* Students will read assigned readings each week and exhibit knowledge of readings in class discussions.
* Students will complete required assignments (listed below).
* Students will reflect deeply on their learning practices and perhaps deepen their understanding of what it means to learn.
* Students will apply course readings, activities, and discussions to their UF coursework and other lifelong learning opportunities.
* Students will reach out to instructor with any questions.

**Student Assignments and Grading**

* *Participation* You will attend each class and participate actively in discussion. You will bring a question that will guide discussion to class each day. (30%)
* *Reflections and Self Assessment* You will write short reflections about their own study habits at the beginning (#1), middle (#2), and end of the course (#3). Cite course readings in the final two reflections. You will also be asked to track their study habits for one week in a self assessment. (15%)
* You will interview three friends about their study habits and exhibit findings in a graphic representation. (15%)
* You will create a final presentation in which they create learning goals for future coursework and lifelong learning endeavors *and* produces a one-page handout for incoming UF freshmen about how to learn best at UF. (40%)

**Class Schedule**

Please note that this is a tentative schedule. Any changes made will be announced in class and via email.

January 4: Introductions

January 11: Preface and Chapter 1: Learning is Misunderstood / **Submit Reflection #1**

January 18: Chapter 2: To Learn, Retrieve

January 25: Chapter 3: Mix Up Your Practice

February 1: Chapter 4: Embrace Difficulties

February 8: Supplemental Reading #1 / **Present Friends’ Study Habits Graphic**

February 15: Chapter 5: Avoid Illusions of Knowing

February 22: Chapter 6: Get Beyond Learning Styles / **Submit Study Habits Self Reflection**

March 1: Supplemental Reading #2

March 15: Chapter 7: Increase Your Abilities / **Submit Reflection #2**

March 22: Chapter 8: Make It Stick

March 29: Supplemental Reading #3

April 5: Supplemental Reading #4 / **Submit Reflection #3**

April 12: No class meeting; Work on final projects

April 19: Present final project