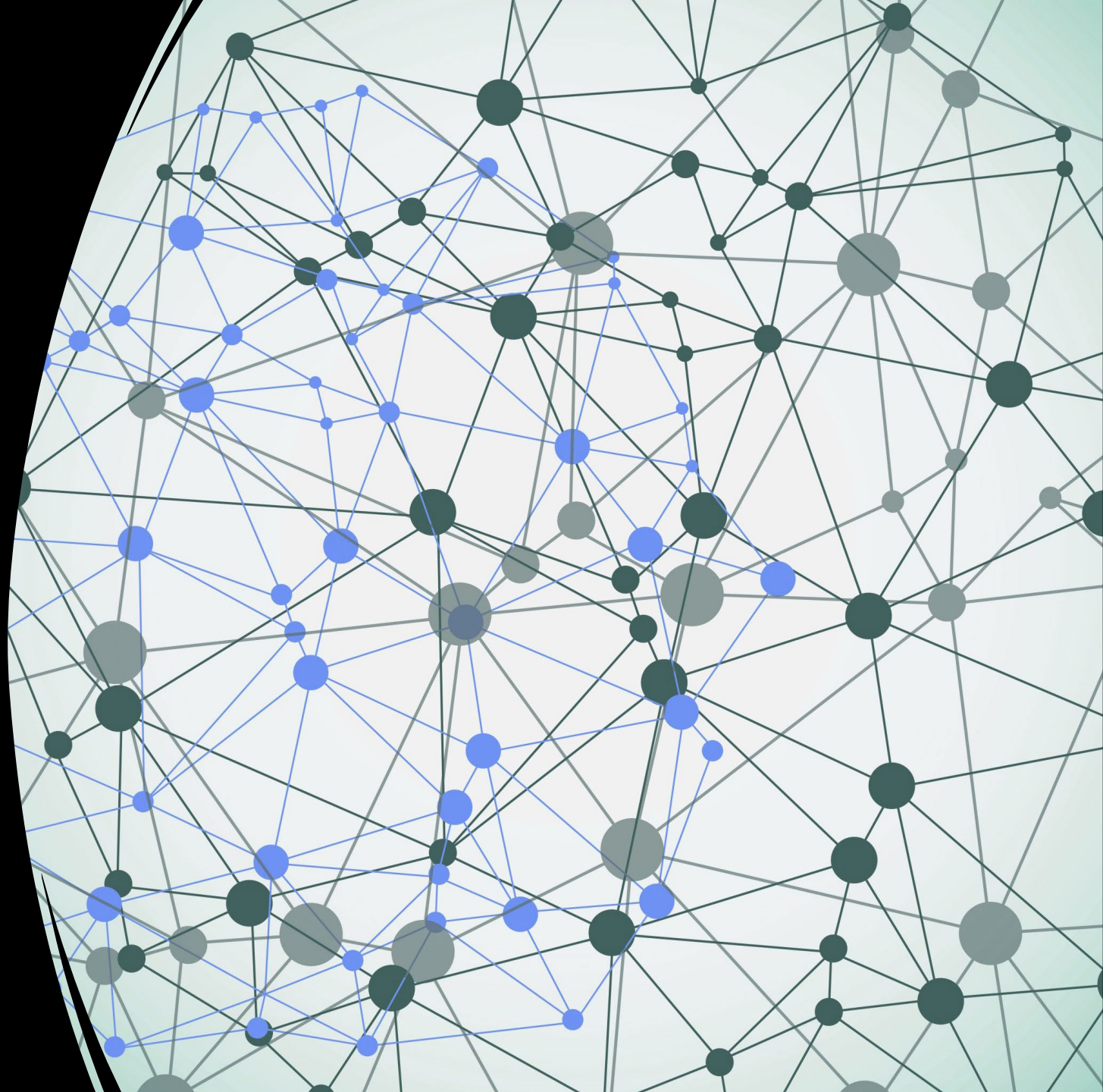


# Can Chat GPT help you win teacher of the year?

---

Pete Watkins





**You**

Please suggest a witty title for a conference session on how Chat GPT can assist teachers



**ChatGPT**

"Charming Classrooms: Unleashing the Power of ChatGPT in Education"



**You**

Can you give me a sarcastic title of a conference presentation about Chat GPT in teaching?



**ChatGPT**

"ChatGPT: Because Who Needs Human Expertise in Education Anyway?"



# Two Big Questions

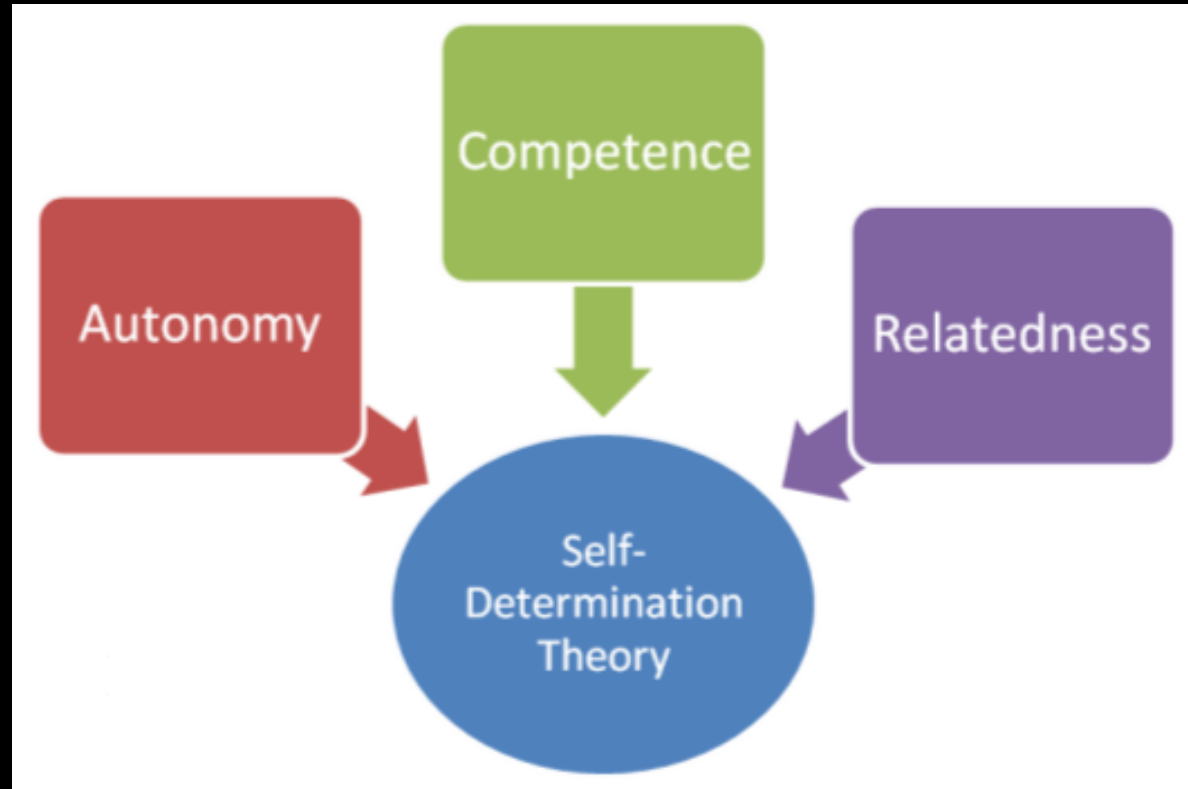
- How much does Chat GPT know about teaching and learning?
  - Learning theories
  - Course design models
  
- How helpful is Chat GPT with tasks such as:
  - Writing a welcome email
  - Creating a syllabus
  - Drafting learning objectives

# Parameters of my study

- Used the free version Chat GPT 3.5
- I can send you the slide deck which includes the links if you wish to read the whole chats in detail (but it may be more fun to ask ChatGPT yourself!)

How much does Chat GPT know  
about teaching and learning?

