

Learning Theories - PSY516

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Office hours: M-R 11:00 – 12:00

Day: Thursdays
Time: 7:00 – 9:45 p.m.
Room: in virtual space

Course description: This course surveys the various theories of learning from classical and operant conditioning to cognitive developmental models and information processing. This course emphasizes application of appropriate theories to real life situations.

Course delivery method: This is a web-based course. When you enter the Blackboard shell for this course you will automatically be directed to the homepage. The home page contains module folders entitled Week 1, Week 2, etc. All the material for any given week, including assignments and assessments, will be in its respective folder.

Required resources: There is no text for this course. Required readings are in their respective Blackboard module. HOWEVER, a text is available in the bookstore that will be a valuable resource should you choose to purchase it. The text is:

Domjan, (2015). Principles of Learning and Behavior. New York: Cengage.

Student Learning Objectives: At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. explain the historical influences on learning theories,
2. discriminate between the various theories of learning,
3. evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of learning theories,
4. apply learning principles to real-life situations, and
5. evaluate their learning of the material.

Course format and expectations: Students are responsible for beginning their participation on the FIRST CLASS DAY by logging on and completing assignments according to the course calendar. Failure to submit online assignments between the first day of classes and the University census date (according to the University schedule) will result in an administrative DROP from the course.

This is a psychology course. As such, all writing assignments will be completed in APA format. If you are not familiar with APA style and format, please go to apa.org or pick up the APA 6th edition manual. All material and discourse related to this course are contained in Blackboard. A typical module will include journal articles and videos to study, as well as a discussion post and quiz to complete. All work is to be completed the Monday prior to beginning a new module unless otherwise specified in the Blackboard module. You are responsible for accessing this material and ensuring assignments and assessments are completed on time. Modules are to be completed sequentially, so new modules will not be available until their assigned Tuesday. Should you have any questions about the course please contact me via your ace email account, telephone, or face-to-face during my office hours.

Course evaluation: You may earn up to 1000 points in this course through the following assessments:

<i>Assessment:</i>	<i>Percent of final grade:</i>
Journal entries	40
Weekly quizzes	10
Weekly discussion & participation	10
Midterm essay exam	20
Final essay exam	20
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>

Journal entries: There are two journal entries on Blackboard. Each entry is worth 20% of the overall grade. The first journal entry will be completed during the first week of class and is due on Monday, January 23. The second entry will be completed at the end of semester and is due on Monday, May 1. Journal entries must demonstrate critical thought and reflection upon the student's understanding of course content. Prompts and requirements for each journal entry will be provided in Blackboard.

Quizzes: Each week (except for week 1) you will complete a quiz on the content associated with that week's material. Quizzes are due on Mondays by midnight.

Weekly discussion & participation: You will participate in weekly discussion board forums. A prompt and length requirements will be provided in the discussion forum.

Midterm take-home essay exam: The midterm is a comprehensive assessment of the first half of the course (Weeks 1 – 7). The exam questions will be posted within the Week 5 module. The exam is due on Monday, March 6 (the end of Week 7). The essay will be written in APA format (title page, body, reference section). DO NOT quote sources unless there is no possible way you can put the information in your own words or if paraphrasing will lessen the impact of the quote. For example, rephrasing John F. Kennedy's "ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country" quote would probably minimize the impact of those words. Papers that have excessive use of quotes, even if cited correctly, will be marked down.

You will submit your exam to a turnitin.com link that will be in the Week 7 module. Turnitin.com is a plagiarism checker that provides a similarity index. A score of 10%, for example, indicates 10% of the paper contains content that is identical to other published sources. The threshold for plagiarism in this class is 25%. If your paper is above this threshold I will review the turnitin.com report and decide whether plagiarizing has occurred. Plagiarism is not tolerated at TAMUT. Plagiarized papers will receive an automatic 0 and will be submitted to the department chair and/or college Dean.

Final take-home essay exam: The final exam is a comprehensive assessment of the second half of the course (Weeks 8 – 14). Instructions for exam will be provided in the Week 12 module. The turnitin.com link for the exam will be in the Week 14 module. The exam is due by midnight on Monday, May 8th. The requirements and expectations for this exam are the same as the midterm.

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

Course Calendar (subject to change):

Date:	Topic:
1/17	Introduction
1/24	Measuring learning
1/31	The neuroscience of learning
2/7	Philosophical influences: Aristotle, Locke & Descarte
2/14	Early psychological perspectives: Wundt, James, Titchner
2/21	Behaviorism: Classical Conditioning
2/28	Behaviorism: Operant Conditioning
3/7	No Class – SWPA
3/14	No Class - Spring Break
3/21	Cognitive theories
3/28	Constructivism
4/4	Social learning theory / observation
4/11	Humanism
4/18	Experiential learning
4/25	Learning in the 21th century
5/2	Learning disorders

Disability Accommodations: Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

Academic Integrity: Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source constitute academic dishonesty and may be grounds for a grade of ‘F’ in the course and/or disciplinary actions. For additional information, see the university catalog.

A&M-Texarkana Email Address: Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

Drop Policy: To drop this course after the census date, a student must complete a [Drop/Withdrawal Request Form](#), located on the University Registrar's webpage or obtained in the Registrar's Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an "approval" to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must be submitted to the Registrar's office for processing in person, email Registrar@tamut.edu, mail (7101 University Ave., Texarkana, TX 75503) or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar's Office for processing. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.

Students with federal loans and/or grants: Students who have federal loans and grants must be aware that participation is monitored in online courses. In the event a student withdraws from a course the student will be required to refund all federal funds prorated from the last date of participation. A student's last access to Blackboard would not suffice as participation. The required weekly activity could include a comment to a blog, a discussion board posting, a journal entry, a quiz or exam, a submitted assignment, or other measurable and tracked activity.

Student Technical Assistance: Solutions to common problems and FAQ's for your web-enhanced and online courses are found on the [Online Student Training](#) page on our website. If you cannot find your resolution there, you can submit a support request by contacting the IT Service Desk:

Email: isite@tamut.edu

Phone: 903-334-6603

Submit a [Support Request](#)

Additional student help for Blackboard can be found here:

[Blackboard Help for Students](#)

Technical Requirements: The following are the minimum computer requirements for online learning:

A computer capable of handling streaming video. A mid-range multi-core CPU should be adequate.

A sound card.

A high speed internet connection preferably directly connected to the computer via a hard-wired Ethernet connection rather than wirelessly connected.

Virus and adware protection software.

Microsoft Word, minimum version 2007 or above.

[Mozilla Firefox](#) browser available free.

The most recent versions of Java, Flash, QuickTime, Adobe Reader, and Shockwave. You can check this in the Firefox browser by visiting:

[Firefox Plugin Check Tool](#)

Please note: some instructors may require the use of a headset with microphone and/or a webcam. If so, the cost of these items is not included in your course fees and will need to be acquired at your own expense.

Blackboard Mobile for iOS and Android Devices: Android and iOS devices are currently supported using the Blackboard Mobile App, available for free from your App Store or scan the code below:



The Blackboard Mobile App provides limited access to courses, including the ability to read and contribute to discussions, check grades and announcements, access content, read and comment on blogs, reflect in journals, link to your personal Dropbox, and receive push notifications when courses are updated. Limited course features may also be available via your mobile device's browser; however, your mobile device does not replace your personal computer and should not be used as a substitute for one. High stakes assignments, tests, etc. should be completed on your personal computer, and not on your mobile device.