

**Psychology 281**  
Spring 2012, TR 10:30-1:20  
<http://www.psych.ualberta.ca/~msnyder/p281/main.html>

**Instructor:** Dr. M.R. Snyder

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Office hours: TR 10:00-10:30, 1:30-2:00, and/or by appointment

**Required Textbook:**

Chance, P. (2009). *Learning & Behavior: Active Learning Edition* (Sixth Edition). USA: Thompson Wadsworth.

**Predicted Reading Schedule:**

Chapters 1 & 2: 8, 10 May  
Chapters 3 & 4: 15, 17 May  
Chapters 5 & 7: 22, 24 May  
Chapters 6 & 8: 29, 31 May  
Chapters 10 & 9: 5, 7 June  
Chapters 11 & 12: 12 June

Note that the instructor will not be covering all topics from the assigned chapters during class time. Nonetheless, students are expected to be conversant in all assigned readings. Similarly, the instructor will be presenting some topics not covered in the textbook. Again, students are expected to know this material. Exams can test any material presented in the text and the lectures. Students are expected to come to class prepared, having read the assigned chapter being covered.

**Course Evaluation:**

Midterm exam (25%, chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and lectures): 29 May  
Final exam (35%, cumulative): 14 June, 3:00-5:00 PM  
Assignment 1 (10%): 15 May  
Assignment 2 (10%): 22 May  
Assignment 3 (10%): 31 May  
Assignment 4 (10%): 7 June

**Other Significant Dates:**

21 May: Victoria Day, University buildings closed  
22 May: Spring Term refund deadline  
1 June: Last day to withdraw from Spring Term classes  
14-15 June: Spring Term final exam period

**Exams:**

The midterm covers material taught in class from 8 May through 24 May and chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 in the textbook. If you miss the midterm exam you must give the instructor appropriate documentation within two working days or you will be assigned a zero for the exam (see the University Calendar, section 23.4(3), for information on what constitutes an acceptable excuse for missing an exam). The weight of an excused midterm exam will be reallocated to the final exam; there will be no re-examination for a missed midterm exam.

The final exam is cumulative; that is, all material covered in class during the course and all assigned chapters can provide material for question, although there will be a somewhat greater emphasis placed on material covered after the midterm exam. If you miss the final exam and are granted a deferral by your Faculty (see the University Calendar, section 23.4(3)), you will write the deferred final exam on 12 July 2012, 2:00-4:00 PM, room BSP-226.

The midterm will consist of 75 multiple choice questions in 90 minutes. Ten or fifteen minutes after the completion of the midterm the instructor will start the day's lecture. The final exam will consist of 100 multiple choice questions in 120 minutes.

All exam questions are proprietary. No exam questions may be copied, transcribed, photographed, etc. during exam viewings. The only sample questions that are available for the course are those available through the course website. Psyc 281 exam questions acquired in any other way are illegally received and constitutes a violation of the Code of Student Behaviour with respect to cheating.

**Assignments:**

An assignment must be turned in on the day it is due before the end of class. If an assignment is not turned in by the end of class there is an immediate 10% penalty. An additional late penalty of 10% will be applied for each day thereafter (including weekends and holidays) that the assignment is not turned in as of 12:00 PM (i.e., noon). Late (or early!) assignments can be turned in to the instructor in person or to the Psychology General Office (BSP-217, hours of operation Monday to Friday, 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00). No other option is acceptable.

Assignments may be completed individually or in a group of two people. If an assignment is done as a group, both members of the group will receive the same grade. Organization of groups is entirely up to the students. Note that the instructor will not become involved in any way in arbitrating or mediating disputes, disagreements, or difficulties between group members. Consequently, if students wish to work on an assignment in a group, it is their responsibility to select their partner wisely. For students completing assignments on their own, they must work on the assignments on their own (see section on Plagiarism below). A group cannot work together with other groups on the assignment (see section on Plagiarism below). More details on assignments will be provided in class and on the course website.

#### **Grading Scheme:**

<u>Mark (%)</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Descriptor</u>
94-100	4.0	A+	Excellent
88-93.9	4.0	A	Excellent
83-87.9	3.7	A-	Excellent
78-82.9	3.3	B+	Good
73-77.9	3.0	B	Good
68-72.9	2.7	B-	Good
63-67.9	2.3	C+	Satisfactory
58-62.9	2.0	C	Satisfactory
55-57.9	1.7	C-	Satisfactory
52-54.9	1.3	D+	Poor
50-51.9	1.0	D	Minimal Pass
0-49.9	0.0	F or F(R)	Failure

Exam, assignment, and paper marks will be tallied at the end of the course and converted to the 4-point/letter grade University grade scale. Note: this course *is not* graded on a curve. The mark received translates directly to the letter grade given.