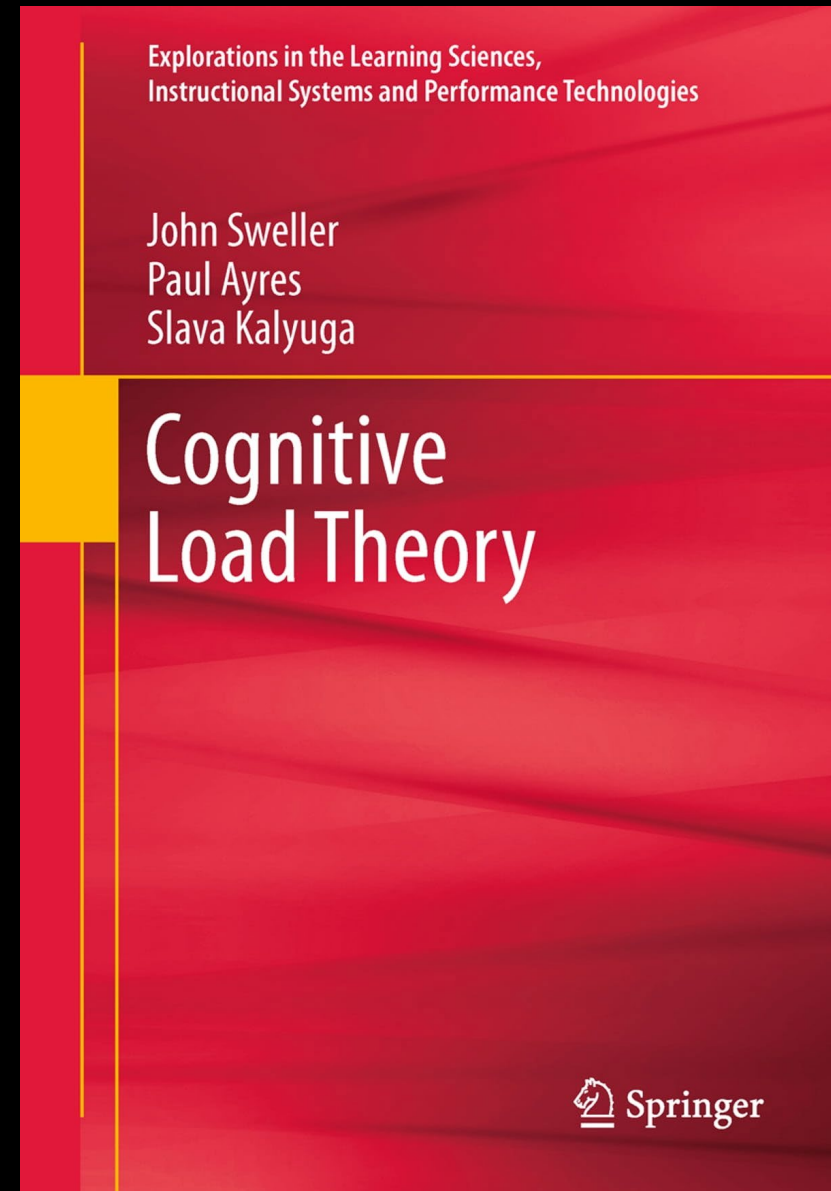
# Self-determination theory (Deci and Ryan)



[Chat GPT LINK](#)

# Cognitive Load Theory

[Chat GPT Link](#)

