

Learning (PSY 432 Sec. 02)

3 Credit Hours

Spring 2008 MWF 10 -11 a.m. AB4 313

Instructor: Drew Curtis, MA

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Office Hours: MWF 11-12 or by appointment

Required Text: Chance, Paul (2006). Learning & Behavior Active Learning Edition, 5th Edition. Belmont, CA: Thompson Higher Education. ISBN 0-495-03207-7

Recommended Text: Domjan, Michael (2006). The Principles of Learning and Behavior: Active Learning Edition, 5th Edition. Belmont, CA: Thompson Higher Education.

Course Description: This course includes a study of the major theories of learning and their historical backgrounds; experimental procedures in the study of learning are discussed.

Course Objectives:

- Students will be able to identify fundamental concepts of major theories of learning.
- Students will be able to explain behavior by applying the fundamental concepts of the major theories of learning.
- Students will be able to compare and contrast the major theories of learning.

Prerequisite: 6 hours of psychology

Instructional Format: The class format will include lectures and group discussions.

Grading: There are a possible 450 points available in the course (3 exams, final, cumulative quiz score, and a presentation). Four exams will be worth 100 points each. There will also be 11 in-class quizzes, each counting 10 points, for a total of 100 points possible (lowest quiz score will be dropped). The presentations will count for 50 points (and can NOT be dropped or missed). Thus, the grading scheme allows for one missed or dropped exam (or cumulative quiz score). Because of this grading scheme, there will be NO MAKE-UP EXAMS and NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES. SO, if you have taken all the exams, all or most of the quizzes, and are satisfied with your grade, you do not have to take the final.

Exams: There will be four exams (including the comprehensive final) worth 100 points each. Make-up exams will NOT be given. Exams will be comprised of multiple choice, true/false, and essay/short answer questions. The exams will be based on class lectures and material from the textbook. The final exam must be taken at the time designated by the University or prior arrangements must be made with the instructor.

Presentations: This presentation consists of two parts: in class presentation and a 3-4 page critique in APA format. The overall project is worth 50 points (25pts. for the presentation and 25pts. for the critique) and each dyad will receive ONE grade. Each

dyad is to find a current topic (i.e., research article) pertaining to the course and then critically evaluate the material. The presentations will be 10 to 15 minutes in length. Topics must be approved by the instructor by FEBRUARY 20th.

Your grade will be based upon the following schema:

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = 0-59%

Attendance Policy: Attendance is expected and will be recorded. Attending class is important to pass the course and to keep up with the course material. Attendance will be considered in cases of borderline grades. The university's full attendance policy can be found at the following website: <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#attend>

Syllabus Guidelines: You may find online a more detailed of the following policies. These guidelines will also provide you with a link to the specific university policy or procedure: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus>

Academic Dishonesty: 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 their 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, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Classroom rules of conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Please do not talk, send, or receive messages on cell phones or other electronic devices when in the classroom. Respect your classmates by muting your cell phone. It is inappropriate to speak while others are speaking. 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.

Disabilities: 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 you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center 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 Counseling Center.

Religious holidays: 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 a religious holy day 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 complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Visitors in the classroom: Generally visitors are not allowed in the classroom. Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

DATE	ASSIGNMENT	CHAPTER
16-Jan	Introduction	1
18-Jan	Learning	1
21-Jan	No class-Martin Luther King Day	
23-Jan	Quiz/Methods	2
25-Jan	Methods	2
28-Jan	Quiz/Classical Conditioning	3
3D-Jan	Classical Conditioning	3
1-Feb	Quiz/Classical Conditioning	3
4-Feb	Classical Conditioning Mechanisms	4

6-Feb	Classical Conditioning Mechanisms	4
8-Feb	Exam I	
11-Feb	Operant Conditioning	5
13-Feb	Quiz/Operant Conditioning	5
15-Feb	Operant Conditioning	5
18-Feb	Operant Conditioning	6
20-Feb	Quiz/Operant Conditioning	6

22-Feb	Operant Conditioning	6
25-Feb	Quiz/Operant Conditioning Applications	7
27-Feb	Schedules of Reinforcement	10
29-Feb	Schedules of Reinforcement	10
3-Mar	Quiz/Schedules of Reinforcement	10
5-Mar	Schedules of Reinforcement	10
7-Mar	Exam II	
10-Mar	No class-Spring Break (3/10-3/15)	
17-Mar	Generalization, Discrimination, and Stimulus Control	9
19-Mar	Quiz/Generalization, Discrimination, and Stimulus Control	9
21-Mar	No class-Good Friday	
24-Mar	Generalization, Discrimination, and Stimulus Control	9
26-Mar	Forgetting	11
28-Mar	Forgetting	11
31-Mar	Quiz/Forgetting	11
2-Apr	Forgetting	11
4-Apr	Vicarious Learning	8
7-Apr	Vicarious Learning	8
9-Apr	Quiz/Vicarious Learning	8
11-Apr	Vicarious Learning	8
14-Apr	Exam III	
16-Apr	Presentations	
18-Apr	Presentations	
21-Apr	Presentations	
23-Apr	Presentations	
25-Apr	Presentations	
2-May	Presentations/Limits of Learning	12
5-May	Limits of Learning	12
7-May	Quiz/Review	
9-May	No class-Study Day	
12-May	FINAL EXAM (check University schedule)	

