

**Course Code & No. - Section:** PSYC 366 – Section 1  
**Course Title (Credits):** Psychology of Learning and Behavior  
**Term & Year:** Fall / 2017  
**Course Ref. No. (CRN):** 80085

**Instructor:** Robert Drury King, Ph.D.  
**Phone(s):** X tbd, or, 775-685-0120  
**Email:** [rking@sierranevada.edu](mailto:rking@sierranevada.edu)  
**Office:** PL 205  
**Office Hours:** M/W 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., by appointment

**Class Meeting Time:** M/W 4:00 pm – 5:15 pm  
**Location:** PL 214

**Prerequisites (from Catalog):** PSYC 101  
**Corequisites (from Catalog):** -

## 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. Basic theories of classical and operant conditioning will be discussed. 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. Recognize the basic and historical principles of human and animal behavior and learning theories, as well as a share of practical and clinical applications of these principles.
2. Understand the relation of learning principles to real world applications, including research findings.
3. Appreciate the relation of learning principles to personal behaviors such as fears, phobias, relationships, children, and a variety of personal disorders.

## METHODS OF ASSESSING STUDENT OUTCOMES

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. Class attendance and participation
2. Quizzes and other in-class writing and viewing activities
3. Midterm and final exam
4. Final paper

## INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

This class will utilize lectures, in-class discussions, videos, homework assignments, quizzes, and exams.

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

1. *Introduction to Learning and Behavior*. 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Powell, Honey, and Symbaluk. Cengage, 2016.

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance and participation are essential to the learning process. Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings ON TIME and provide NO interruptions (e.g., cell phones, facebook, etc.). If you choose not to attend class, arrive tardy, or depart early, you will be at an academic disadvantage.

Your course grade is partially determined based on your attendance and participation. You will lose points for any missed classes (or portion thereof). Excused and unexcused absences are BOTH considered an absence from class and are counted toward the total number of absences in the course. Excessive tardiness and/or repeated disrespect of classroom rules (e.g., use of cell phones) will be penalized by a reduction of your final attendance/participation score. If/when you miss class, you remain responsible for notes and handouts (see a classmate for notes; see me for handouts). If you must miss a class, please do try to let me know in advance.

I adhere strictly to Sierra Nevada College policy regarding excessive missed classes.

## INFORMATION LITERACY STATEMENT

Using the library's resources (not just the Internet) effectively (Psych INFO, EBSCO) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either on-site or remotely) as you complete your assignments.

## CLASS REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance: See Attendance section (*above*) and specific reference to attendance in the grading policy (*below*).
2. Reading: Students are expected to do the assigned reading *before* class meets to ensure preparation for discussions and learning activities.
3. Participation: Thought questions, discussions, and in-class activities may provide opportunities for students to earn participation points throughout the semester. Participation is an extremely important part of my evaluation of your performance in the course.
4. Students are required to take all exams and turn in all assignments on the scheduled dates. NO makeup exams will be allowed and no late assignments will be accepted.
5. ALL cell phones are to be turned off or silenced prior to entering the classroom. Cell phones are *not* to be used for any purpose (e.g., talking or texting). If I see a cell phone I will ask you to put it away; if I see the phone a second time, you can pick it up from me at the end of class and you forfeit your participation credit for the day. If there is a major emergency requiring cell phone use, please exit our classroom immediately and do not return during the class period. In this case, even if this occurs in the last 5 minutes of class, you will forfeit your attendance and participation credit for the day. This absence will be treated like any other; the student will not be excused from any work due to the missed class.
6. Computer use restricted to that pertinent to class *only* (i.e., no facebook, no twitter, YouTube, etc.). Take this very seriously.

## SANCTIONS FOR CHEATING AND/OR PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is defined as, "passing off a source's information, ideas, or words as one's own by omitting to acknowledge the sources" (Teuber & Andreas, 1999). This refers to all sources of information, including the Internet.

