Course Syllabus

PSY 341-301
Learning and Motivation

Instructor: Nancy Lamphere, MS

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Office location: Rockwall Center 133B
Office hours: TBA

Class location: Rockwall Center – Room 145
Class time: T/R 2:00-3:15 p.m.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook Required

Klein, S. B. (2015). Learning: Principles and applications (7th edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

ISBN: 978-1-4522-7194-1

Supplementary readings will be provided in class or via eCollege.

Course Description
According to the course catalog, "this course presents the basic data of learning and motivation and describes general theoretical approaches to understanding them." Pre-requisite: PSY 2301 or PSY 131

Topics will include classical and operant conditioning, observational learning, as well as biological, social, and cultural influences on learning and motivation.

Student Learning Outcomes
By the end of the semester, and assuming you fulfill the expectations below, you should be able to:

1. Describe various theories of learning and motivation and explain how they are used
2. Identify ways that learning and motivation apply to their own lives
3. Explain how cultural and social factors influence learning and motivation

Course Expectations:
Your success in this class ultimately depends on your willingness to put in whatever time and effort is necessary. I am available to help you, but you should realize that this depends in part on your level of commitment to the course. The ways I determine your commitment include:

- **Class attendance** – Be seated and ready to start before I am
- **Assigned materials read prior to lectures** – You will get much more out of the class lectures if you are already familiar with what will be covered
- **Attentiveness and participation during class** – Phone is put away; make occasional eye contact, nod your head when you agree or understand, actively engage with in-class activities, and laugh at my jokes.
- **Assignments completed on time** – Due dates are announced well in advance; internet issues are not an excuse unless eCollege is down

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments
In addition to class lectures, discussions, and activities , you will be using the Internet to access eCollege to check your grade, download handouts, turn in assignments, and email the instructor and/or classmates.

There is a variety of assessments to gauge your understanding of the material. Detailed instructions will be provided for each assignment when appropriate.

GRADING

Course grades are based on the following:

Exams (3@100 pts each) – 300 pts
There are three (3) exams worth 100 points each. The majority of questions will be multiple choice, but be prepared for fill-in-the-blank, matching, and short answer questions. With very few exceptions, **EXAMS CANNOT BE MADE UP!**

In-class assignments/activities – 50 pts
There will be a variety of short in-class assignments, most of which will be based on the assigned reading, so be sure to come to class prepared!. These assignments not be announced in advance, and **cannot be made up** unless the absence is university-approved.

Behavioral Modification Assignment (150 pts)
You will design and conduct a behavioral modification project. With instructor guidance, you will identify a target behavior, collect baseline data, identify effective reinforcers, and design and implement a modification program. You will then write up and present the results. Detailed instructions will be provided in class.

Final exam – 100 pts
The final exam is comprehensive, will be similar to the other exams, and will be given during finals week.

Grading summary:

Exams (3 @100 pts each)	300
BMA Presentation	50
BMA Report	100
In-class assignments	50
Final Exam	100
Total pts:	600

Grade Distribution

A	≥90%
B	80%-89%
C	70%-79%
D	60%-69%
F	<60%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements for the Epic Web Client are:
  - Any current Flash-compliant browser (e.g., Internet Explorer 7 or Firefox 3.0)
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- A sound card and speakers or headphones
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date
- Some classes may have specific class requirements for additional software. These requirements will be listed on the course offerings page. Most home computers purchased within the last 3-4 years meet or surpass these requirements.

- You will need some additional free software for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - o Adobe Reader
  - o Adobe Flash Player
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2003, XP, or 2007. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

eCollege Access and Log in Information
Although we meet in the classroom, this course will also utilize certain aspects of eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to ECollege, click on the 'myCourses' tab, and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

eCollege Technical Support
Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

- Chat Support: Click on 'Live Support' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.
- Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- Email: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative
- Help: Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e., how to submit to Dropbox, how to post to Discussions)

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Class announcements: Important class announcements are sent out via email, so check your LeoMail daily, including at least once on the weekend!