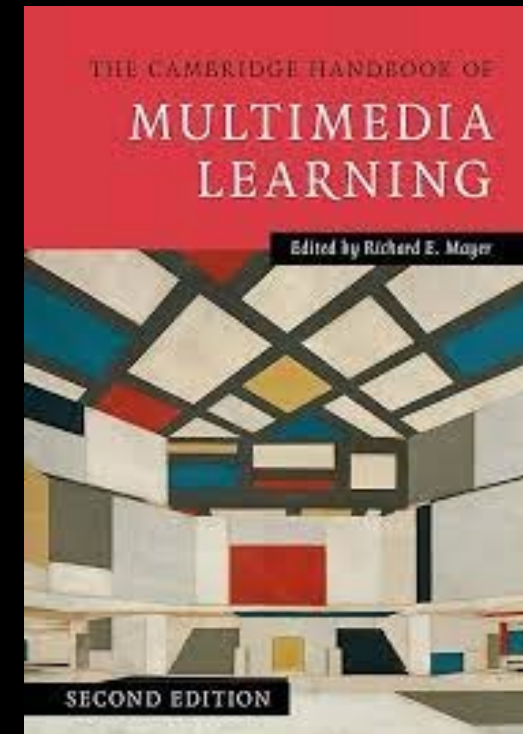




# Multimedia Learning Theory (Mayer)

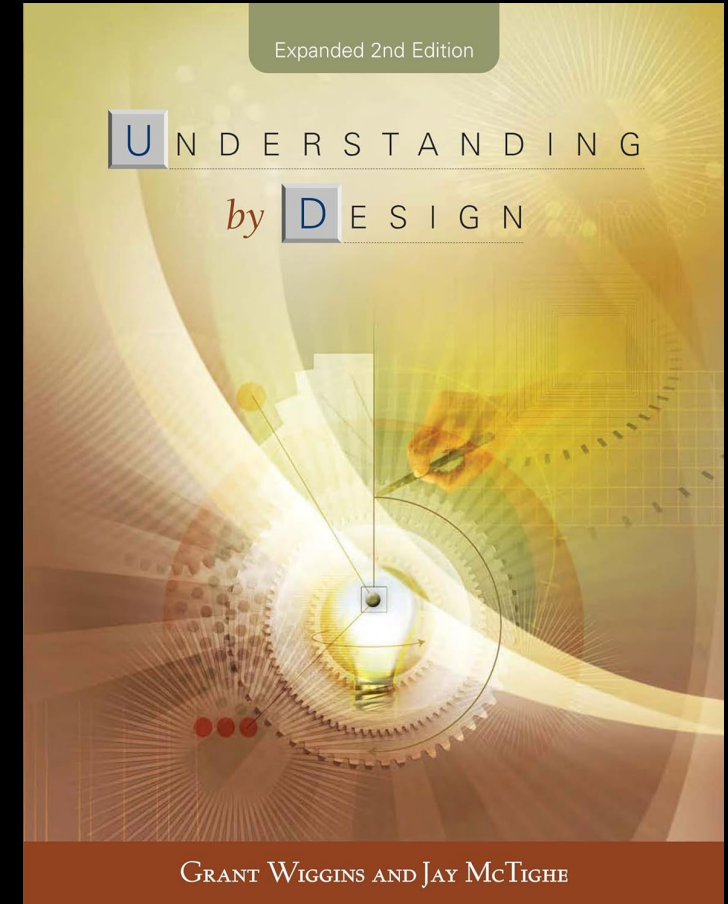
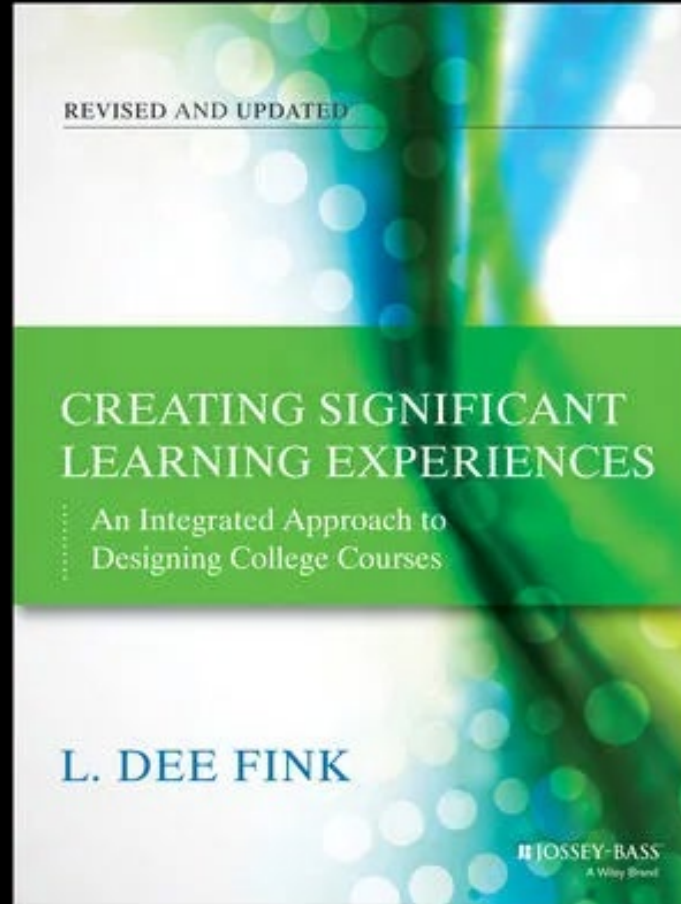
---

- [Chat GPT Link](#)



# Integrated Course Design

- Course design model by Dee Fink based on the idea of “backward design”
- Expanded on *Understanding by Design* (UbD)
- Chat GPT [LINK](#)



# Dynamic Systems Model of Role Identity (DSMRI)

---

- [Google Scholar](#)
- [Chat GPT LINK](#)





