Learning and Conditioning  
**PSYC 3361-501**  
Fall 2023 - Online

**Lecturer:** Lea Touchstone, M.Ed.  
**Email:** Brightspace by D2L (login: https://d2l.sfasu.edu/) (primary e-mail)  
Please email my SFA email account (Lillian.Touchstone@sfasu.edu) only if you cannot temporarily access D2L.  
**Phone:** (936) 468-1455  
**Office:** 215E McKibben Education Building  
**Office Hours:** Monday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Tuesday 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm  
Wednesday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Thursday **By appointment**  
Friday **By appointment**

**Course Description**

Examination of the principles of learning and cognition from the perspective of experimental psychology with an emphasis on learning theories and neuroscience. The approaches of Pavlov and Skinner are predominant throughout the course, although the concepts of other learning theorists are also presented.

**Course Structure**

This is an online course. Content and graded items are on a weekly schedule. Content and assessments are designed so that they may be completed at a time of your own choosing each week (i.e., asynchronously). However, you must keep pace with the course on a weekly basis. For the majority of the course, content modules will open on Monday morning and assessments (e.g., quizzes, discussions, assignments) will be due by the end of the week (Sunday night).

**Readings/Materials**

All reading material for this course will be posted on D2L, and it is all freely available. You do not need to purchase a textbook for this course.
D2L

All course material will be posted here on D2L. This includes all graded material (quizzes, exam, assignments, and discussions). Grades will also be posted here as they occur throughout the course.

Course Requirements

The course will include 15 short quizzes, 4 short writing assignments, 15 discussion posts, and a final exam. Extra credit may be offered throughout the semester. However, if extra credit is offered, the opportunity will be made available to all students (i.e., there will be no special cases).

Quizzes

You will have a quiz following each content module in this course. These quizzes may be cumulative, to a degree. There will be 15 quizzes total (1 per week), and your lowest-graded quiz will be dropped (14 will count toward your final grade). These will be worth 5 points each (for 70 points total).

Assignments

4 short writing assignments will be given during the semester. Instructions for each will be posted on D2L. These will all follow the same basic format: 2 pages, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman font (or similar). These must be submitted as a Microsoft Word document (.docx) or PDF. These will be worth 10 points each (for 40 points total).

Discussions

You will have a discussion associated with each content module in this course. Instructions for each will be posted on D2L. These will all follow the same basic format: 2 posts per discussion topic with a 2-sentence minimum for each post (but you can write much more if you’d like). One post should be from you on the designated topic, and the other should be a reply to another student’s post. These will be worth 1 point each (for 15 points total).

Final Exam

The final exam will open during the last week of class. This will be worth 70 points.

Make-Up/Late Work Policy

If there are circumstances beyond your control that prevent you from completing course material, make-up opportunities may be offered at the discretion of the professor. Make-up requests must be made no later than 24 hours passed the due date.
Grading Policy

Grades will be determined by your performance on quizzes, assignments, discussion posts, and a final exam. Your final grade will be calculated as a percentage of points earned out of 195. Grades will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (14 total, at 5 points each)</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments (4 total, at 10 points each)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Posts (15 total, at 1 point each)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 195

A  >89.4%
B  79.5% - 89.4%
C  69.5% - 79.4%
D  59.5% - 69.4%
F  <59.5%

Your Grade (%) = Points Earned / 195

Grades will be posted on D2L as they occur throughout the course.

Credit Hour Justification (3 Credits)

PSYC 3361 “Learning and Conditioning” (3 credits) is designed to introduce students to the study of learning and conditioning by covering principles of learning and conditioning from the perspective of experimental psychology with an emphasis on learning theory including the approaches of Pavlov and Skinner and the concepts of other learning theorists. This course covers the equivalent of 2.5 contact hours per week for 16 weeks, and also includes a 2.5 hour final examination period. Students typically have significant weekly reading assignments and writing assignments and are expected to take regular tests and a final examination. These activities average at a minimum 6 hours of work each week, during long semesters, to prepare outside of classroom hours. Online course sections contain extensive written content that includes the same information students in a face-to-face lecture sections receive, requiring students to engage the online modules for at least three hours per week during long semesters. For every hour a student spends engaging with the online content, he/she spends at least two hours completing associated activities and assessments.
Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to do the following things at a basic level:

- Understand the basic workings of the nervous system and describe how learning occurs at a cellular level
- Understand the basics of associative learning (classical and operant conditioning)
- Distinguish various memory systems throughout the brain
- Appreciate the influence of learning on psychological disorders
- Apply learning strategies to improve your own learning and to teach others (both humans and pets)

### Program Learning Outcomes

| The student will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology | Advanced |
| The student will understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations | Advanced |
| The student will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes | Advanced |
| The student will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues | Advanced |
| The student will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a science | Advanced |

### Academic Integrity

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work
offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**Artificial Intelligence (AI) (ChatGPT)**

Academic integrity is a core value of this course, and any form of academic dishonesty, including using artificial intelligence (AI) to cheat, will not be tolerated. Cheating with AI includes, but is not limited to, using AI-generated content for assignments or exams, using AI chatbots to communicate with others during exams, or using AI tools to generate responses to exam questions. Any instance of a student engaging in academic dishonesty using AI will be addressed according to [The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf). It is important to remember that AI is a tool to assist in learning and not to replace it, and that academic dishonesty undermines the learning experience for everyone.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf).

**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Student Wellness and Well-Being**

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with
relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc. If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**

The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)  www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249 dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.
To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

**Crisis Resources:**

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

### Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/28-9/10</td>
<td>Cells and Neural Communication</td>
<td>Q1, D1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9/4-9/10</td>
<td>Neuroanatomy</td>
<td>Q2, D2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/11-9/17</td>
<td>Learning at a Cellular Level</td>
<td>Q3, D3, WA1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/18-9/24</td>
<td>Classical Conditioning Introduction</td>
<td>Q4, D4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Assignment(s)</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/25-10/1</td>
<td>Classical Conditioning Phenomena</td>
<td>Q5, D5</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10/2-10/8</td>
<td>Classical Conditioning Neuroscience</td>
<td>Q6, D6, WA2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/9-10/15</td>
<td>Operant Conditioning Introduction</td>
<td>Q7, D7</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/16-10/22</td>
<td>Operant Conditioning Phenomena</td>
<td>Q8, D8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/23-10/29</td>
<td>Operant Conditioning Neuroscience</td>
<td>Q9, D9, WA3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/30-11/5</td>
<td>Mental Health - Addiction</td>
<td>Q10, D10</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11/6-11/12</td>
<td>Mental Health - Stress/Anxiety</td>
<td>Q11, D11</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/13-11/19</td>
<td>Mental Health - Depression</td>
<td>Q12, D12, WA4</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>11/20-11/26</td>
<td>Special Topics - Training a Dog</td>
<td>Q13, D13</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/27-12/3</td>
<td>Special Topics - Education</td>
<td>Q14, D14</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12/4-12/10</td>
<td>Special Topics - Sleep</td>
<td>Q15, D15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12/11-12/15</td>
<td>Final Exam: due Friday, December 15</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WA = writing assignment, D = discussion, Q = quiz

The professor reserves the right to change this schedule to best meet the needs of the class.