



## **PSY 341 Learning Theories and Process**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer I 2025

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Shifang Tang, Ph.D.

**Class Location:** online. Zoom synchronic.

**Office Location:** Henderson 201A

**Office Hours:** [Zoom office hours] T/TH: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

\*\*\*In-person/Zoom meetings by appointment

Changes to office hours announced on D2L

**Email Address:** [shifang.tang@tamuc.edu](mailto:shifang.tang@tamuc.edu)

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours on weekdays

**Note.** Emails without proper salutations or not sent from LEOMAIL will **NOT** be responded to.

### **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

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

ISBN-10: 1-319-10738-9

**Software Required:** None

#### ***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

about how the human mind works.

3. 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 you 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

REQUIREMENTS	Weight
Quizzes	50%
Discussion	50%
	<b>100%</b>

## Assessments

**Quizzes:** Quizzes for each chapter will be posted in D2L on the assigned content. These quizzes will consist of multiple choice 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 10 minutes to complete each quiz; taking longer than the designated time may result in a zero grade. You should plan to complete each quiz within 9 minutes after you open it given the possibility of computer timing errors. This gives you just under a minute per question, the same as a 50 item test taken in a 50-minute face-to-face course.

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 11:59 pm CT on the due date (see topic schedule for specific due dates).**

**Discussions:** Topics for the discussion will be posted by chapter. There will be ten discussion for the semester. The first assignment will cover chapter 3. Note that you should include ***insightful ideas and comments that are complete and well explained as well as defended by specific evidence***. Note that such defense does not require direct quotation from sources – use your own ideas and words. Your answers must ***demonstrate that you have reviewed, understood, and contemplated the material*** for the chapter. Submitted discussion that are weak, trivial, unclear, ungrammatical, or not defended by evidence will earn low points. If the discussion contains multiple parts, be sure to address each. I will drop your lowest assignment. **All discussion will be due before 11:59 pm CT on the due date (see topic schedule).**

**Essay grades will be assigned as follows, with up to 10 points assigned per essay: excellent essay = 10, good/complete essay = 8, and essays that contain inaccurate or insufficient information = 1 to 3, missing essays = 0.**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **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.

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it

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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 is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

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>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **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 Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### ***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 Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

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

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **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.

### ***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)

## ***Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content***

### ***COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR***

#### **Schedule (Tentative)**

Note: Chapters 1 and 2 are optional. Read them if you feel you need a review over what you learned about learning and neuropsychology in your Intro to Psychology course

Chapter	Topic	Quiz and assignment dates
1	Psychology of Learning & Memory	Optional

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2	Neuroscience of Learning & Memory	Optional
3	Habituation, Sensitization, and Familiarization: Learning about Repeated Events	June 2
4	Classical Conditioning: Learning to Predict Important Events	June 5
5	Operant Conditioning: Learning the Outcome of Behaviors	June 9 July 18
6	Generalization and Discrimination Learning	June 12 July 21
7	Episodic and Semantic Memory: Memory for Facts and Events	June 16 July 25
8	Skill Memory: Learning by Doing	June 19 July 28
9	Working Memory and Cognitive Control	June 23 Aug 1
10	Emotional Influences on Learning and Memory	June 26
11	Social Learning and Memory: Observing, Interacting, and Reenacting	June 30
12	Development and Aging: Learning and Memory across the Lifespan	July 3

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