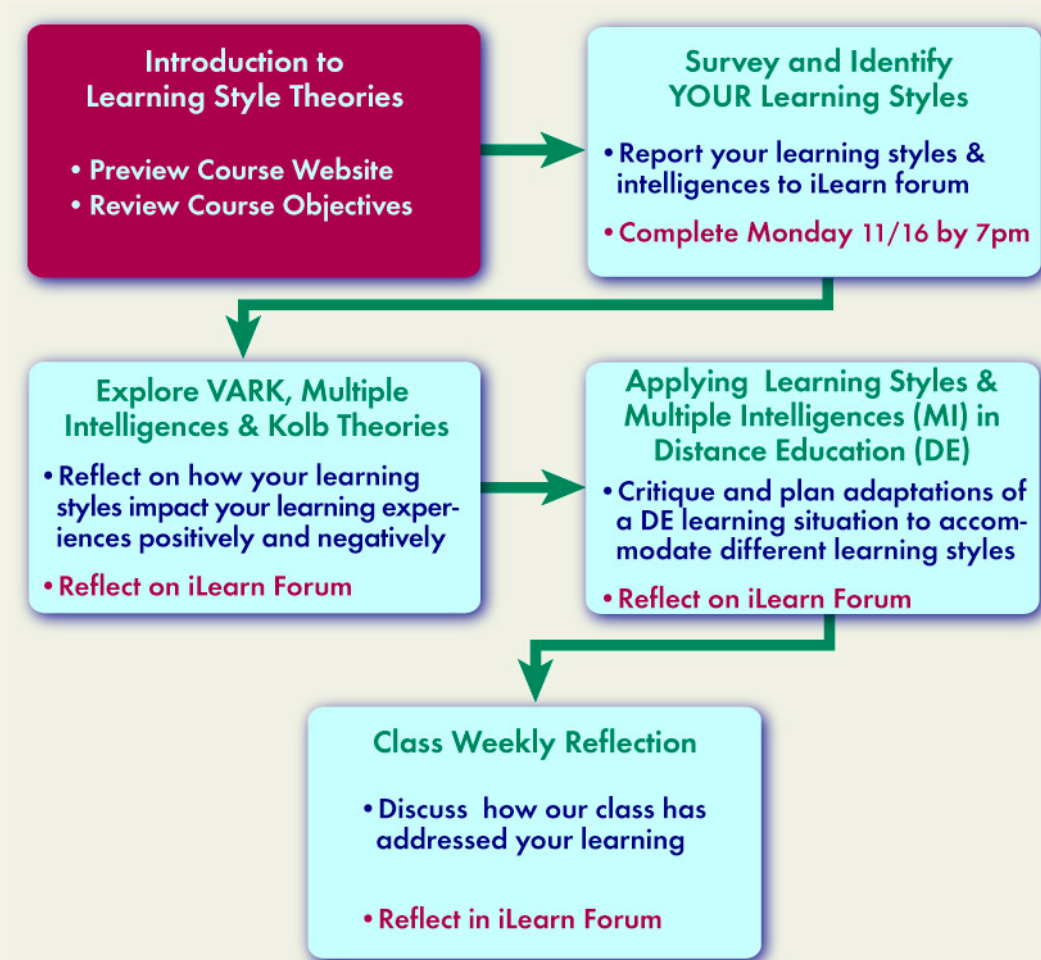


The Learning Path

Learning Styles Overview of Course

Directly below you will see a diagram illustrating the five main elements of our course learning for the week.