Reality



Myth of  
Learning Styles



Myth

[Chat GPT LINK](#)

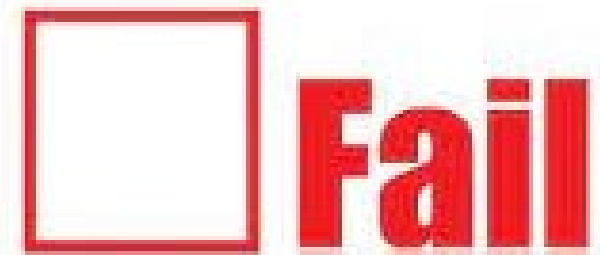
# Chat GPT correctly identified some myths

---

Sugar causes hyperactivity

We only use 10% of our brain

Some people are left-brained and some people are right-brained



# What did I learn?

- Chat GPT knows a lot, but in can...
  - Make odd errors (Dee Fink/L. Dee Fink)
  - Hallucinate/invent studies that do not exist
  - Endorse (some) debunked myths

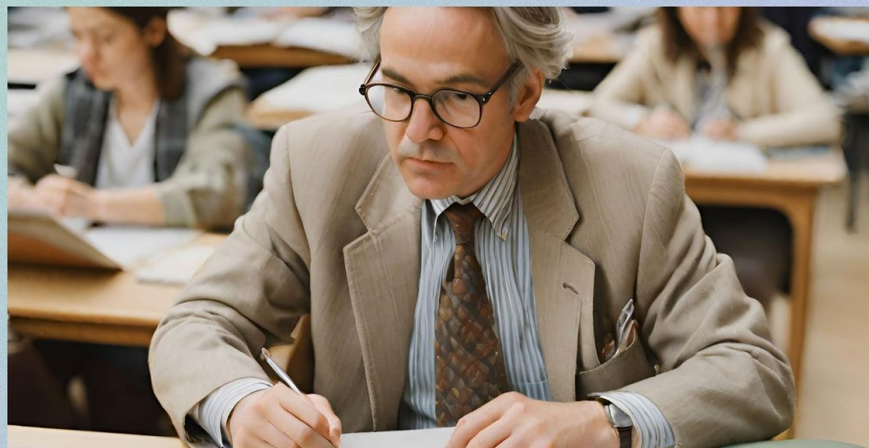


“If you know the answer, why are you asking Chat GPT. If you don’t know the answer, how can you trust Chat GPT.”

How does Chat GPT compare to alternatives such as search engines, Wikipedia, Reddit?



AI's idea of a busy professor



Can Chat GPT help with  
your teacher to-do list?

# Welcome Message



**You**

can you write a welcome message that I can send to my Introductory Psychology class?



**ChatGPT**

Absolutely! How about this:

**Disclaimer: I did this for research purposes and I would not do this in real life to real students.**

[Link](#)

# Learning Objectives



**You**

can you write learning objectives for my introductory psychology class



**ChatGPT**

Absolutely! What specific topics or areas do you want to cover in your introductory psychology class?

- [LINK](#)

# Syllabus



**You**

generate a syllabus for an undergraduate introductory psychology course



**ChatGPT**

Sure, here is a sample syllabus for an undergraduate introductory psychology course:

[Chat GPT Link](#)

# University Learning Goals

[Chat GPT Link](#)



# Takeaways and future directions

- The authoritative tone is appealing and impressive, but can be misleading. (Be careful!)
  - It can hallucinate and make up stuff
  - Even more pernicious is what it leaves out
- The better the prompt, the better the results (but to write a good prompt you may need domain knowledge)
  - Using names of scholars helps
- It may repeat pervasive myths (e.g. learning styles)
- Not useful for advanced and specialized research (e.g DSMRI). Better for foundational widely-known theories.
- More useful for writing than for finding knowledge
  - But think carefully about your prompt.

# Future Directions?

---

- Publishers and disciplinary associations will create their own GPTs that use only reliable sources
- “Prompt engineering” will be part of teacher education and faculty development
- An industry will grow around optimizing the results
- ???





- Pete Watkins, Ph.D., MSW

[pete.watkins@villanova.edu](mailto:pete.watkins@villanova.edu)

THANK YOU!

Director of Teaching, Learning & Assessment, Villanova University  
Adjunct Associate Professor, College of Education and Human  
Development, Temple University