Communication with the instructor: <u>Email is the best way to reach me outside of class.</u> If you don't use eCollege to email me, then include the course number in the subject (PSY 403). I will make every effort to respond within 24 hours to emails received on Mondays - Thursdays, and on Mondays to emails received on Fridays and over the weekend. If I haven't responded within those time frames, please send a gentle reminder.

Always send an email follow-up to any in-person conversations we have that require further action.

Email etiquette:
- **Do** include the course number in the subject.
- **Do** include your first and last name within the email.
- **Do** use complete sentences with correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- **Do** reread your email before you send to be sure that it makes sense, it doesn't have any major typos, and it says what you mean.
- **Do not** treat an email exchange with an instructor like a conversation with your friends.
- **Do not** use texting acronyms!
- **Do** remember that emails to instructors reflect your ability to express yourself in a professional manner.
- **Do** remember that emails can be saved, reread, and *forwarded*.

University Academic Support
Texas A&M-Commerce has several programs in place to help students succeed academically (this list is not all-inclusive).

- Academic Success Center (ASC)
  http://web.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/AcademicSuccessCenter/default.aspx

- Writing Center
  http://web.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx

- TRiO (for those who qualify)
  http://web.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/trioPrograms/default.aspx

Policy for Reporting Problems with eCollege
Should you encounter eCollege-based problems while submitting assignments, the following procedure **MUST** be followed:

1. Report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at helpdesk@online.tamuc.org or 1-866-656-5511.
2. You **MUST** file your problem with the helpdesk and **obtain a helpdesk ticket number.**
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, email me about the problem and include the helpdesk ticket number.
4. At that time, I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you regarding what to do about the assignment.

PLEASE NOTE: Your personal computer/access problems are not a legitimate excuse for not filing a ticket with the help desk. You are strongly encouraged to check for compatibility of your browser **BEFORE** the course begins and to take the eCollege tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the eCollege platform.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures
- If you must come in late (and class has started), quietly take a seat that does not disturb other students (i.e., near the door)
- Turn cell phones off during class
- No recording or photos during class (this includes with your phone or other any device!) without prior permission
- My PowerPoint slides are not provided to students
- Late assignments are severely penalized – PLAN AHEAD! Internet problems are not an excuse!
- **No make-up exams unless** due to a university-approved absence. I understand that things do come up, so exceptions are possible if prior arrangements are made with me.

University Specific Procedures

Students with Disabilities
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Conduct
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).*

A recent policy change designated any building owned, leased, or operated by the University as a Smoke, Vapor & Tobacco Free Environment.

Academic Integrity: The most serious offense in an academic sense is plagiarism, which is presenting the work or ideas of others as your own. Many students do not realize that, in addition to the obviously unacceptable practice of copying and pasting off the internet into a paper, plagiarism includes using another person's idea without citing that fact, copying another student's homework, and even collaborating on out-of-class assignments (like homework) without instructor permission. Don't believe anyone who says that the university doesn't do anything about students who are caught cheating – it does. Ignorance about what constitutes plagiarism is not a defense! Take the time to know what your responsibilities are so that all your hard work gets you what you want – your degree!

Check these sites our for further information:
http://www.plagiarism.org/
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR

Date	Topic	Reading
8/26 – 9/16	Intro, traditional theories, instinct	Chapters 1-3
9/16	Exam 1	
9/18 -10/16	Classical, operant, and aversive conditioning	Chapters 4-8
10/16	Exam 2	
10/21– 11/11	Biological, cognitive, and memory	Chapters 9-12
11/11	Exam 3	
11/13 – 11/25	Motivation	Articles
12/2 – 12/4	Behavior Modification presentations	

NOTE: Everything effort is made to stick to this schedule, but things happen so it is subject to change. A less tentative and more detailed schedule will be available on the first day of class.