To avoid plagiarizing, a good rule is to use quotation marks whenever a string of three or more words is copied from another source (e.g., when taking notes from a journal article). Simply paraphrasing and citing a source may not be enough to avoid plagiarizing, however. For example, one of the paragraphs in a paper might be a close paraphrase of a paragraph from another source. Even if the source is cited, the structure of the original source has been plagiarized! Starting with an outline of arguments to be included in a paper and then using information from other sources to back up these arguments should help one avoid plagiarizing in this manner.

Any form of cheating, plagiarism and/or unauthorized use of anything other than the student's own resources *will not be tolerated*. To be clear, unless explicit written or verbal instructions indicate otherwise, exams and assignments are to be completed individually (i.e., without any collaboration). The instructor will pursue the maximum disciplinary action against the student violating this protocol. I have a strict no tolerance policy. Additionally, if you are caught cheating, you will earn an automatic 0 on that exam/assignment/etc.

Some examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, copying from a classmate's work during an exam, turning in work that is not your own, and using any unapproved aid during an exam.

Both intentional and unintentional plagiarism, as well as any suspicion of cheating, will be reported to the Vice President of Academic Affairs/Provost. I strongly encourage all students to meet with me to discuss this issue before turning in written work.

*No ball caps, cellular telephones, pagers, earbuds, headphones, extraneous paper, notes, etc. are permitted during any and all periods of assessment (e.g., exams, quizzes, in class assignments, etc.). If I spot one of these present (even if you are not using it) during an unapproved period, you will take an automatic 10% reduction on the assessment in question. In the case I witness the use of such unapproved apparatus, you will receive a 0. Yes, this means you will need to use a watch rather than your cell phone for the time.*

## THE HONOR CODE

Our faculty believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life 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.

- 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Student is expelled.

## GRADING POLICY

1. Attendance & Participation:  
Attendance and participation are factored into your grade for the course. Refer to the Attendance section above for details regarding my expectations. You will lose credit for any missed classes (or any portions thereof) and any days for which you are viewed to not be participating in group or class discussions (e.g., on your cell phone).
2. Assignments and Quizzes:  
This class incorporates assignments and quizzes. Several are briefly covered on the course calendar provided (end of this document) and will be detailed in class. *No make-ups or late assignments will be accepted without prior instructor approval.* Budget your time to complete written assignments by their due date and attend class at all times, particularly on activity days. *Do not submit assignments via email unless you have received prior approval or the request has been made of you to do so.* In the case you will be absent when an assignment is due, have a classmate turn in for you.
3. Examinations:

There are two non-cumulative exams. You should be particularly familiar with all terminology discussed in class, but anything in the text is fair game (unless otherwise indicated). You will be required to use your understanding of psychological concepts to identify examples, distinguish between related concepts.

All students are required to take exams on the scheduled days/times (see course timeline for dates). Students *must* take *all* exams. *In the unlikely event of a missed exam, and only with instructor approval based on verifiable documents, the make-up exam will occur after the final exam.* Only one exam can be made up. If you miss more than one, see me about the status of your grade and/or your plans for re-taking the course at a later date. The date and time of the final exam should be scheduled and prioritized. *There will be no final exam make-up.*

Please note that in the event of possible Academic Honor Code violations, I reserve the right to administer individual oral exams.

4. Final Grades: Based on the number of points earned from quizzes, assignments, exams, class participation, and attendance.
5. Grading scale: Grades will be assigned on a strict percentage scale and are *non-negotiable*.

A+ : $\geq 99\%$	B : 82.1 – 87.9%	C- : 70.0 – 72.0%
A : 92.1 – 98.9%	B- : 80.0 – 82.0%	D+ : 68.0 – 69.9%
A- : 90.0 – 92.0%	C+ : 78.0 – 79.9%	D : 62.1 – 67.9%
B+ : 88.0 – 89.9%	C : 72.1 – 77.9%	D- : 60.0 – 62.0%
		F : < 60.0%

## GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Exams:	60% of final grade
Quizzes:	15%
Final Paper:	15%
Attendance/Participation:	10%
	100%

## 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@sierranevada.edu](mailto:hconover@sierranevada.edu), or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library during the first week of the semester.

