Sample Study Guide – Outline Format

for Educational Psychology: Midterm 1
Intro – Book Chapter 1, Classes 1 and 2
1. What is Educational Psychology? – branch of psychology → study of mental processes and behaviors associated with human learning and instruction. Also: nature of learners & learning, characteristics of effective teaching, how nature of classrooms affects learning.
2. How does Science and Theories relate to Educational Practice? Science can explain what are the best educational practices and why, by testing theories
   a) What is the difference between implicit theories and Scientific theories? - Theories are logical explanations/beliefs about how the world works, Implicit is informal beliefs/common sense, while scientific is formal, and describe variables and relationships.
   b) How do we compare theories? 3 dimensions-
      i) Characteristics- What all the theory is about (scope)
      ii) Epistemic – How accurate/coherent/consistent/understandable is it
      iii) Applicability. - Can it be applied and used.
3. How is theory and research used to improve teaching? Because of the complexity of teaching, teachers must know how to utilize multiple theories
   a) How do theories inform decision making? Theories can influence goals, student evaluation, and strategies used. Often times scientific studies are used as a starting point to add to personal experience. Theories allow one identify characteristics of problems, find patterns and identify principles that generate a solution.
      i) Decision Points- Three decision points are: Planning decisions, Teaching and managing decisions, and assessment decisions.
4. How are Teachers and Research related? Answer…
   a) What are key considerations when conducting education research in the classroom? Answer…
   b) What is the Tetrahedral Model and what are its components? Answer…
5. How does Theory and Research inform Textbook reading? Answer…
   a) How do you select important information? Answer…
      i) Selection- definition…
   b) What are some ways information is Organized? Answer…
      i) Organization- definition…
   c) Why is integration important? Answer…
      i) Integration- definition…

Behavioral Learn Theory – Book Chapter 2, Classes 3, 4 and 5
1. Describe the Behavioral View of Learning Answer…
   a) What are the three types of Stimuli and how are they different? Answer…
   b) How is learning measurable and observable? Answer…
2. What are the Behavioral Learning Models? Answer…
   a) What is Contiguity learning and how is it used in the classroom? Answer…
   b) Draw a diagram illustrating classical conditioning and label the CS, UCS, CR and UCR. Answer…

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