#### **Posting of Grades:**

Student grades will be posted (by student ID) on the course website in a PDF format. Any students who do not want their grades posted in this manner should contact the instructor in writing during the first two weeks of class to make alternative arrangements.

#### **Prerequisites:**

To receive credit for Psychology 281 a student must have previously passed Psychology 104 (or its equivalent). Students who do not have the required prerequisite will have their registration in Psyc 281 cancelled; this may result in a loss of fees paid for this course.

#### **Course Objectives:**

To introduce students to issues in the field of learning and behaviour, including innate behaviour processes, classical and operant contingencies, experimental methodologies, and critical scientific thinking skills.

#### **Cheating and Plagiarism:**

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at [www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/secretariat/studentappeals.cfm](http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/secretariat/studentappeals.cfm)) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

In particular, please note: No student shall represent another's substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as his or her own. Also, no student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has been obtained by the student or which has been or is being submitted by the student in another course or program of student in the University or elsewhere. With respect to the assignments, this means that unless you are working as part of a group (and are being graded as such) you must submit your assignments on your own; should substantive similarities in wording, content, ideas, etc. be found between different students' individual assignments this will be treated as a potential case of plagiarism, and will be investigated as such.

**Appealing Grades on the Exams and Assignments:**

If you feel that you have been incorrectly graded on a question from an exam or on some aspect of an assignment you may appeal the mark by *justifying* in writing why your grade should be changed. This involves *explaining* and *supporting* why your work deserves a higher mark. Simply stating that a higher grade is deserved is insufficient; you must offer evidence to justify your position. I recommend that you take a little time after viewing your exam or assignment to consider your answer and to muster your argument(s).

For a multiple choice exam question: turn in to the instructor a piece of paper on which you indicate which question you are appealing, what answer you gave, and justify why your answer is correct.

For an assignment: turn in to the instructor a photocopy of your assignment with the highlighted section(s) that supports your argument that your grade should be adjusted; write your justification on a separate piece of paper and staple it to your assignment.

All answer justifications will be reviewed and considered by the instructor at the end of the course.

Note that under University regulations, term work can not be appealed once the final exam has been written; all answer justifications on term work must be submitted before the beginning of the final exam.

**Contacting the Instructor:**

You may contact the instructor by:

Phone (780-492-),

by leaving a written message for him at the Department of Psychology office (BSP-217),

by speaking with him before or after class (as time allows), during the class break, or by making an appointment

by Skype (username: michaelrsnyder)

via e-mail (mrsnyder@ualberta.ca).

**E-mail Protocols:**

Some questions can be dealt with very easily with e-mail, although others cannot. If you ask a question via e-mail that can not be easily addressed you will be instructed to see the instructor in person.

When communicating with the via e-mail, students **must** include "Psyco 281" in the subject line of their message – note the spelling: Psyco 281. Because of recent problems with viruses and SPAM mail, any e-mail lacking the Psyco 281 subject line will be deleted.

Second, students **must** include their full name and student ID in any e-mail to the instructor (your e-mail address and/or alias are insufficient).

Third, students **must** use their university e-mail account (i.e., an e-mail account with the @ualberta.ca suffix) when contacting the instructor or teaching assistant; e-mails from non-university accounts *will not* be responded to. Past experience has shown that for various reasons e-mails from non-university accounts are sometimes difficult to reply to and are more likely to present security risks; university accounts do not Academic Information and Communication Technologies (780-492-9400, or <http://helpdesk.ualberta.ca/>). Please be aware that it may take one or two business days for your e-mail to be answered by the instructor.

If you e-mail the instructor and do not receive a reply within two or three business days, please make sure you followed the above protocols correctly and either resend the e-mail or contact the instructor by another means.

**Disruption of Class, Cell Phones, Etc.**

Any students who are disruptive during class will be required to leave. Continual talking during class will not be tolerated as it is disruptive to other students in the classroom. All cell phones **MUST** be turned off during the class period. No texting, e-mailing, watching videos on computers, etc. are permitted in class. If you wish to engage in these activities, leave the room.

Policy about course outlines can be found in section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar.