



PSY 300 002E 20912
MWF 9am to 9:50 am Henderson 207
Learning Processes and Development
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2013

Instructor: Shonda A. Gibson, PhD

Office Location: AG/IT 153

Office Hours: by appointment only

Office Phone: 903-886-5743

University Email Address: Shonda.Gibson@TAMUC.edu (*best way to contact me*)

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required: Woolfolk, A. E. (2010). *Educational psychology*, (12th ed.). New Jersey: Pearson. ISBN-9780132900157

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide the student with information about the application of psychological theory to the learning processes and development of children and adolescents. Principles and procedures of measurement and evaluation are also included. The primary objective is to facilitate a clear understanding of the complex, dynamic processes of learning and development.

Student Learning Outcomes: The student will be able to:

1. Distinguish age-appropriate behaviors as they relate to learning and teaching.
2. Apply information regarding the theories of the teaching-learning processes to how people learn, what factors motivate them, and how they retain knowledge.
3. Distinguish between measurement and evaluation and the implication of each for assessing student progress.

The four major areas that will be covered in this course are:

- 1) development,
- 2) learning and motivation,
- 3) measurement and evaluation, and
- 4) professionalization issues, including critical thinking.

This course is web enhanced and will require you to work on ecollege (an online course program). You will be required to connect (at the very least) on a weekly basis.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Students are expected to complete all readings and attend each class prepared to ask questions and/or contribute to class discussions. Course grades will be determined by performance in the following areas:

1. **Class ticket** – Reading material is assigned for each week. Your “ticket” to enable entry to class and educated discussion will be a half to full-page summary of the reading material (chapter). I want you to personalize the reading experience by addressing 5 W’s within your brief summary: 1. What is the main point of the reading material? 2. Who should (or does) care? 3. Why is this important? 4. When can you apply this information? 5. WOW – I learned something new..._____; or discuss how you could apply the information. Summary is due on first day of discussion, as noted in the course outline – our in-class discussions will center on your summaries. 14 Chapters, 20 points per summary Total: 280 points.
2. **Take-home activities** – Six take-home activities will be distributed in class and are due on the Friday after they are discussed. Each activity will be worth 50 points and writing mechanics such as grammar and spelling will be taken into account when assigning a grade. All responses must be typed using a 12-point font, double-spaced, unless otherwise noted. All work will be submitted through the designated dropbox in the ecollege class. Total: 300 points
3. **Exams** – Exams will constitute a portion of the grade. There will be four exams, three regular exams (100 points each) and one cumulative final, (120 points). Exams will vary in terms of format, but are likely to include both multiple-choice and short answer questions. Exams will be administered through the enhanced ecollege class on Fridays. No make-up exams will be given. Exams may be re-scheduled, without penalty, only when arrangements have been made with me in advance of the testing date. Total: 420 points
4. **Research participation** - A goal of this class is to help you familiarize yourself with research methods. One manner to obtain this goal is to have you participate in research studies. Participating in research studies contributes to students and faculty at TAMUC, your understanding of how research is conducted, and human knowledge in general. All students in this class will be required to participate in the psychology department’s participant pool or complete alternative assignments (see me for more information on alternative assignments).

Students must complete a total of 6 experiment credits. However, if students complete their first 4 experiment credits without any “no-shows” you will receive 2 free punctual participant credits. In other words, if you show up to your experiments on time you will only need to complete 4 experiment credits. When you first sign into the experiment system (SONA) you will be asked to take a prescreen. The prescreen takes about 20 minutes to complete. If you complete the prescreen in the first two weeks of the semester you will receive 1/2 free experiment credit. You are only allowed to complete 3 experiment credits with online studies, the remaining experiment credits will need to be obtained by participating in laboratory studies.

If you fail to complete this portion of the class your grade will be lowered by one full grade. In effect, if you have an 'A' in the class but fail to complete your research participation (either through participating in research studies, alternative assignments, or a mixture of both) your final grade in the class will be a 'B.'

Failure to turn in assignments on time will result in points being deducted from the assignment grade. The number of points deducted for each day the assignment is late is equal to one letter grade. For example, if an assignment is worth 100 points and it is submitted a day late the maximum number of points you can earn is 89.

Evaluation:

Class Tickets (14 worth 20 points each)	280
Take-Home Activities (6 worth 50 points each)	300
Exams (3 worth 100 points each, plus final worth 120 points)	420
Total points possible	1000 points

+ Research Participation

Grades:

A =	90% and above
B =	80-89%
C =	70-79%
D =	60-69%
F =	less than 60%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology in your web enhanced course.

