

PSYCHOLOGY 432.01 LEARNING

Tuesday-Thursday

AB4-302

S. T. KORDINAK, Ph.D.

AB-4 - 335 – (936) 294-1180

Office Hours Monday & Wednesday 9-10

Other by Appointment

TEXT: Bouton, M. E. (2007). *Learning and Behavior: A Contemporary Synthesis*. Sunderland, MA: Sinauer Associates, Inc.

Selected Readings: Selected research articles will be assigned to supplement the chapters.

Course Description - PSY 432 LEARNING. This course includes a study of the major theories of learning and their historical backgrounds; experimental procedures in the study of learning are discussed. Prerequisite: 6 semester hours of Psychology.

Course Objectives, the student will:

- 1. Gain factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, method, trends)**
- 2. Understand fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories**
- 3. Understand how to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)**

Instructional Format: Socratic Method plus Lectures and class discussion.

Attendance Policy: Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. A record of student's attendance will be kept. If a student misses **four (4) classes (equivalent of two weeks of school)**, the maximum grade they can receive is "C". If a student misses **six (6) classes (equivalent of 3 weeks of school)**, the student should drop the class, maximum grade they can receive is "D". If a student misses more than **seven (7) classes**, they will receive an "F" for the course.

Dropping the Course: It is the student's responsibility to do the paper work to drop the course. If the student stops attending class and does not officially drop the course he/she will receive an "F" for the course. The deadline for dropping a course without an "F" is May 8, 2008

Instructor Evaluations: Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Grade: A Percentage method of grading will be used. The computation of the percentage will be based on 90% of the total points or the highest grade WHICHEVER is higher. For example if the total points on the test is 100, numerator will be the students score, the denominator will be either 90 or the highest grade, WHICHEVER is the higher: If no student gets a score greater than 90, then 90 will be used, if a student obtains a score greater than 90, i.e. 94, 94 will be used as a denominator. The resulting percentage will be interpreted using the following criteria:

Grade	Percentage	
A	.9000	- 1.0000
B	.8000	- .8999
C	.6000	- .7999
D	.5000	- .5999
F	.0000	- .4999

Examinations: There will be five scheduled multiple-choice and short essay examinations. Make-up examinations will be essays.

Missed Examination: If you miss an exam, please see me as soon as possible to let me know your reason for missing it. **THE EXCUSE MUST BE WRITTEN AND APPROPRIATELY DOCUMENTED (Written note from the attending M.D.). AN EXCUSE THAT DOES NOT WITHSTAND VERIFICATION WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF ZERO FOR THAT EXAM.** If you do have a valid excuse, then be prepared to take a make-up exam immediately. Having another test the same day does not count as a good reason for missing an exam. **All make-up examination will be essay.**

Arriving Late for an Examination: If you arrive late for an examination and a member of the class has finished the exam and left the room, you will be given an essay examine. If you arrive late for an examination you will not be given extra time to finish the exam.

No leaving the classroom once the test is distributed, if you have to leave the room your test is completed.

E-Mail – E-Mail pertaining to class will be answered during the next class period.

Final Grade: The final grade will be determined by the summing of the five scheduled examinations. Each measurement will be equally weighted and using the following sum distribution for the final grade.

Sum Percentage

A	4.500	-	Above
B	4.000	-	4.499
C	3.000	-	3.999
D	2.500	-	2.999
F	0.000	-	1.999

Standard Policies for Dr. Kordinak's ClassesNOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY:

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 are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. 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 the student has a disability that may affect adversely their work in this class, then he or she needs to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how they can best be helped. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center. There will be no retroactive accommodations.

Students with a disability will be graded on the same criteria as non-disabled students.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

In accordance with the University's Academic Policy Statement 810213, the following statement applies to all students in my classes:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

Cheating is unethical, dishonest, and fraudulent. Cheating is not tolerated in this class and will result in the immediate failure of this course ("F" Grade). The incident will be reported to the Dean of the College of Humanities & Social Sciences for further disposition.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT:

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students therefore must refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. **Cellular phones, pagers, and music players (for example, iPod-type devices) must be turned off and earphones removed before class begins and removed from the desk.** Students are prohibited from using tobacco

products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, talking at inappropriate times, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Both men and women must remove hats, caps, and other head covers during exams. **Tape recording is not permitted in the class. Laptop computer use is not permitted in the class.** Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:

Visitors are not permitted.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:

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, Tax Code.

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.

Week of	Readings	Chapter
January 14	Introduction	
January 21	Learning Theory: What it is and how it got this way	1
January 28	Learning and Adaptation	2
February 4	Test I & The Nuts and Bolts of Conditioning	3
February 11	The Nuts and Bolts of Conditioning	3&4
February 18	Theories of Conditioning	4
February 25	Theories of Conditioning & Test II	4
March 3	What Ever Happen to Behavior Anyway?	5
March 10	Spring Holiday	
March 17	Are the Laws of Conditioning General?	6
March 24	Are the Laws of Conditioning General? And Test III	6
March 31	Behavior and Its Consequences	7
April 7	How Stimuli Guide Instrumental Action	8
April 14	How Stimuli Guide Instrumental Action & Test IV	9
April 21	The Motivation of Instrumental Actions	9
April 28	A Synthetic Perspective of Instrumental Action	10
May 5	A Synthetic Perspective of Instrumental Action	10
May-12	Test V	

Psychology 432
Spring 2008
Dr. S. T. Kordinak

I, _____ have read the syllabus
for
(Print your name)

Psychology 432 and have been given an opportunity to ask the Professor questions about any portion of the syllabus that I do not fully understand. At this time, I fully understand the course requirements.

Your Signature

Today's Date

Day Time Phone Number: _____

E Mail Address (the one you use) _____