Please inform me as soon as possible if you have a professionally diagnosed and certified disability. Be sure to obtain the proper paperwork and inform me of any required accommodations at least 72 hours *before* scheduled exams, quizzes, papers, assignments, etc. Depending on the type of accommodation, time may be required for me to meet your needs (e.g., private room for exams).

## THE SNC EMAIL SYSTEM

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff. It 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.

## 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

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

<b>WEEK/ DAY</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS/ACTIVITIES</b>
8/21 MON	Introduction	Review Syllabus Homework, Read: 1-16
8/23 WED	Historical Background to Learning Principles: Theories, Figures and Schools	Homework, Read: 17-48
8/28 MON	Historical Background: Schools of Behaviorism	In-Class Video and Discussion Homework, Read: 51-64 In-Class Quiz on History of Learning
8/30 WED	Research Methods: Basic Terms and Measure	Homework Due: Chapter Test, pg. 48 Homework, Read: 94-131
9/4*		
9/6 WED	Behaviorism, A Closer Look: Classical Vs. Operant Conditioning	Discussion of Essential Principles and Their Differences, Classical Vs. Operant Conditioning In-Class Quiz on Behaviorism and Measure
9/11 MON	Classical Conditioning	Homework Due: Chapter Test, pg. 128 Homework, Read: 132-166

9/13 WED	Classical Conditioning II: Basic Phenomena and Various Complexities	Homework, Read: 168-208
9/18 MON	Classical Conditioning III: Underlying Processes and Applications	Homework Due: Chapter Test, pg. 163 Homework, Read: 209-226 In-Class Quiz on Classical Conditioning
9/20 WED	Operant Conditioning: Modern Background	In-Class Video and Discussion Homework, Read: 227-253
9/25 MON	Negative Vs. Positive Reinforcement: A Conceptual Distinction	Homework Due: Chapter Test, pg. 205
9/27 WED	Positive Reinforcement: Basic Principles and Mechanisms	Homework, Read: 254-292 In-Class Quiz on Operant Conditioning
10/2 MON	Schedules	Homework Due: Chapter Test, pg. 250
10/4 WED	Operant Conditioning in Social Learning Theory	In-Class Exercise on Comparing and Contrasting Major Learning Theory Types
10/9 MON	Midterm Review	Midterm Review
10/11 WED	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>Midterm Exam</b> Homework, Read: 294-306
10/16 MON	Extinction	Homework, Read: 306-333
10/18 WED	Stimulus Control	Homework Due: Chapter test, pg. 330 Homework Read: 334-346

10/23 MON	Escape and Avoidance	Homework Read: 347-372 In-Class Quiz on Extinction and Stimulus Control
10/25 WED	Punishment	Homework, Read: 373-387 Discussion of Final Paper
10/30 MON	Choice and Matching	Homework, Read: 388-415
11/1 WED	Self-Control	Homework, Read: 416-452
11/6 MON	Observational Learning	Homework, Read: 435-452 In-Class Quiz on Choice, Matching and Self-Control
11/8 WED	Rule Governed Behavior	Homework, Read: 453-488
11/13 MON	The Biology of Learning I: Theory	In-Class Quiz on Observational Learning
11/15 WED	The Biology of Learning II: Clinical and Disorders	Homework Due: Chapter Test, pg. 485 Homework, Read: 489-535 <i>Final Draft of Final Paper Due</i>
11/20-11/24	Thanksgiving Break!	Thanksgiving Break!
11/27 MON	Comparative Cognition I: Learning in Animals	In-Class Quiz on Biology of Learning

11/29 WED	Comparative Cognition II: Language and Animal Study	
12/4 MON	<b>Final Review</b>	In-Class Quiz on Comparative Cognition
12/6 WED	<b>Final Review</b>	<b>Final Review</b> <b><i>FINAL PAPER DUE</i></b>
<i>12/11*</i>		
TBA	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>

\* Assignments, quizzes, exams, and activities are listed on the date they will occur and/or are ***due***.

\* *Italicized/darkened dates reflect days for which there are special reminders.*

NOTE: SYLLABUS IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS.