

**PSY 341: Learning & Behavior/Motivation (Fall 2012)**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS (subject to change until first class day)**

**Instructor:** Jerry Perez

**Office Location:** Binnion 208

**Office Hours:** I will not hold formal office hours because this course takes place entirely at Collins Higher Education Center. Rather, I will check the eCollege Virtual Office daily. Also, I will respond to emails within 24-48 hours.

**Email Address:** [jperez01@hotmail.com](mailto:jperez01@hotmail.com)

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**

*Textbook(s) Required: Learning and Behavior, 6th edition, by Mazur, ISBN: 0-13-193163-6*

**Course Description:** This course covers the principles and theories of learning, behavior, and motivation in human and non-human species. Covered topics will include: classical conditioning, operant conditioning, reinforcement schedules, avoidance, punishment, comparative cognition, and observational learning.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Your developing knowledge of the above topics will be assessed in three ways: 1) quizzes and final exam (40%), 2) contributions to discussion groups (30%), and 3) reading summaries and presentations (30%).

**Grading**

Your grade will be based on the number of points you earn out of 100. There will be 14 quizzes, each containing 20 questions. Each will be graded on a passing criterion of 70%. You will earn 30% of your overall grade from quizzes.

There will be a comprehensive final exam worth 10% of your overall grade and could contain multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, true/false, or short answer questions.

You will be working in small groups. Throughout the semester, there will be discussions in which you will be required to post contributions. Each will be worth a certain percentage, adding up to 30% of your overall grade. Finally, there will be assigned chapters you will need to summarize, to be assigned at various points during the semester. Summaries are worth 30% of your overall grade.

In sum, these components of the course add up to be 100%:

You need 90 points or better for an 'A', 80 points or better for a 'B', 70 points or better for a 'C', and 60 points or better for a 'D'. A total below 60 points will result in an 'F'.

**Group Summaries**

For each chapter, you will be required to submit (in the form of a Word document submitted via the eCollege drop box or email for the appropriate Week) a Presentation Summary of the chapter for the week.

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

This course will be supplemented using **eCollege**, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.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](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course.

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- Microsoft Word (all reading summaries you submit must end with .doc or .docx)

eCollege is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means that this course will work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0). This course also will work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems. It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

### **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

1. You must access and follow all course instructions found in the weekly content area in eCollege for this course. The weekly content area is in the left navigation bar once you access this course.
2. You will download and study the PowerPoint lecture for each week/topic provided in Doc Sharing. They might be available all at once, or each might be available with each new week/topic.
3. You will complete the assigned online quizzes and exams by accessing the ‘quiz’ and ‘exam’ tools in this eCollege course. These links will be visible in the relevant weeks listed in the left navigation bar.
4. You will respond to posted online course discussion questions using the eCollege discussion tool (see ‘Discussion’ link in certain Weeks in the left navigation bar).
5. You will complete and submit reading summaries electronically using the eCollege dropbox tool/tab – see ‘Dropbox’ in the top toolbar of eCollege for this course.

### **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

You can interact with me via email or by posting questions to me in the eCollege Virtual Office for this course (see upper section of left navigation bar).

eCollege Student 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](mailto: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 etc...)

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

#### **Course Specific Procedures:**

Academic Honesty Policy: Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards

of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

**Examination Policy:** All quizzes and exams are to be taken prior to the end of the semester. **You are not allowed to take any quiz or exam after its respective deadline, unless you notify me of extenuating circumstances and I give permission in advance.**

**Late Work:** Your participation in discussion boards will not count unless your postings are made before the deadline for that week's discussion. **Reading summaries will not be accepted late unless I give you permission in advance.**

**Dropping the Course:** A student may drop this course by logging into their myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled 'Drop a class' from among the choices found under the myLEO section of the Web page.

**Incompletes:** The policy for this course is not to allow incompletes. If you cannot complete the course with a grade that you find satisfactory, it is your responsibility to drop it.

### University Specific Procedures:

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 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)  
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

### 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).

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This schedule is to be used as a guide. It is possible that it will change.

| <b>Week</b>  | <b>Topic</b>  |
|--------------|---|
| August 29    | Syllabus and Introductions                                      |
| September 5  | Chapter 1 An Introduction to Learning                           |
| September 12 | Chapter 2 Traditional Learning Theories                         |
| September 19 | Chapter 3 The Modification of Instinctive Behavior              |
| September 26 | Chapter 4 Principles and Applications of Classical Conditioning |

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|-------------|--|
| October 3   | Chapter 5 Theories of Classical Conditioning                     |
| October 10  | Chapter 6 Principles and Applications of Appetitive Conditioning |
| October 17  | Chapter 7 Principles and Applications of Aversive Conditioning   |
| October 24  | Chapter 8 Theories Appetitive and Aversive Conditioning          |
| October 31  | Chapter 9 Biological Influences on Learning                      |
| November 7  | Chapter 10 Stimulus Control of Behavior                          |
| November 14 | Chapter 11 Cognitive Control of Behavior                         |
| November 21 | Chapter 12 Complex Learning Tasks                                |
| November 28 | Chapter 13 The Storage of Our Experiences                        |
| December 5  | Chapter 14 Memory Retrieval and Forgetting                       |
| December 12 | <b>FINAL EXAM</b>  |

### Group Schedule

| Chapter | Definitions | Biography | Presentations |
|---------|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| Ch1     | grp1        | grp2      | grp3          |
| Ch2     | grp4        | grp5      | grp6          |
| Ch3     | grp7        | grp1      | grp2          |
| Ch4     | grp3        | grp4      | grp5          |
| Ch5     | grp6        | grp7      | grp1          |
| Ch6     | grp2        | grp3      | grp4          |
| Ch7     | grp5        | grp6      | grp7          |
| Ch8     | grp1        | grp2      | grp3          |
| Ch9     | grp4        | grp5      | grp6          |
| Ch10    | grp7        | grp1      | grp2          |
| Ch11    | grp3        | grp4      | grp5          |
| Ch12    | grp6        | grp7      | grp1          |
| Ch13    | grp2        | grp3      | grp4          |
| Ch14    | grp5        | grp6      | grp7          |

**Students are required to participate in at least four (4) research study hours and are encouraged to participate in as much research as they wish. Students will receive one extra credit point on their final course grade for every hour of research participation.**

**Students' Guide to Research Participation for Extra Credit is available on the course's eCollege site.**

- **What is Research Participation?**

Exposure to research is essential to your gaining a better understanding of the scientific study of psychology. It is how we add new knowledge in psychology. Being involved in research is a good way to experience first-hand and learn about the scientific enterprise. We believe there are two key ways to experience research activity at this level: 1) read about related scientific investigations; 2) experience research as a volunteer participant; or some combination of both. The class in which you received this handout requires you to fulfill **4** research credits through one or both of these activities..