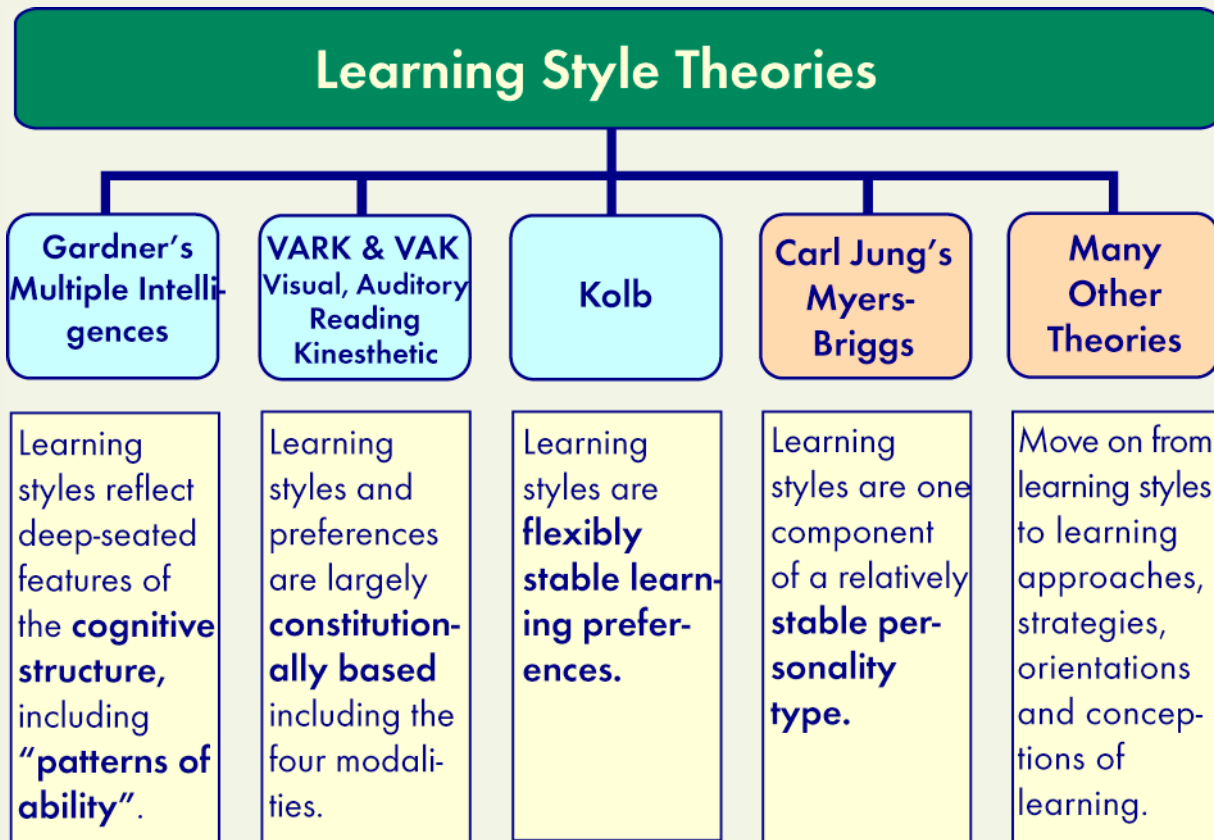
Pedagogical Rationale

In order to understand Learning Styles are basically the ways that people best learn. There are over 25 Learning Styles theories. There are so many learning styles theories that there are multiple theories of how to categorize them. In order to narrow the scope of this class to make it do-able, we've decided to give you an overview of Learning Styles theories and provide resources for you to learn about three different learning styles: Gardner's Multiple Intelligences, VARK & VAK (known as Visual, Auditory, Reading and Kinesthetic) and Kolb's theory.

Families of Learning Styles

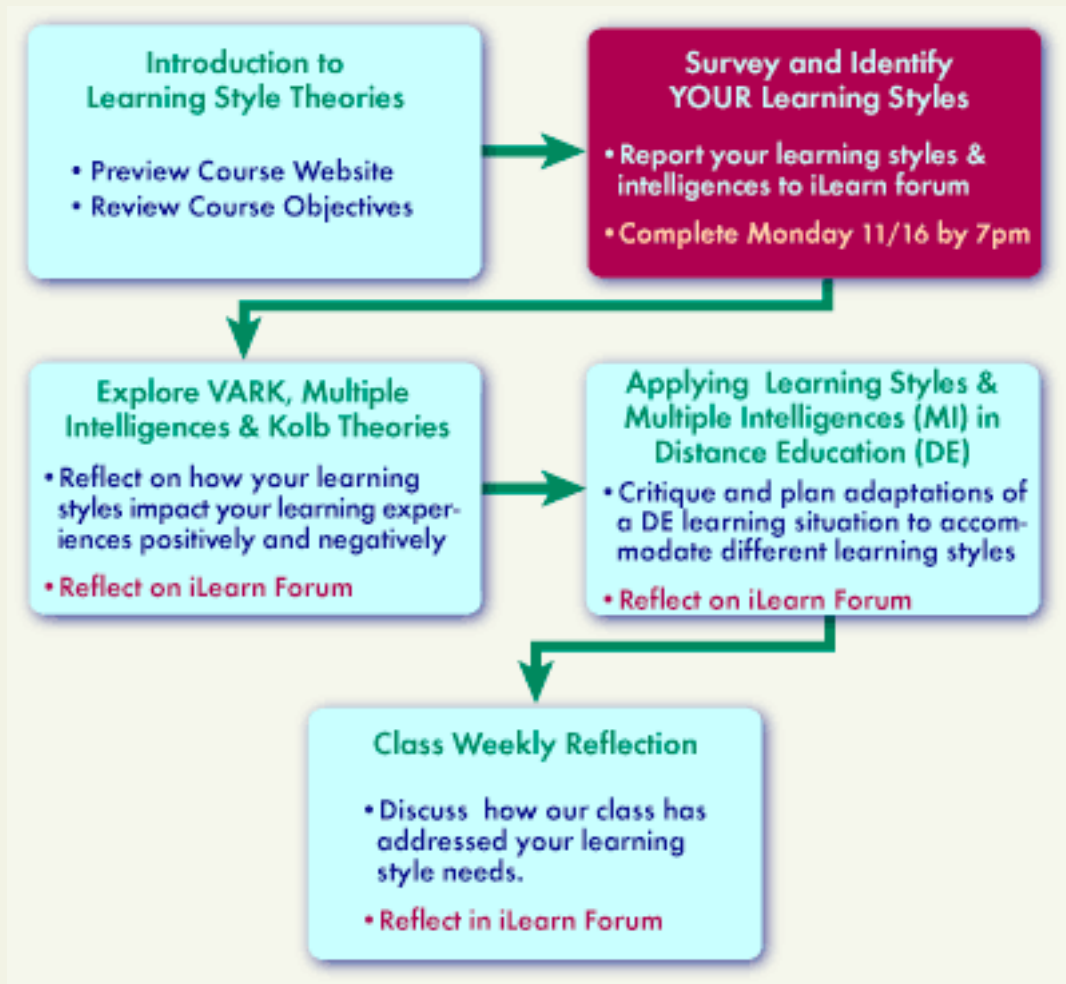
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We've chosen to study the following 3 theories: Gardner's Multiple Intelligences, VARK and Kolb. As you can see, each theory looks at a different aspect of learning.



Please see *Should We Be Using Learning Styles*, a report published by The Learning and Skills Research Center for further information on the families of learning styles. Page 27 has an excellent chart (access on website Learning Path).

Survey & Identify YOUR Learning Styles



Pedagogical Rationale:

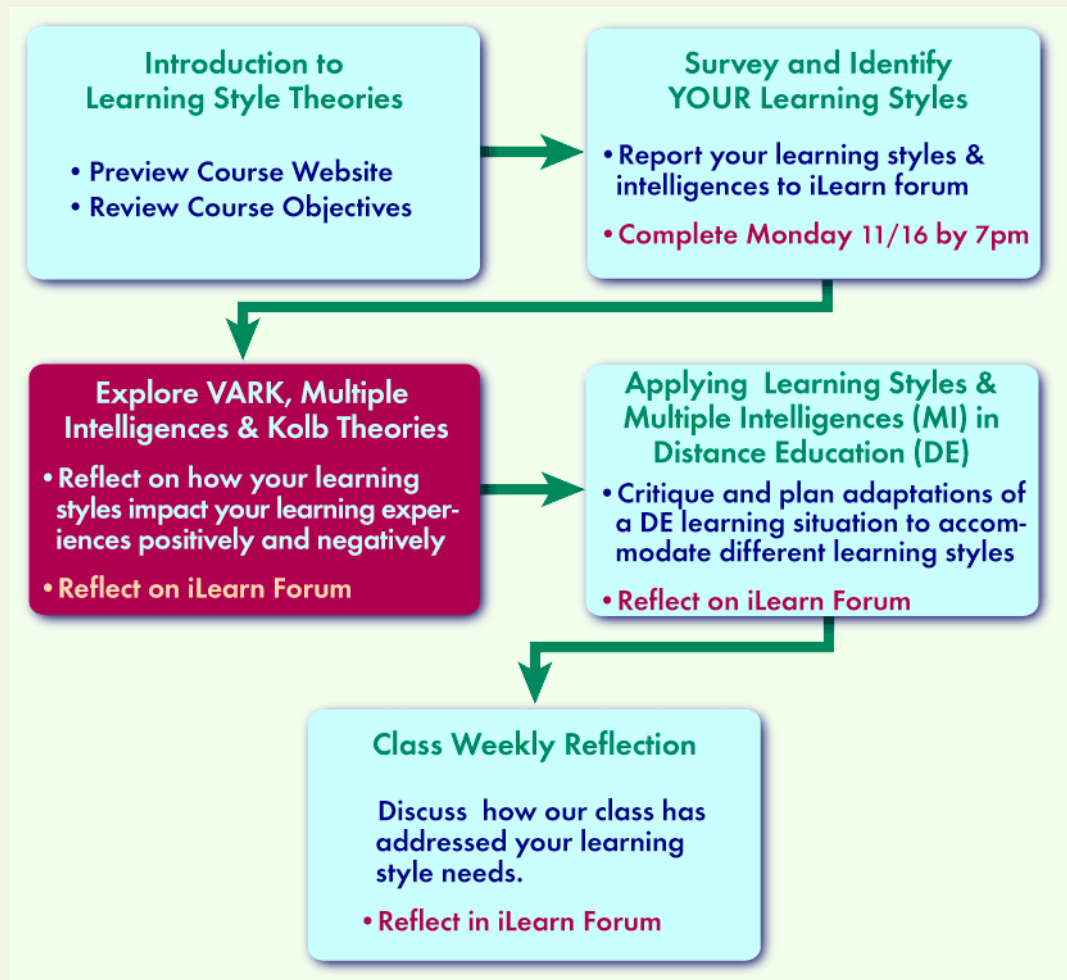
In order to understand your learning styles and preferences, as both a student and instructor (instructional designer), we are asking that you complete two surveys about your styles.

The first survey is based on VAK. The second survey is based on Gardner's Multiple Intelligences. When you get your results, please post them on the iLearn site so that your instructors can use that to best meet your learning needs.

“One consequence of studying learning styles is the recognition that teachers also have their own approaches to the classroom. While these may have become habitual and while the teacher may define the classroom according to their (not student) preferences, teachers have to acknowledge that their styles will not necessarily suit clusters of students in their classroom. As teachers attempt to modify their classrooms, they need to begin by exploring their own styles.”

Using Learning Styles to Adapt Technology for Higher Education.
Terry O'Connor, Indiana State University.

