Psych 313: Learning and Memory  
Summer, 2009  
105 Kildee  
Mon-Fri: 8:40 – 9:40

Instructor Information  
Christopher M. Masciocchi  
cmascioc@iastate.edu  
Office Hours: Monday: 10:00 – 11:30, Wednesday: 11:30 – 1:00, and by appointment  
Science 1, Room 376  
(515) 294-6587

Prerequisites  
Psych 101 or permission of the instructor

Readings  

Some sections of this class will draw heavily from the textbook, while others will not. Refer to the study guides to see exactly which topics from the text you will be responsible for on the test.

Course Overview  
The goal of this course is to introduce students to the study of learning and memory. Like most topics in psychology, there are many truths, half-truths and myths regarding learning and memory. The course will begin by examining some of the classic learning paradigms and theories. We will then work our way through more cognitive theories of learning, followed by an exploration of short and long term memory. Finally, during the last two weeks we will look at some interesting topics in memory, which go beyond what is covered in the textbook.

Attendance  
Attendance is not mandatory, but is strongly encouraged. Attendance is important because part of each exam comes from material only covered during the lectures, which you will be responsible for, and quizzes will also be given during class (see 'Quizzes' section below).

Disabilities  
If you have a documented disability and require accommodations in this course, you will need to provide a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form. The form is available from the Disability Resource Office located in room 1076 of the Student Services Building. The phone number is (515) 294-6624.

Cheating and Plagiarism  
All written assignments are to be written by you, and all assignments should be in your own words. Cheating, plagiarism, and other academic dishonesties will be dealt with according to Iowa State University and the Psychology Department's policies.
Assessment
There will be three types of assessments in this course: mini-assignments, quizzes, and exams. Additional assessments may be given depending on class performance.

Mini-assignments (10%): From time to time, I might ask you to do a short assignment, such as to e-mail me a question you had about the material or to read and summarize a scholarly article.

Quizzes (20%): Approximately three in class quizzes will be given for each section of the class (12 for the whole semester). Quizzes will consist of one or two questions on the material discussed during class on that day. They are not designed to trick you, but to test your understanding of the most critical concepts for that class. Quizzes serve three functions: a) To give you an idea of what types of questions will be on the exam, b) For me to know if I am explaining the material well enough, c) For you to know if you need to be asking more questions during class. They should be relatively easy for students who are present when the material is discussed. No make-ups will be given for missed quizzes. However, because I understand that things come up and you might not be able to attend every class, I will only count your 10 highest quiz scores (i.e., I will drop either your one or two lowest quiz grades) to compensate for those days where you must miss a quiz. Thus, each quiz will count for 2% of your final grade.

Exams (70%): 4 exams will be given in this course, one per section. The second (Midterm) and fourth (Final) exams will be cumulative in that they will cover all material covered in the first and second halves of the course, respectively. Note that the cumulative portions of the midterm and final will be 'big picture' questions. In other words, I do not expect you to remember everything for exam 2 that you knew for exam 1, just the most important concepts. Emphasis will be placed on how these topics compare and contrast with the information covered in the subsequent section. Additionally, there will be a full day of review before exams 2 and 4. Exams 1 and 3 will be worth 15% of your final grade, and exams 2 and 4 will be worth 20% of your final grade. You will be given a study guide prior to each exam.

Approximately 15-20% of each exam will cover material only discussed in the textbook, and the rest will cover material either discussed exclusively during lectures (approximately 20%), or material covered by both sources. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. They will assess your ability to understand important facts, compare and contrast competing theories, and apply the information you learned in class to real life situations.

You are expected to take the exams on the scheduled date. If you can not make an exam due to an emergency or extenuating circumstance, you must make arrangements with me as soon as possible to take it at a different time, though you may be given a different test than your classmates. If you do not have a good reason for missing an exam, do not contact me within 24 hours after missing it, or you do not make it up in a suitable amount of time, you will be given a 0. No extensions will be given for the final: You must take it before July 10th if you can not take it at the scheduled time.

Academic Assistance
I am happy to discuss any questions you have after class or during my office hours. PowerPoints will be posted online, and study guides will be given at least 3 days before each exam. If you miss class I can review the material you missed during my office during office hours, however I can not explain whole lectures over e-mail, although I can answer specific questions.
Grading

Final course grades will be awarded according to the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Total Possible Points</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>% Total Possible Points</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>73-76.99</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92.99</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>70-72.99</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89.99</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>67-69.99</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86.99</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>63-66.99</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82.99</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>60-62.99</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79.99</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>0-59.99</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tentative Class Schedule

Dates are subject to change depending on class progress.

May 18    Course Overview
May 19    Research Methods & Introduction Ch 1
May 20    Simple Learning Ch 2, 26-38
May 21, 22 Classical Conditioning Ch 3
May 25    UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY – No Class
May 26, 27 Instrumental Conditioning: Reward Ch 4
May 28    Compare/Contrast & Review
May 29    Exam #1 (Friday) Ch 2-4

June 1, 2 Instrumental Conditioning: Non-Reward Ch 5
June 3, 4 Cognitive Approaches to Learning Ch 11, 329-340
June 5, 8 Skill Learning and Procedural Memory Ch 11, 340-347
June 9    Observational Learning
June 10   Review Day
June 11   Exam #2 (Thursday) Ch 2-5, 11

June 12   Verbal Learning and Memory Ch 6, 157-176
June 15   Short Term Memory Ch 8, 224-239
June 16, 17 Working Memory Ch 8, 240-251
June 18   Conceptual Approaches to Memory Ch 7, 190-206
June 19   Encoding Ch 9, 255-272
June 22   Storage Ch 10, 293-304
June 23, 24 Retrieval & Review Ch 10, 304-315
June 25   Exam #3 (Thursday) Ch 6-10

June 26, 29 Forgetting & The 7 Sins of Memory Ch 10, 315-322
June 30    False Memories and Recovered Memories pgs 39-46, 347-354,
July 1     Eyewitness Memory
July 2     Emotional Learning & Flashbulb Memories Ch 9, 278-282
July 3     UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY – No Class
July 6     Implicit Learning and Memory pgs 182-187; 378-390
July 7     Mnemonists and Expertise
July 8     Open Topic Day
July 9     Review Day
July 10    Exam #4 (Friday) Ch 6-11