

PSYCHOLOGY 4332 Section 02
LEARNING
SHSU COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of Psychology and Philosophy
Fall 2017

Class: 12:30- 1:50pm Tues/Thurs
Instructor: Danielle Langlois
Office: CHSS 305

Location: CHSS 220
Office Hours: M/Wed 1-2pm
*also by appointment

E-Mail: dkl012@shsu.edu

Required Materials:

Powell, Honey, & Symbaluk (2017) Introduction to Learning and Behavior (5th ed.),
Wadsworth/Cengage Learning, ISBN # 978-1305652941

The course will be based off of the 5th edition; however, the 4th edition may be purchased instead

Course Overview: Learning is the acquisition of new behaviors as a result of experiences in the environment. This course will examine the discoveries from this area of psychology. In many ways these discoveries form the foundation of much of our other knowledge in psychology. We will also take a look at the controversies that have arisen as a result of how this knowledge has been interpreted. In general, this course is designed to provide you with an understanding of the theoretical and empirical approaches to learning and application of these approaches to human behavior. Goals include:

1. Understand and describe the basic principles of learning
2. Understand and describe established theories of learning
3. Integrate knowledge about learning principles and theories
4. Comprehension of how the principles and theories apply to “real-world” human behavior

Course Website: A Blackboard website will be maintained for this course. Enter your SHSU username and password in order to log in to the system. Course announcements, documents, assignments, quizzes, and other relevant information will be posted on this website. Check it frequently for important information! However, **please do NOT message me via Blackboard, as I am not checking it regularly. If you need to reach me I recommend email or seeing me in person!**

Course Requirements:

Exams: There are **four exams** covering the reading and lecture content. The lowest exam grade will be dropped, so only three exams will count toward your final grade. Each of these three exams will be worth 20% of your final grade and count for 60% total. Each exam will be closed-book, and you all are expected to abide by the Honor Code and with Academic Honesty at all times. If you are late to an exam, I will allow you to take the exam, as long as you arrive in class before the first person to finish leaves. Once a person has finished and left the classroom, you will not be allowed to take the exam. You are expected to be prepared for

these exams (do your readings in advance, attend each class, utilize any/all resources provided by the instructor, and STUDY). **You are responsible for your own success.**

Exam Structure: Each exam will be comprised of two portions: Fill-in-the-blank/short answer and Multiple Choice. The Fill-in-the-blank/short answer portions will be first, with the multiple choice questions afterward.

Policy on Make-up Exams: **There are no makeup exams.** If you miss an exam it will become your dropped exam grade. In order to be fair to all students I cannot make exceptions. If you are involved in a school-sanctioned activity like a sport which requires you to miss the day of the exam you **MUST** inform me within the first two weeks of the first day of school (August 23rd) and provide all necessary documentation as proof. In this case I will permit you to take the exam no more than 48 hours **before** the rest of the class. You will not be allowed to take it after the official exam date. No exceptions.

Quizzes: There will be 10 short quizzes (approximately 10 multiple-choice questions per quiz) posted to Blackboard throughout the semester, corresponding to each chapter. Quizzes will be worth 20% of your grade. Due dates for each quiz are listed on the class schedule. You **ARE** allowed to use your textbook to complete them, but you are **NOT** allowed to work on the quizzes with anyone else. You can also take the quizzes as many times as you want to try to get all the points.

In-class Assignments/Participation: In-class assignments will range from a worksheet to something more like a short quiz (or even something as easy as an attendance sheet!). Students must be present in class to receive credit for these assignments, and they cannot be made up. These in-class assignments will not be announced. They are worth 20% of your grade

Extra Credit: There is no extra credit.

Grading:	Grade:	
A = 450-500 points	Exam One	100 pts
B = 400-449 points	Exam Two	100 pts
C = 350-399 points	Exam Three	100 pts
D = 300-349 points	Quizzes	100 pts
F = 299 points or fewer	In-class activities	100 pts
	Total	500 points

Grading cutoffs are firm. In order to be fair to everyone I cannot “bump” your grade no matter how close you might be.

General Policies:

Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism:

If I believe that you have copied from another student or allowed a student to copy your work, you will receive a grade of ‘0’ on that assignment or exam and the dean will be notified of the offense. For more detail see the: the “Academic Honesty” section. **CHEATING IN ANY FORM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!**

Attendance and Timeliness:

Please make an effort to attend every class and be punctual. You are expected to come to class prepared (e.g., read the appropriate pages, completed any assignments, and have noted any questions that you want answered or discussed) and on time. Attendance will not generally be taken; however, in-class assignments (20% of your grade) should encourage you to be here (and, there is always the possibility that one of your in-class “assignments” will be as simple as an attendance quiz). Students must be present in class to receive credit for these assignments, and they cannot be made up.

Professional Conduct:

As part of your general college training, it is expected that you learn how to function well in the professional world. I expect you to always communicate appropriately (in person and in writing), be respectful of your classmates and instructors, and contribute to class discussions. I also expect you to be able to write using correct grammar. You are an intelligent adult and in college so this is not an unfair request. I will subtract points from your written work if there are pervasive mistakes or if the work lacks clarity due to improper grammar.

Students with Disabilities Policy:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911(a)(2) defines religious holy days as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20..." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will notify the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Academic Honesty:

The Faculty of Sam Houston State University expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit), the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college. The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled Student Guidelines, distributed by Division of Student Services. (Reference Section 5.3 of the SHSU Student Guidelines).

To receive credit for any assignment in this class, all products should be generated after the class began and the task was assigned. In other words, nothing from another class should be used for credit in this class, even if the author is a student currently enrolled in this class. Failure to use proper citations for work could result in no credit for the assignment.

Classroom Visitors: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Additional Important Course Information:

- **Cell phones, i-phones, and similar devices** are permitted in class on the condition that they are silent and are not causing disruption. I reserve the right to ask you to leave class immediately should behavior become disruptive. **THESE DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED DURING EXAMS**
- **Laptop computers:** Laptops are allowed; however, individuals using them must remain at the back of the classroom unless there is an extenuating circumstance, which I must approve beforehand. Laptops must also be quiet; no loud mechanical keyboards. These restrictions on laptops are necessary because laptops are a potential distraction to your peers. I reserve the right to ask you to leave class and not bring your laptop again should it prove disruptive. **THESE DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED DURING EXAMS**
- **Response Time:** Please give me adequate time to respond to messages and to grade assignments. I try to maintain a quick turn-around, however, with so many students what is "quick" to me may feel slow to you. For instance, please give me 1-2 full business days to respond to your email before sending more. Also, give me at least one to two weeks to post your exam grades to Blackboard. If your grade is still not posted two weeks after the exam day and I haven't mentioned the delay in class, PLEASE let me know.
- When taking exams, you are required to remain in the classroom unless you have submitted your exam as completed.
- As instructor, I reserve the right to drop students for inappropriate behavior.
- The course outline that follows is subject to change based on students' levels of comprehension, mastery of material presented, and/or extraneous circumstances.
- Should you require any additional information, please contact me or come to my office hours. If you want to come see me in person but have a scheduling conflict with my office hours, email me and we can try to set up a time.

Class Schedule

Dates	Topics	Assignments Due
Aug. 23-25	Syllabus	
Aug. 28- Sept. 1	Ch. 1- Introduction & Ch. 2- Research Methods	Syllabus Quiz Due 8/31 at 11:59pm
Sept. 4	Labor Day- No class	
Sept. 5- 8	Ch. 2 cont. & Ch. 3- Elicited Behaviors and Classical Conditioning	Quiz 2 due 9/7 at 11:59 pm
Sept. 12-14	Ch. 3 cont & Ch.4- Classical Conditioning: Basic Phenomena and Various Complexities	
September 19	Exam 1 (Textbook Ch. 1-3)	
Sept. 18-22	Ch.4 cont. & Ch. 5- Classical Conditioning: Underlying Processes and Practical Applications	
Sept. 25-29	Ch. 5 cont.	Quiz 3 due 9/26 at 11:59 pm
Oct. 2- 6	Ch. 6- Operant Conditioning: Introduction	Quiz 4 due 10/5 at 11:59 pm
October 10	Ch. 7- Schedules and Theories of Reinforcement	
Oct. 12	Exam 2 (Textbook Ch. 4-6)	Informal Course Eval. Due 10/12 at 11:59pm
Oct. 16- 20	Ch. 7- (Cont) & Ch. 8- Extinction and Stimulus Control	Quiz 6 due 10/19 at 11:59 pm
Oct. 23- 27	Ch. 8 Cont.	
Oct. 30- Nov. 3	Ch. 9- Escape, Avoidance, and Punishment	Quiz 7 due 10/31 at 11:59 pm
November 7	Ch. 10- Choice, Matching, and Self-Control	
Nov. 9	Exam 3 (Textbook Ch. 7-9)	
Nov. 13- 17	Ch. 11- Observational Learning and Rule-Governed Behavior	Quiz 8 due 11/16 at 11:59 pm
Nov. 20-21	Ch. 12- Biological Dispositions in Learning	Quiz 9 due 11/21
Nov. 22-24	Thanksgiving Break- No class	
Nov. 27- Dec. 1	Ch. 13- Comparative Cognition	Quiz 10 due 11/30 at 11:59 pm
Finals Week	EXAM 4 (FINAL) (Textbook Ch. 10-13)	

***Schedule is subject to change if needed