Explore VARK, Multiple Intelligences & Kolb Theories



Pedagogical Rationale:

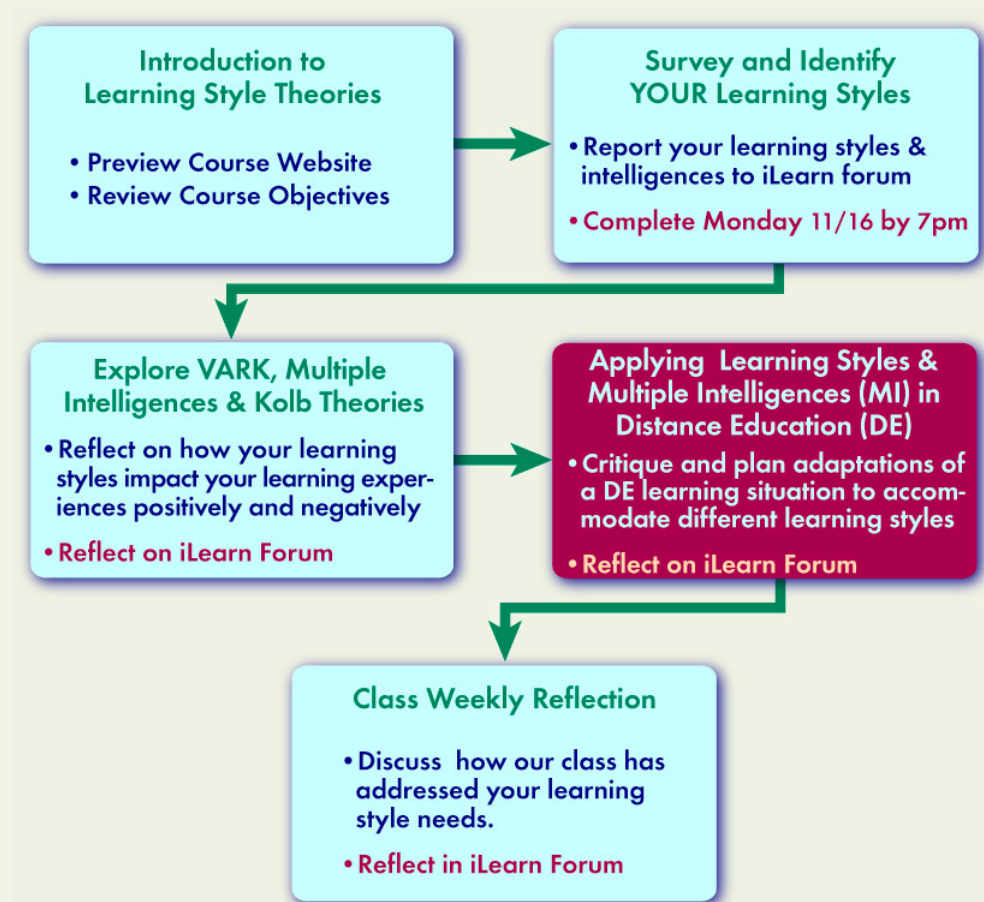
Once you've read and learned about the three theories of learning styles (Gardner, VARK, Kolb) we'd like to consider their application in our work. People tend to relate best to one or two of these theories. We ask that you select one type of theory that resonates best with you and consider its implication for your work as an instructional designer. You'll be asked to analyze a distance education situation and provide suggestions for modification of the learning to accommodate a variety of learning styles. In choosing a context, please provide a link or clear description about the learning context that you are analyzing. We will provide a learning context for you as an example if you choose from as well.

“When the opportunities offered by new advances in electronic information processing technologies are combined with the new view of the learning process provided by learning style research, the promise to revolutionize the teaching paradigms found in the academy begins to gain some direction.”

Using Learning Styles to Adapt Technology for Higher Education.

Terry O'Connor, Indiana State University.

Applying Learning Styles and Multiple Intelligences in DE



Pedagogical Rationale

Our goal as instructors for this course is to have you consider multiple learning styles when approaching your instruction for distance education settings.

“It is a truism in media that people first tend to use new technology the same way they used to using older technology. In this context, the tendency is to use computing technology to deliver the same kinds of instruction & testing that are currently offered in the traditional college classroom. We assume that the same patterns, the same content centeredness, the same student relations, and the same tasks (repeating known answers) should be electronically replicated. Eventually, applications of computing technology will challenge these assumptions and free us from the need to stay trapped in older college paradigms.”

Using Learning Styles to Adapt Technology for Higher Education.

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