



## PSY 341 Learning Theories and Processes

### COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2024

#### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Dr. Benton Pierce

**Office Location:** 232 – Henderson Hall

**Office Hours:** Via email or Zoom by appointment

**Office Phone:** N/A

**Office Fax:** N/A

**University Email Address:** [benton.pierce@tamuc.edu](mailto:benton.pierce@tamuc.edu)

**Preferred Form of Communication:** email

**Communication Response Time:** 48 hours excluding weekends

#### COURSE INFORMATION

##### Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

**Textbook:** Mark A. Gluck, Eduardo Mercado, & Catherine E. Myers (2020), *Learning and Memory: From Brain to Behavior 4<sup>th</sup> edition*

ISBN-13: 978-1-319-10738-3

ISBN-10: 1-319-10738-9

##### Course Description

The aim of this course is to provide a general understanding of the basic principles and theories of learning.

##### Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to identify the various learning theories in psychology.
2. Students will be able to identify classic studies of learning and what they tell us

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2. Students will be able to identify classic studies of learning and what they tell us  
Students will be able to identify the various learning theories in psychology.
3. Students will be able to identify classic studies of learning and what they tell us about how the human mind works.
2. Students will be able to make predictions about learning performance based on the principles reviewed in the course (i.e., they will be able to apply the course content to novel situations).

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

This course will use D2L.

### **Instructional Methods**

Video and textual lecture summaries and other supplemental course materials will be posted in D2L. Students will use these materials with the assigned reading to prepare for course assessments. Assessments will include quizzes and participation in online discussions. This online course contains the same content you'd expect in a traditional 14 week face-to-face version. You should plan on spending approximately 6-10 hours per week reading, viewing course content, completing course assignments, and participating in discussions.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

Read the textbook. View the online materials. Complete all quizzes and discussion posts. Start your final paper early. Check your LeoMail EVERY DAY. Important class announcements will be made via email.

**Broken Link Policy:** Online content is checked in advance, but in rare cases a link may stop working mid-week. If a link is no longer working, notify the instructor immediately and no later than 24 hours prior to the chapter due date. Any broken links will be remedied and announced in D2L, and therefore no adjustments will be made to student grades if this occurs.

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

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## Assessments

**Quizzes:** Quizzes for each chapter will be posted in D2L on the assigned content. These quizzes will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. While these quizzes are technically “open book and open web,” you probably will not have time to look up answers so should carefully study the information before taking the quiz (same as you would an in-person exam). You will have 60 minutes to complete each quiz. You should plan to complete each quiz within 9 minutes after you open it given the possibility of computer timing errors.

Do not take the quiz on a device with an unreliable internet connection. If your internet cuts out, you may not have a chance to complete the quiz before time runs out. I drop the 2 lowest quizzes to account for problems people may experience with their schedules or technology, so there is no need to report these to me (I will not drop more than one lowest grade). **All quizzes are due before 5:00 pm CT on the due date (see topic schedule for specific due dates).**

### Schedule (Tentative)

Chapter	Topic	Quiz Dates
1	Psychology of Learning & Memory	
2	Neuroscience of Learning & Memory	<b>Sept. 9 – Quiz 1 – Chapters 1 &amp; 2</b>
3	Habituation, Sensitization, and Familiarization: Learning about Repeated Events	
4	Classical Conditioning: Learning to Predict Important Events	<b>Sept. 23 – Quiz 2 – Chapters 3 &amp; 4</b>
5	Operant Conditioning: Learning the Outcome of Behaviors	
6	Generalization and Discrimination Learning	<b>Oct. 7 – Quiz 3 – Chapters 5 &amp; 6</b>
7	Episodic and Semantic Memory: Memory for Facts and Events	
	Episodic and Semantic Memory: Memory for Facts and Events (cont.)	
8	Skill Memory: Learning by Doing	<b>Oct. 28 – Quiz 4 – Chapters 7 &amp; 8</b>

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9	Working Memory and Cognitive Control	
10	Emotional Influences on Learning and Memory	<b>Nov. 11 – Quiz 5 – Chapters 9 &amp; 10</b>
11	Social Learning and Memory: Observing, Interacting, and Reenacting	
12	Development and Aging: Learning and Memory across the Lifespan	<b>Nov. 25 – Quiz 6 – Chapters 11 &amp; 12</b>
Weeks 15 & 16	To be announced	

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## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### Interaction with Instructor Statement

All course-related question should be direct to me via email. I will respond to emails within 24-48 hours. Please do not re-send your email unless at least 48 hours have passed since your last email.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures/Policies

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

No quizzes, exams, or homework will be accepted after the deadline unless permission is provided in advance of the deadline by the instructor.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

### **University Specific Procedures**

#### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-code-of-conduct/>.

If you believe someone has engaged in behaviors that do not align with the Code of Student Conduct or you have other concerns, please visit the File a Report page at <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

#### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy  
[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy  
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Graduate student academic dishonesty policy:  
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:  
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

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## **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage.

## **Artificial Intelligence**

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, Chatbots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

## **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

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 Services  
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

**Phone (903) 886-5930**

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

**Website:** <http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx>

## **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

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### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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