

Psychology 381
Spring 2010, TR 1:30-4:20
<http://www.psych.ualberta.ca/~msnyder/p381/main.html>

Instructor: Dr. M.R. Snyder

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Office hours: during class break, after class, and/ or by appointment

Required Textbook:

Domjan, M. (2010). *The principles of learning and behavior: Active learning edition* (6th ed.). U.S.A.: Wadsworth.

The textbook is available as an eTextbook from <<http://www.coursesmart.com/>>. Once on the website select the “for Students” option. In the “title” search field, type “The principles of learning and behavior”. This will take you to the page for our course’s eTextbook. You have the option of either purchasing an Online Version or a Downloadable Version. Click on the “Compare Online & Downloadable” to see some information on the similarities and differences between these options. You can also click on the “Buy” buttons for each of the options and read the additional information about the two choices without making a purchase. Decide for yourself which option best suits your needs and continue with the purchase process.

Alternatively, if you really want a hardcopy of the text there may be some 6th edition copies of this text floating about used. There appear to be about 10 copies available at Subtitles in SUB, but I am not sure if these are the 6th or older 5th editions.

Predicted Reading Schedule:

Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4: 13 - 25 May

Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8: 27 May - 3 June

Chapters 9, 10, 11: 8 - 15 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 1 (22%, chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and lectures): 27 May

Midterm exam 2 (22%, chapters 5, 6, 7, 8 and lectures): 8 June

Final exam (36%, cumulative): 18 June, 11:30-1:30

Paper (20%): 1 June

Other Significant Dates:

10 May: Spring term begins

13 May: Spring term registration deadline

24 May: Victoria Day; University buildings closed

25 May: Spring term refund deadline

4 June: Last day for withdrawal from Spring term courses

17-18 June: Final examinations for Spring term courses; no classes held

Exams:

The first midterm covers material taught in class from 13-25 May and chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the textbook. The second midterm covers material taught in class from 27 May – 3 June and chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8 in the textbook. If you miss a 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 23.5.6.1a, 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 second midterm exam. If you miss the final exam and are granted a deferral by your Faculty (see the University Calendar, section 23.5.6.2), you will write the deferred final exam on 9 July 2010 at 2:00 PM, room BSP-241.

Each midterm exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions in 60 minutes. Ten minutes after the completion of the midterm the instructor will start the day’s lecture. The final exam will consist of 90 multiple choice questions in 120 minutes.

Exam questions are proprietary. During scheduled exam viewings no questions may be copied, transcribed, photographed, etc. The only sanctioned sample exam questions will be accessible through the course website. Any Psyc

381 exam questions acquired in any other way are illegally received and their use constitutes a violation under the Code of Student Behaviour with respect to cheating.

Paper:

The paper for the course will be a short (i.e., 3 page) critique of a classic research article in the field of comparative psychology. Articles that may be critiqued along with additional instructions on the structure, formatting, and development of a critique of an empirical paper will be available on the course website.

The paper must be turned in to the instructor *in class* on the day it is due by 1:35 PM. For every day, including weekends and holidays, an assignment is late, starting immediately at 1:36 PM on the day the assignment is due, 10% will be deducted. Subsequent penalties will be applied each day thereafter at 4:00PM.

DO NOT put a paper under the instructor's door! If a paper is put under the door it will be treated as submitted when it is actually found by the instructor. A paper may be thumbtacked to the bulletin board outside the instructor's door; it will be treated as submitted when it is actually found by the instructor. Late papers should be submitted *directly* to the instructor, or should be turned in to office staff at the Department of Psychology office (BSP-217, hours of operation Monday to Friday, 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00); the office staff will date-stamp your paper and this will be used to assess late penalties. (Papers may, of course, be submitted early, again, to the instructor or to the Psychology office.)

Grading Scheme:

<u>Mark (%)</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Descriptor</u>
94-100	4.0	A+	Excellent
89-93.9	4.0	A	Excellent
84-88.9	3.7	A-	Excellent
79-83.9	3.3	B+	Good
74-78.9	3.0	B	Good
69-73.9	2.7	B-	Good
64-68.9	2.3	C+	Satisfactory
59-63.9	2.0	C	Satisfactory
55-58.9	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 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 381 a student must have previously passed Psychology 281 (or its equivalent from another academic institution). Students who do not have the required prerequisite will have their registration in Psyc 381 cancelled; this may result in a loss of fees paid for this course.

Course Objectives:

To expose students to theories and empirical findings in the field of comparative psychology, 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.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm) 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 the paper: turn in to the instructor a photocopy of your paper 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 (492-3834),

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 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 381" in the subject line of their message – note the spelling: Psyco 381. Because of recent problems with viruses and SPAM mail, any e-mail lacking the Psyco 381 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.