SYLLABUS
Seminar: Learning Memory and Cognition
PSYC 705 - Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. XT Wang
Place and Time: SDU410, Wednesday, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Office Hours: MWF 12:00-1:00 pm (SD311) or by appointment
Phone: 677-5183
Course webpage: http://usd-apps.usd.edu/xtwanglab/Psyc705L&C

Text:

Reference Readings:

Topics and Lecture Schedule:
1) Introducing Learning and Memory
2) Classical Conditioning and Theories
3) Instrumental/Operant Conditioning and Theories
   **Exam 1: September 23** (Relevant Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11)
4) Human Memory and Information Processing Models
5) Encoding and Forgetting
6) Retrieval and Remembering
   **Exam 2: October 21** (Relevant Chapters 7, 8, 9)
7) Every Day Memories
8) Intertemporal Rewards and Delay Discounting
9) Biological Constraints on Learning and Evolutionary Psychology
   **Exam 3: December 9** (Relevant Chapters 10, 11, 12, additional readings)

Course topics listed above are not all covered in the text and may be discussed in a slightly different order as proposed.

Class Requirements and Testing/Grading Procedure:
A. **Class attendance** is required. The lectures and class discussion will often go beyond the scope of the text. Extra credit-points may be earned by participating in research activities given in class.

B. **Individual Paper and Presentation**: Each student will be assigned a chapter from the textbook and conduct additional literature search to find most recent research articles related to the selected topic. Your paper should focus on an interesting topic selected from the assigned chapter with additional analysis, instead of just a summary or overview of the chapter. You also have the option to choose an alternative topic for your paper and presentation from the following
Your paper should be 10-15 pages long, not including the title page and reference list, double spaced, and in APA format. The paper is due on Monday **November 16, 2015**. Late submission will result in point reduction. Submissions five days after the due day will not be considered. Besides a hard copy, an electronic copy of the paper should be sent to xtwang@usd.edu with a World file named as “your-last-name first-name 705 paper” (e.g., Smith John 705 paper.doc).

Your paper presentations will be scheduled; and each presentation will take 20 minutes followed by a 5-minute Q&A session. Each presenter is required to provide three multiple-choice questions at the end of your presentation. Some exam questions will be selected from these multiple choice questions. Both the ppt presentation file and the multiple-choice questions are due the day before the presentation. Later submission will lead to point-reduction.

**C. Peer Evaluation**: Each presentation will be evaluated by peers in the class. The presentation scores will be given on the basis of the peer evaluations. Like an anonymous journal review process, the evaluations will be kept confidential.

The presentation schedule and instruction for the peer review will be available on the course webpage. You should carefully adjust the scores given to each presentation in comparison to other presentations. The peer evaluation scores of all presentations except the presentation by the evaluator are due via email to xtwang@usd.edu within two days of the last presentation.

**D. Three exams** will be given. The questions in each exam will be largely restricted to the topics covered in class before each exam. The score of a missed exam will be zero. In case that one needs to take an exam at another time for a legitimate reason, an arrangement has to be made before the exam takes place.

An overall score will be determined from the average of the three exam scores plus the presentation/participation score with the following proportion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three Exams</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
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Final grades will be determined based on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Score</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 90</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 - 89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 - 79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 64</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 50</td>
<td>F</td>
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Freedom in Learning

Under Board of Regents and University policy student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should contact the dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.

Policy on Academic Dishonesty

The College of Arts and Sciences considers plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty inimical to the objectives of higher education. The College supports the imposition of penalties on students who engage in academic dishonesty, as defined in the “Conduct” section of the University of South Dakota Student Handbook.

No credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. At the discretion of the instructor, a student caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty may be:

a. Given a zero for that assignment.
b. Allowed to rewrite and resubmit the assignment for credit.
c. Assigned a reduced grade for the course.
d. Dropped from the course.
e. Failed in the course.

Disability Policy

Any student who feels s/he may need academic accommodations or access accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability should contact and register with Disability Services during the first week of class. Disability Services is the official office to assist students through the process of disability verification and coordination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Students currently registered with Disability Services must obtain a new accommodation memo each semester.