

PSY 341: Learning & Behavior/Motivation (Spring 2013)
COURSE SYLLABUS

Class: M/W 12:30-1:45pm in Henderson 207
Instructor: Curt A. Carlson, Ph.D.
Office Location: Binnion 208
Office Hours: M/W: 1:45pm-3:45pm
University Email Address: curt.carlson@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required: *Learning: Principles & Applications*, 6th edition, by Klein

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 exams, 2) contributions to class discussion, and 3) reading summaries.

Grading

Your grade will be based on the number of points you earn out of 100. There will be 10 quizzes (to be taken online in eCollege), each containing 10 multiple-choice items. Each will be graded pass/fail based on a passing criterion of 60%. You will earn 2% of your overall grade for each passed quiz. There will be two exams (taken in class), each worth 20%, and they will contain multiple-choice questions. Your attendance and contribution to class discussion will add up to 20% of your overall grade. Finally, there are two articles you will need to summarize, each worth 10%.

In sum, these components of the course add up to 100%:
(10 quizzes X 2% = 20%) + (2 exams X 20% = 40%) + (20% for attendance/discussion) + (2 summaries X 10% = 20%) = 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'.

Reading Summaries

For two selected topics, you will be required to submit (in the form of a Word document submitted via the eCollege drop box) a Reading Summary of an article to be downloaded from Doc Sharing in eCollege. This summary must include:

- 1) a brief summary of the literature/theory on which the study is based
- 2) a basic description of what the authors did in the experiment(s)
- 3) their most important results
- 4) their conclusions based on these results.

In other words, it is most important to emphasize the REASONS WHY they conducted this research, what their HYPOTHESES were, how they TESTED them, what they FOUND, and what they CONCLUDED. The summary must be 1-2 pages long (single-spaced). Prior to submitting to the dropbox, be sure your summary is a .doc or .docx file, and label as: "LastNameFirstNameA#" (no commas or spaces) with # designating the assignment number (1-2).

Research Exposure Requirement

Due to the emphasis of this course on the laboratory-based science of psychology, all students will be exposed to laboratory-based research, either through participation in research studies conducted by psychology faculty, or by writing additional research summaries. You must participate in **six hours** of research studies (or complete an equivalent number of additional reading summaries) during this semester by signing up for studies via the Experiment Management System (see information on subsequent pages of this syllabus). Some studies will last less than 30 minutes, and some will last closer to 60 minutes or longer, but this information will be available when you sign up (as will when/where you need to go). Failure to complete the research exposure requirement results in a deduction of one full letter grade at the end of the term. For example, if you have a B at the end of the semester, but participated in only four (or fewer) hours of research, you will have a C in this course. Past students have signed up for studies, and then failed to show up to some of them, which is a great inconvenience to researchers in charge of those studies. As a result, **if you show up on time for every study you sign up for, you only need to complete a total of four (rather than six) hours of research.** Some studies are in the form of online surveys, and up to half of your participation can be done online.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

This course will be enhanced using **eCollege**, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.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@tamu-commerce.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 or newer). This course also will work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or newer. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0 or newer) 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.

NO CELL-PHONES, SMART-PHONES, LAPTOPS, iPads, OR OTHER COMPUTERS ARE ALLOWED TO BE USED DURING CLASS. Your grade could be penalized and you might be asked to leave class if you break this rule. If you download the lecture slides in advance and want to use them during class, please print them (at least 3 slides/page to save paper).

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

1. Each PowerPoint lecture from class will be available for download from Doc Sharing.
2. You will complete the assigned online quizzes 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.
3. 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 communicate with me via email or by visiting me during my office hours.

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 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 closed-book. **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: **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
[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.

