

Course Code & No. - Section: PSY 370 - Section 1
Course Title (Credits): Learning Theory and Cognitive Psychology(3)
Term & Year: Fall / 2015
Course Ref. No. (CRN): 80255

Instructor: Dan Aalbers
Email: daalbers@sierranevada.edu
Office: Second floor cubicle in TCES or in the cafeteria or in the garden when the weather is nice
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 – 5:30 or by appointment

Class Meeting Time: Monday and Wednesday 10:00 am – 11:15 am
Location: PL 320

Prerequisites (from Catalog): Psyc 101
Corequisites (from Catalog): None

Course Description: This course follows the history of the psychological study of human learning and thinking, showing the evolution of learning theories and the movement toward internal explanations for thought and action. From Pavlov's dog through Skinner's rats to computer-generated artificial intelligence, this area of psychology has gone through dramatic changes and has influenced many academic disciplines. An important course for the understanding of historical and contemporary psychology.

Student Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Distinguish between behavioral and cognitive psychology
2. Identify the epistemological assumptions that inform different learning theories
3. Critically evaluate psychological research

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes:

Four exams each worth 15% of your grade, one research paper worth 20 % and one demonstration worth 20 % of your grade. The exams will include multiple choice questions, short answers questions and essay questions.

Instructional Strategies

This class will utilize lectures, discussions, demonstrations and videos.

Required Texts and Materials:

Sdorow and Rickabaugh. Psychology: 6/e

Attendance

You are adults. The decision to come to class or not is yours. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out **from your classmates** about any announcements, new material, demonstrations, discussions, or in-class assignments. Please note that the majority of the test material will be derived from lecture and discussions and it will not be possible to read the book and take the test. If you do not come to class you will not succeed.

Except in exceptional circumstances -- such as losing an arm in a snowboarding accident -- you are required to attend all exams. Please see the section 'exceptional circumstances' at the end of this syllabus.

Class Requirements

You must turn off your cell phone, tablet and/or computer and put them away at the beginning of class. You don't want me to look over your shoulder to make sure that you aren't updating facebook and I don't want that job. And I understand that *you* would never text while pretending to take notes but that guy on the other side of the classroom would and I'm talking to him.

Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism

The Honor Code

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

- 1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierrnevada.edu or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

Class Schedule	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENT S/ ACTIVITIES	OTHER
8/17	Introduction, Class Organization			
8/19	Historical overview of Learning and Cognitive Psychologies			
8/24	History and epistemology 1	Chapter 1 - 3		
8/26	History and epistemology 2	Chapter 1 - 3		
8/31	Thorndike 1	Chapter 4		
9/2	Thorndike 2 ; Watson's Thesis	online reading		
9/7	Skinner 1	Chapter 5		
9/9	Skinner 2	Chapter 5		
9/14	Review			
9/16	Test 1		Test 1	
9/21	Pavlov 1	Chapter 7		
9/23	Pavlov 2			
9/28	Notes on Watson; Bandura 1	Chapter 13		
9/30	Bandura 2			
10/5	Review			
10/7	Test 2		Test 2	
10/12	Miller and the Classic model; Working Memory 1	Chapter 4		Switch to Maitlin
10/14	Miller and the Classic model; Working Memory 2	Chapter 5		
10/15				Midterm Grades Posted
10/20	Review			
10/31*				Halloween
10/22	Test 3			
10/27	Problem solving	Chapter 11		
10/29	Creativity	Chapter 11		
11/3	Decision Making	Chapter 12		
11/5	Review			
11/16	Test 4			
11/18	TBD			
11/30	TBD			
12/2	TBD		Final Paper Due	

This is not a final or complete document. The policies, dates, and assignments are subject to change.

The Mission Statement:

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

The Core Themes:

Liberal Arts

Professional Preparedness

Entrepreneurial Thinking

Sustainability

Exceptional circumstances:

1. If you cannot come to the exam for any reason, you must call or send me an email within 48 hours of the missed deadline. Please include your name, the course name, a telephone number and time at which you can be reached. If you are unable to call or email during this 48-hour period, subsequent documentation accounting for the delay must be provided.

2. A make-up opportunity will be provided at the end of the term. Missed make-ups must be supported by appropriate documentation (see point 3 below).

3. Appropriate documentation verifying the circumstances for the missed deadline must be provided at the time of the make-up exam. Failure to provide appropriate documentation will result in a grade of F on the missed assignment.

____ A. Deadlines missed on the grounds of medical circumstances must be supported by an Attending Physician's Statement or a Statement by a Psychologist or Counselor. The attending Physician's Statement must include (i) the full name, mailing address and telephone number of the physician, (ii) state the nature of the illness and its duration (i.e. specific dates covered), and (iii) an indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have seriously affected your ability to study and perform over the period in question.

____ B. Deadlines missed on the grounds of non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation, i.e., death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/train/bus tickets/receipt for emergency travel (with date of booking on ticket), etc.

4. The make-up opportunity may take a different form than that of the original exam.

5. I'm sorry to hear about your arm.