

Psychology: 3320 Learning and Memory
Summer II 2017
MTWRF 9-11
LART 102

Professor: Dr. Ana I. Schwartz

Office: Psychology 110

Office hours: or by appointment- give 24 hour notice of need

Email: aischwartz@utep.edu (best way to reach me!)

Required Text: Howard Eichenbaum. (2008) Learning and Memory

About the Course:

This course is focused on the processes and principles of learning and memory. These two constructs are actually impossible to fully separate from each other, each interacts with the other. For simplicity, “learning” refers to the acquisition of new information and “memory” to its retrieval. In this course you will understand the varieties in which humans and animals take in information and the varieties of memory traces. You will learn the principles that guide how new information is acquired, stored and retrieved.

We will cover the following topics:

- 1) Early, historical perspectives on the nature of learning and memory.
- 2) The brain basis of learning and memory:
 - a) neurons
 - b) neuronal circuits
 - c) neuronal systems
- 3) Forms of unconscious learning and memory
 - a) Classical conditioning
 - b) Instrumental learning
- 4) Conscious forms of learning and memory
 - a) “cognitive” (explicit) memory
 - b) working memory

Throughout these topics will be common themes:

Theme 1: Learning and memory are inextricably related processes

Theme 2: The brain bases of learning and memory

Theme 3: There are multiple memory systems

Theme 4: The basic principles of learning and memory are the same for humans and animals

As you will see in this class, information is best remembered through active learning. Applying this principle to our class, I expect you to engage in classroom discussions and I will challenge you to critically analyze the different theories and experiments that we will review. All of the topics we will be discussing have direct applications to our everyday experiences. For me, this is one of the most rewarding aspects of being a psychologist. So I expect you to communicate to me how you see the connections

between course content and your own experiences. Sometimes this communication will be in class, or during an office hour. Sometimes it will be through responses on an exam, or a quiz, or an assignment. Remember, I can only infer what you have learned through your own overt, behavior. In this way it is *essential* that you be an active and engaged learner.

Student Responsibilities

- 1) Classroom decorum
 - a. On-time arrival
 - b. No cell phone use
 - c. Wireless feature turned off on laptops
- 2) Active participation in class from every single student
- 3) Keep up with announcements and assignments in class
- 4) When absent, acquire missed information from peers, website

Grading

Exams (3)	75%
Quizzes	25%

STUDENTS MUST BRING A SCANTRON EVERY DAY TO CLASS

Exams: Exams will be multiple-choice. They will cover material from lectures and from the textbook, with an emphasis on the lectures.

Missed Exams: **No exams will be made up. Instead students can take the optional, cumulative final.** The only exception will be for students participating in UTEP sanctioned activities that conflict with an exam date. Those students must notify me of the conflict via email at least one week prior to scheduled exam.

Quizzes: Each week there will be 1-2 quizzes. These quizzes will be based on readings from the text that serve the basis of the upcoming lecture. Lectures will not review this information- therefore, it is the student's entire responsibility to master this material independently.

No quizzes can be made up. Instead, the lowest quiz grade gets dropped.

Attendance: Attendance will not be taken. Students do not have to notify me of anticipated absences. Because the content of quizzes and exams are heavily structured around the content of lecture and because of frequent quizzes, regular attendance is required for success in this course.

Note about laptop use: Students can use laptops for note taking purposes only. Thus, only applications such as MS Word and/or PowerPoint may be opened. No web applications may be active during class time.

Week	Chapters	Readings	Exam	
1	Chapter 1 The nature of learning and memory Chapter 2 The neural bases of learning and memory	Pg. 4-11 Pg. 40-47; 49-52; 66-73	Wednesday 7/19	
2	Chapter 5 Classical conditioning Chapter 6 Habits and instrumental learning	Pg 144-148 Pg 201-203	Friday 7/28	
3	Chapter 8 Cognitive memory Chapter 12 Short term and working memory	TBA	Friday 8/4	
Cumulative Monday August 7				