Dates

Topic

Jan. 14 & 16	Syllabus; Introductions; Chapter 1: Psychology of Learning & Behavior
Jan. 21 & 23	Chapter 2: Traditional Learning Theories, Quiz 1
Jan. 28 & 30	Chapter 3: Modification of Instinctual Behavior, Quiz 2
Feb. 4 & 6	Chapter 4: Classical Conditioning: Principles & Applications
Feb. 11 & 13	Chapter 4 (continued), Quiz 3
Feb. 18 & 20	Chapter 5: Theories of Classical Conditioning, Quiz 4
Feb. 25 & 27	Chapter 6: Appetitive Conditioning: Principles & Applications, <i>Summary 1</i>
Mar. 4 & 6	Chapter 6 (continued), Quiz 5, MIDTERM
Mar. 11 & 13	SPRING BREAK
Mar. 18 & 20	Chapter 7: Aversive Conditioning, Quiz 6
Mar. 25 & 27	Chapter 8: Theories of Appetitive & Aversive Conditioning, Quiz 7
April 1 & 3	Chapter 9: Biological Influences
April 8 & 10	Chapter 10: Stimulus Control, Quiz 8, Summary 2
April 15 & 17	Chapter 11: Cognitive Control, Quiz 9
April 22 & 24	Chapter 12: Complex Learning, Quiz 10
April 29	Final Review
Wednesday, May 1	FINAL EXAM

Students' Guide to Research Participation

Department of Psychology, Counseling, & Special Education

Texas A&M University-Commerce

- **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 **6** research credits through one or both of these activities.

- **What if I am not yet 18 years old?**

In order to participate in research you must be at least 18 years old. If you are not yet 18 years old, please see your instructor, and ask him/her about alternative ways of earning research credit.

- **In what type of research studies will I participate?**

All studies you will participate in have been reviewed and approved by the Texas A&M University-Commerce Institutional Review Board (IRB) and by the Department of Psychology, Counseling, & Special Education. Studies vary widely. Many involve completing questionnaires or carrying out tasks on the computer. Some are even fun, and you'll learn something from all of them.

- **What are my rights as a research participant?**

Your participation is voluntary and you may withdraw from any study at any time. Your data will be kept confidential. If you have any further questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the IRB head, Carmen Salazar (Carmen.Salazar@tamuc.edu). More information about your rights will be provided to you prior to each study for which you sign up.

- **How will my research participation credit be calculated?**

You will receive 1 credit for each hour of research participation. Studies lasting 30 minutes or less are worth $\frac{1}{2}$ credit. For example, a 30 min. study = 0.5 research credits; 60min = 1 credit; $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours = 1.5 credits... etc.

- **How many research credits may I complete?**

You are encouraged to participate in as much research as you wish, but at a minimum you must complete **6** research credits (by participating in research, or alternative assignments, or a mixture of both). However, if you show up on time to all the studies you sign up for you will receive 2 free research credits. In other words, if you show up to all your studies on time you only need to complete **4** research credits.

- **What if I cannot go to a study I signed up for?**

If for whatever reason you cannot attend a study that you have signed up for you need to cancel your appointment before the start of the study. There are 2 ways to cancel an appointment. First, if you cancel 24 hours before a study you can do this online through the Experiment Management System (EMS) website. Second, if it is the same day of the study you can call or email the experimenter – their contact information will be available in the EMS.

- **What if I sign up for a study but forget to go?**

If you fail to show up for a study (without canceling prior to the start of the study) you will receive an email alerting you that you were listed as a “no show” for that study. Additionally on the EMS website you will see a “failure to appear” message in your list of studies completed. If this occurs you are no longer eligible to receive the 2 free credits that participants who are on time to all of their studies receive, and you will have to complete the full 6 credits.

- **What will happen if I fail to participate in studies or do the alternative assignments?**

If you fail to complete your research requirement for the class your grade in the class will be lowered one class grade. For example, if you have a “B” in the class, but fail to complete your research requirement you will receive a “C” for the class.

- **What if I do not wish to participate in research studies?**

If you do not wish to participate in research studies, you may utilize the alternative assignment option. You must consult your instructor for information about this option.

- **What is the difference between an online study and a laboratory study?**

There are two types of studies that are conducted through the EMS system. You can sign up for both online studies and laboratory studies through the EMS system, however you are only allowed to complete 50% experiment credits through online studies (the system will not allow you sign up for more than 50% credits of online studies). A laboratory study requires that you attend the experiment at a specific time and place (e.g., Henderson 202 at 12:30pm on September 6th).

- **How do I find and sign up for research participation opportunities?**

Throughout the semester, researchers in the Psychology Department will post their research studies in the Experiment Management System (EMS) online. It is up to you to check the EMS regularly to find and sign up for research studies that fit into your schedule. Detailed instructions for how to use the EMS are listed in the following pages of this handout.

- **If I decide to participate in research, what are my responsibilities?**

You are responsible for...

1. Registering with the Experiment Management System (at <http://tamu-commerce.sona-systems.com/>). You can keep your login information if you already have an account.
2. Scheduling appointments for research participation.
3. Writing down important information about the studies for which you sign up (e.g., name of study/time/location of your experiment, name and contact information of the experimenter).
4. Showing up on time, at the correct location for your scheduled research appointments (you must cancel online, or email/phone the experimenter before the start time of the study if you cannot attend).
5. Keep track of how many credits you need to complete (you can do this on the EMS website). Everyone is required to do 6 credits, however if you are on time for all of your appointments you only need to complete 4 credits.

How do I use the Experiment Management System (EMS)?

(Create a new participant account unless you already have one and your login information works. If you do not remember your login information, email curt.carlson@tamuc.edu. A list of courses will be presented, from which you must select the courses you are taking this semester for which you will receive credit for participation. If your course is not listed, see the instructor for that course.)

A. How to create a participant account on the EMS

1. Go to <http://tamuc-commerce.sona-systems.com/>
 - a. Click on New Participant “request an account here” link on the left of the screen.
 - b. This takes you to a screen on which you must enter your name, a unique User ID, your University ID number, and primary email address (reminders of studies you sign up for will be sent here). You will also need to highlight the course(s) in which you are enrolled, and for which you will be earning credits. If more than one, highlight all that will be involving you in research participation. However, each study in which you participate will only provide you credit for ONE course. In other words, there is no “double-dipping” allowed. **BE CAREFUL TO SELECT THE CORRECT COURSE AND SECTION # – IF YOU CHOOSE THE WRONG ONE, YOUR INSTRUCTOR WILL NOT BE INFORMED OF YOUR CREDITS!** After you submit your information, you will be emailed your login information. (After you have received your login information, I recommend that you login into EMS and go to your “Profile” and change your password to something that you can remember.)

If you encounter any problems with creating your account (e.g., login information not sent to you), contact the EMS administrator, curt.carlson@tamuc.edu with your full name and a detailed description of the problem.

2. When you first log into the EMS at the beginning of the semester you will be asked to take a prescreen survey. This is a short survey that researchers will use to decide if you meet the specified requirements for some studies (e.g., as a researcher I may only allow participants who are female. If you do not complete the prescreen you will not be eligible to participate in this study). In other words, if you do not complete the prescreen you will have fewer studies that you are eligible to participate in. **IF YOU COMPLETE THE PRESCREEN IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF THE SEMESTER YOU WILL GET 0.5 CREDIT.** Take it even if you have done it before – it has probably changed, and you will still earn the 0.5 credit.
3. You are now ready to use the EMS to sign-up for research studies.

B. Sign-up for studies—login to the EMS with your User ID and password that was emailed to you after creating your account

1. Click **Study Sign-Up**. A list of all available studies for which you qualify will appear. You can sign-up by clicking on either the study name or **Timeslots Available**, and you will go to a new screen showing more information about the study, with a link to **View Time Slots for This Study**.

2. Click the **Sign-Up** button to schedule your time. You should then write down or print out the study information (name, place, time, etc.) that appears in the final window. You will also receive an email reminder the day before the study time you have selected.

C. Canceling a Sign-Up (MUST be done if you know you will not show up)

1. If you need to cancel a timeslot you have signed up for, you can do this from the **My Schedule and Credits** page. Choose the **My Schedule and Credits** option from top toolbar.
2. You will see listed all of the studies for which you have signed up, as well as those you have completed (see the Tracking Your Progress section below for more information).
3. Studies for which you have signed up that you are allowed to cancel will have a **Cancel** button next to them. If you cannot attend the study session you signed up for, you need to cancel it, either within the EMS system or by contacting the researcher directly prior to the start of the study. Keep in mind that there is a time limit before the study is to occur, when it is too late to cancel online. This restriction is listed at the bottom of the page (it can be 24 hours before your timeslot, or much less, such as just 2-4 hours). If you cannot cancel online please email or call the researcher to cancel. **IF YOU DO NOT CANCEL ONLINE, BY EMAIL, OR OVER THE PHONE BEFORE THE START OF THE STUDY YOU WILL BE COUNTED AS A “NO SHOW.” If you are counted as a “no show” for any studies you are not eligible for the 2 free punctual participant credits.**
4. If you cancel the first part of a two-part study, the second part will also be cancelled. If you cancel the second part of a two-part study, the first part will *not* be cancelled, but you will need to ask the researcher to sign you up for the second part again, if you would like to participate in it at a later date. However, this is up to the researcher.

D. Tracking Your Progress

1. You may track your progress at any time by choosing the **My Schedule and Credits** option from the top toolbar.
2. When you view this page, you will see at the top a list of the number of credits you are required to earn, and how many you have earned so far. Below that, if you have signed up for any studies, those are listed as well. In the list of studies, you will see information about your credit status. If you have a no show for a study you will see that the status for that study is “failure to appear.”

Note: Your login session will expire after a certain period of inactivity, usually 20-60 minutes. This is done for security purposes. If this happens, you can always log in again. When you are finished using the system, it is better to explicitly log out, to prevent any problems that may arise if someone uses your computer before the session expires. This is especially important if you are using a public computer lab.

E. Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Immediately after I login, as soon as I click on any menu option, I am taken back to the login page and I see a message that my authentication has expired. What does this mean?*

Your web browser is not properly configured to accept cookies. You should turn on cookies in your web browser, use a different web browser (for example, try Firefox if you are currently using Internet Explorer), or try a different computer. Detailed instructions can be found if you go to the site and enter the URL "cookie_help.asp" in place of "default.asp" in the address bar of the browser, when you are on the front page of the site.

2. I participated in a study, but I have yet to receive credit. How do I receive credit?

The researcher must grant you credit. This is usually done within a few days after your participation. If it has been several days and you still have not received credit, contact the researcher (his or her contact information will be listed when you click on the study name within the system).

3. How do I change the email address where email notifications from the system are sent?

You can change the email address (where notifications are sent) by going to **My Profile** and editing the email address you see there.

4. I forgot where and when a study is that I signed up for. What do I do?

Check your e-mail for the **EMS reminder**, or logon to EMS and check your appointments.

5. Should I keep some sort of record of my participation and credits earned?

The system will keep track of the credits you earn and your instructor will have access at the end of the semester to a report of credits earned by students enrolled in the class (and if any students have "no shows"). It is a good idea, however, to occasionally print a personal copy of your credits earned and hold on to that printout as a back up to the system.

6. I showed up for a study on time, and no one was there! What do I do?

First refer to your information about that study session, to make sure you are in the right place at the right time. If you are, then wait at least 10 minutes for the researcher. If they are still not there at that point, you can leave and must send them an email within 24 hours, stating that you were present at the correct place and time for the study (refer to the study name). It is up to the researcher to try to reschedule with you.