The following technology is required to be successful in this course.

Internet connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up) Word Processor (Microsoft Office Word – 2003 or 2007) Access to University Library site Access to an Email

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses 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).

Courses will also 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

Access and Log in Information

This course will be utilizing eCollege to enhance the learning experience, eCollege is the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, log in through your MyLeo account.

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.

This course will be utilizing the Sona system to coordinate your research participation. Register with the Psychology Research Participant Pool via the EMS website (using the “request a new account” link) at <http://tamu-commerce.sona-systems.com/>. If you already have an account and can log in, it is fine to continue using it. You do not need to create a new one. Complete instructions are available at:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/educationHumanServices/departments/psychologyCounselingSpecialEducation/special-education/documents/EMSpictorialGuide.pdf#EMSGuide>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

University Closing Due to Inclement Weather:

University closing information will be posted on the web at <http://www.tamuc-commerce.edu>.

Academic Honesty:

The *Student's Guidebook* addresses the issues of academic cheating and plagiarism. These are a breach of conduct, and students are subject to disciplinary actions.

Student Behavior:

Disturbing the education of students by other students is taken seriously. Appropriate (as defined by the instructor) level of interaction/participation during classroom discussions and presentations is expected. All pagers, cell phones, electronic games, radios, CD players, or other devices must be turned off when you enter the classroom. No laptops are allowed to be used in class. No recordings (audio or video) are allowed. Disruption of class or inconsiderate behavior will not be tolerated. It is my expectation that every student will have the utmost respect for their peers in class when discussing experiences of a sensitive nature.

Student Conduct:

“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” Students are expected to follow the code of conduct in class described in the Student Handbook (Policies and Procedures, Code of Student Conduct). Violation of the code will lead to an initiation of the disciplinary processes described in the Handbook. Proper student conduct also includes maintaining a standard of academic honesty. This means that neither cheating nor plagiarism will be tolerated and students who engage in either will be subject to the

disciplinary processes described in the Code of Student Conduct). Plagiarism essentially means that you cannot use the words and ideas of another person without giving them credit. Therefore, “quotation marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author you will need to credit the source in the text” (APA, 2001, p. 249). If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism please see me. Students who plagiarize any material will earn a grade of F for the course.

Students are expected to attend all classes – no make-up work will be assigned or accepted. More than 3 absences during the semester are considered excessive. Students are responsible for following University procedures to drop a class. If you stop attending the class for any reason, you must initiate the process of dropping, or you will receive a failing grade. Plan to take care of this several days ahead of time, so that you will have the time required to get the forms signed, submitted, etc.

Accommodations:

Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must go through the Academic Support Committee. Instructors must be notified in writing by the Director of Disability Resources & Services before accommodations will be made. For more information, please contact the Director of Disability Resources & Services, Halladay Student Services Bldg., Room 303D, (903) 886-5835.

Students with Disabilities:

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- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

PROPOSED COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

WEEK starting	MONDAY *class	WEDNESDAY *class	FRIDAY *online work
1 January 14	Course review	Introductions – work together to start research participation	Research day
2 January 21	NO CLASS	CH 1 (ticket) and discussion	Online discussion
3 January 28	CH 4 (ticket)	discussion	THA 1 submit online
4 February 4	CH 5 (ticket)	discussion	Research day
5 February 11	CH 14 (ticket)	discussion	Exam 1 online
6 February 18	CH 3 (ticket)	discussion	THA 2 submit online
7 February 25	CH 2 (ticket)	discussion	THA 3 submit online
8 March 4	CH 9 (ticket)	discussion	Research day
9 March 11	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
10 March 18	CH 6 (ticket)	discussion	Exam 2 online
11 March 25	CH 7 (ticket)	discussion	THA 4 submit online
12 April 1	CH 8 (ticket)	discussion	Research day
13 April 8	CH 10 (ticket)	discussion	Research day
14 April 15	CH 11 (ticket)	discussion	Exam 3 online
15 April 22	CH 12 (ticket)	discussion	THA 5 submit online
16 April 29	CH 13 (ticket)	discussion	THA 6 submit online
17 May 6	No class	FINAL EXAM DUE - online	

I will be out of town to present at research conferences on the following dates:

Society for Personality and Social Psychology **January 16-20**

Southwest Psychological Association **April 5-7**