Psychology 313
Learning and Memory
Spring 2011
MWF 10:10:50/Science 0102
Instructor: Brandy N. Tiernan, MA
Email: brandyj@iastate.edu
Office hours/location: Thursdays 11:30 – 2:30, & by appointment/ Science 376

PREREQUISITES:
Psych 101 – Introduction to Psychology

REQUIRED TEXTS, READINGS, & MATERIALS:
   *Additional readings will be assigned throughout the session and posted on WebCT.
2) 20-30 lined 3x5 index cards.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
There are two main objectives for this course. The first objective is to outline and examine the fundamentals of learning and memory. Specific topics are provided on the course calendar.

The second objective is to illustrate how these basic concepts can be applied to real life. One way of learning is by doing; this opportunity will present itself through in-class activities, reflection papers, article summaries, and critiques. Together, we will meet the course objectives and learning outcomes through lecture, discussion, class and group activities, films, and supplementary readings.

Evaluations (exams, writing assignments) are used to promote personal growth and learning, not merely to earn grades. What you derive from this course will be a function of our combined efforts. I will always put forth my best effort and I trust you will, too.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
- Evaluate, summarize, and critique current research related to areas of Learning and Memory.
- Discuss the real-world application of concepts discussed in the course.
- Describe the methods and results of classic experiments related to Learning and Memory.

WEBCT:
I will post grades and course-related materials on WebCT. You are expected to check your account on a regular basis to stay informed of class related developments (e.g., assignment changes, class cancellations, etc.).

EXPECTATIONS:
Attending Class: Attendance is your responsibility. If you are unable to attend class on a given day, it is your responsibility to speak with a classmate (not me) about what you have missed. Tardiness is a disruption to your fellow classmates; therefore, if you anticipate having to leave early or arrive late please sit near the exit as to minimize any disruption. Please do not leave early/arrive late habitually.

Environment of mutual respect:
An environment of respect fosters learning. I will always be respectful of your time, your learning, and your questions. Please behave professionally, respectfully, and courteously to your classmates and me. This includes (but is not limited to): cell phone use of any type, reading unrelated materials, talking, arriving late, and leaving early. Laptops are not allowed and cell phones should be off or on silent.

Writing:
While this is not an English class, you should demonstrate your knowledge of the English language by writing in complete sentences and carefully organizing your thoughts. Give yourself enough time to write and proofread assignments. If you choose to hand in a rough-draft assignment, I will give it back to you.

Criterion for ALL assignments:
All assignments must be typed, double-spaced, w/ 1-inch margins & 12-point Times New Roman font. Include your name, date, and page numbers in the document header. A template/example of appropriate & expected format is on WebCT. Assignments without the above specified format or handed in after the due date will not be graded.

Academic Integrity:
Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. No kidding. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of F for the entire course. Academic honesty means: 1) taking credit only for work that is fully yours, and 2) not allowing other students to take credit for your work. Please see the following website if you are unsure what

**Persons with disabilities:**
Please address any special needs or special accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs. Those seeking accommodations based on disabilities should obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form from the Student Disability Resource (SDR) office (phone 515-294-7220). SDR is located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076.

**ASSESSMENT/ EVALUATION:**

**Minute Papers**
100 points
I will pose a question about upcoming material, already learned material, or your critical opinion about a topic relevant to learning and memory. You will record your answer on a 3x5 index card and hand it in to be reviewed. Minute papers allow me to evaluate individual AND classroom progress. You must be in class to complete this assignment – you will not be able to make them up at later date. Each minute paper is worth 5 points.

**Secular Article Reflection (SAR)**
200 points
It’s important to read about research in critical manner, no matter where you find it. You will find, read, and analyze a secular article (secular = from a magazine or newspaper, NOT a scientific magazine or journal) discussing the applications and/or implications of findings rooted in research related to learning and memory. You will write and submit a 3-5 page reflection paper discussing your personal, but scholarly/scientific opinion of the article (i.e., whether you found the information useful and how the article directly relates to topics, theories, principles, and research findings discussed in class). In addition, you should think about and discuss the following questions: What is valuable about the article? Did the article portray the construct (e.g. false memory, classical conditioning, etc.) accurately? Why or Why not? What important information is missing?

I will provide example articles on WebCT. Articles should be submitted for instructor approval by Friday, March 11, 2011. On this date, you should submit: 1) a copy of the article, 2) a brief summary about the article (150 words), and 3) a brief rationale for your article choice (100-150 words). This is worth 50 points of the total grade. A copy of the article must also be turned with the final assignment. The final assignment will not be accepted without prior approval.

Please keep in mind that a reflection is not a summary, nor is it a research paper/ literature review. It should contain your own original thoughts and analysis of the content from the article and the content you have learned in the course. If your analysis of content contains ideas from the secular article, a supplementary article from class, a scholarly publication from another source, or the textbook, please cite the source appropriately in APA format. The due date for this assignment is listed on the course calendar. Neglecting to cite sources is academic dishonesty.

**Article Summaries and Critiques (ASC)**
100 points
You will read relevant literature to supplement the textbook and content covered in class. For these articles, you will write a short summary (100-200 words, double spaced) and critique (no more than 5 pages) to reflect upon various aspects of the experiments. Submitted ASCs must be written about a recently assigned article (within 1-2 weeks before due date).

Please refrain from using direct quotes (or plagiarizing) when preparing this assignment. You should always paraphrase, use your own words, and use citations when appropriate. While there are several ASC dates listed on the course calendar, you are only required to submit two (2) throughout the semester. NOTE: You should read the article even if you do not plan to use it for an ASC. Each ASC is worth 50 points.

**Reflection Papers (RP)**
100 points
You will submit a 1-2 page personal reflection paper over recently covered material (within 1-2 weeks before due date) from the lecture, readings, and class discussion. The reflection paper is NOT a research paper that incorporates other sources of information; instead, it is a paper that contains nothing other than your own original thought and analysis. While there are several reflection paper dates listed on the course calendar, you are only required to submit two (2) throughout the semester. Each paper is worth 50 points.

**Examinations**
250 points
Exams will consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions regarding material from the readings, lectures, and classroom discussion. Each exam is worth 50 points.

Make-up exams will be given at my discretion. If you know you will miss an exam, let me know as far in advance as possible (university excused absences). In addition, please meet with me to discuss exams missed due to an
extenuating circumstance (documented emergency). If you are sick, visit the health center and ask for a note. NOTE: you will not be allowed to make-up an exam without a valid and documented excuse. Really.

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**Tentative Course Calendar – Dates are subject to change depending on class progress.**

* Indicates the reading/assignment will be available via WebCT

1 Indicates the reading can be used for an ASC