

Module 1: Historical and Theoretical Foundations

Actions for 'Module 1: Historical and Theoretical Foundations '

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OBJECTIVES, READINGS, DELIVERABLES

Upon successful completion of this module, learners should be able to:

- Define Learning Theory and be able to identify the most influential learning theories of the 20th and 21st centuries.
- Understand the role of learning theories in epistemology.
- Explain how learning theory can be useful in informing pedagogy, policy, and technology choices.
- Identify the contribution of distance education theory and practice to online teaching and learning.

READINGS / THINGS TO DO

- **READ:** Module 01 Overview under Course Content
- **READ (Required):** Harasim, Chaps. 1 & 2. pp. 1-29
- **READ (Required):** Saba, F. (2003) "[Distance Education Theory, Methodology, and Epistemology: A Pragmatic Paradigm](#)" in *Handbook of Distance Education*. pp. 3-19.
- **READ (Required):** Ally, M. (2008). "Foundations of Educational Theory for Online Learning." from [The Theory and Practice of Online Learning](#) (online book). pp. 15-44
- **READ (Recommended):** Anderson. "Towards a Theory of Online Learning" from [The Theory and Practice of Online Learning](#) (online book). pp. 45-74
- **BE WORKING ON:** Assignment 01
- **PARTICIPATE:** in the Module Discussion Area as requested
- **POST:** in your Learning Journal regularly