

Learning & Motivation
PSY 341.001 Syllabus
Texas A & M – Commerce
Hall of Languages 201
MWF 12:00pm to 12:50pm

Instructor Morgan Saxon, Graduate Assistant Teaching
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E-mail Morgan.Saxon@tamuc.edu
Office Hours By appointment at BIN 101

Student-Instructor Correspondence

All class correspondence should occur through the e-mail feature of eCollege.

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.

Student Learning Outcome: A goal for this course is for students to be able to identify and define various theories of learning and motivation. Students will be able to apply the knowledge acquired in the course to their daily lives and will be able to recognize the use of various methods of learning in both humans and non-humans.

Technology Requirements: You will need access to a computer with internet to access eCollege.

Required Textbook: Klein, Stephen B. **Learning: Principles and Applications, 7th edition.** Sage Publications, Inc.

ISBN 978—1-4522-7194-1

Course Requirements

- Complete 3 exams students will be tested on material presented in required readings and classroom lectures. Exams are comprehensive; material covered by the previous exam(s) will be questioned again. Exams can be accessed through eCollege on date(s) specified by the instructor.
- 12 Quizzes posted on eCollege, one for each week except for those that include an exam. Each quiz will include multiple-choice questions that cover material from the lectures and assigned readings for the week. The quizzes carry a cumulative maximum value of 120 points (10 points per quiz).

- 12 Online discussions via eCollege that will be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for each week except for those that include an exam. The discussions (and quizzes) will occur in lieu of meeting on Fridays. Each discussion will require you to apply your knowledge gained throughout the week to contribute to a class discussion prompted by the instructor. Participation includes posting an original response to the discussion topic and responding to posts made by your classmates. Grades for the discussions will be determined by the *quality* rather than the quantity of responses made by the student, meaning that your goal should be to create responses that add value to the discussion rather than to post X number of times. Initial responses to the prompt should be posted by 11:59pm on Friday and responses to classmates should be posted by 11:59pm on Sunday. Each discussion carries a maximum value of 15 points.
- Extra Credit assignments may be assigned to the class as a whole throughout semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Grading

Exams	(3) (100 points each)	=	300 points
Quizzes	(12) (10 points each)	=	120 points
Online Discussions	(12) (15 points each)	=	180 points
Behavioral Modification Project	(1) (100 points)	=	100 points
<i>Maximum points possible</i>		=	700 points

Grades	A	=	630 points and above
	B	=	560-629
	C	=	490-559
	D	=	420-489
	F	=	419 points or less

Attendance

Your attendance is critical to your success in this course. Plan to arrive on time and to remain for the entire class period. When absent, students should make arrangements with a classmate to obtain missed class notes and missed homework / reading assignments. The Student Guidebook defines student absence:

<https://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

- *Excused absences* Please bring documentation for your excused absence to class. Make arrangements to make up work within one week from your absence. You will be able to make up your exam and homework.
- *Unexcused absences* Assignments missed due to unexcused absences may not be made up.
- *Excessive absences* After the third unexcused absence, a student may be asked to drop the course, or will receive a failing grade.

Dropping the Course

If you stop attending the course for any reason you must initiate the drop process, or you will receive a failing grade. Please remember that the time required for the process of getting forms signed and submitted may take several days, so plan a week ahead before the final date. Drop information is on page 37 of the Student Guidebook:

<https://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Instructor approval will no longer be required to DROP a course prior to the drop deadline for eligible students. Athletes, international students and advised students will be required to obtain a signature from the appropriate office.

A drop/add form for courses to be dropped may be obtained at the Registrar's Office, or is available online.

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 accommodations of their disabilities. Additional information is provided at this link:

<https://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Student Disability Resources & Services (SDRS)	
Office	James G. Gee Library, Room 132
Phone	903.886.5150
Email	StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
Director	Rebecca Tuerk

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 or engage in cheating will earn a grade of F for the course.

Students will be assigned seating by the instructor. If students are not in their assigned seat during a given class period they will be marked absent. The instructor reserves the right to change the seating arrangement at any time during the semester. Students who are tardy to class are required to sit in the designated area so their attendance may be verified at the end of class. Anyone more than 15 minutes late to class is considered absent for the day.

Cell Phones/Laptops/Other forms of Technology:

Cell phones must be turned off or placed on silent during class. If you have an emergency and may need to take a call during class, please see me prior to the beginning of class and leave your cell phone on top of the desk. Otherwise, I should see no cell phones during the course of the class. Students using cell phones during class without permission may be asked to leave and will be counted absent. Other forms of technology are treated as above.

Changes to the syllabus

Minor changes may be made to the syllabus. If changes are made, announcements will be made in class, will be emailed out, and will be posted on ecollege.

Finally, I cannot stress enough the importance of contacting me immediately if you find that you are having trouble with the course material. Come to my office hours, use my email, and ask me questions before, during, and after class. If we catch a problem early, it can be cured. I can do nothing for you when approached after the semester has been completed.

NOTE: The schedule is tentative and subject to change			
WEEK	DATES	CHAPTER/TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
01	8/31-9/4	Ch. 01 Introduction to Learning	Q1, D1
02	9/7-9/11	Ch. 01 Cont.; Ch. 02 Traditional Learning Theories	Q2, D2
03	9/14-9/18	Ch. 03 Modification of Instinctive Behavior	Q3, D3
04	9/21-9/25	Ch. 04 Principles & Applications of Pavlovian Conditioning	Q4, D4
05	9/28-10/2	Ch. 05 Theories of Pavlovian Conditioning	EXAM 1
06	10/5-10/9	Ch. 06 Principles & Applications of Appetitive Conditioning	Q5, D5
07	10/12-10/16	Ch. 07 Principles & Applications of Aversive Conditioning	Q6, D6
08	10/19-10/23	Ch. 08 Theories of Appetitive & Aversive Conditioning	Q7, D7
09	10/26-10/30	Ch. 09 Biological Influences on Learning	Q8, D8
10	11/2-11/6	Ch. 10 Stimulus & Control	EXAM 2
11	11/9-11/13	Ch. 11 Cognitive Control	Q9, D9
12	11/16-11/20	Ch. 12 Memory Processes	Q10, D10
13	11/23-11/27	Movie Week - TBA	Q11, D11
14	11/30-12/4	Behavior Modification Project Presentations	Q12, D12
15	12/7-12/11	Review for Final	
16	12/18**	Friday, Dec. 18 th @ 8:00am-10:am	FINAL EXAM