

**Course: The Psychology of Learning (Psy 3309:W01), Spring 2015**

**Professor: Dr. Andrea Powers**

**Required text: Learning and Behavior, 7th edition, by Paul Chance (ISBN: 978 1 111 83277 3)**

**The Psychology of Learning is about why we continue to do some behaviors, while discontinuing other behaviors. It's all about the consequences. If the outcome of an act is pleasant, we will probably do that behavior again. If the outcome is unpleasant, we may never do that behavior again. All that you learn in this course will be based upon human and animal research that focuses on how organisms learn. You will learn how associations are formed between stimuli, and how the consequences of a behavior will determine if that behavior will be repeated and maintained. By the end of the semester, you will be familiar with the two main types of learning and understand the importance of memory in all human and animal behaviors.**

**The assignment sections contain the reading assignment and when each exam will be scheduled. Exams will be given on alternate Tuesdays: 2/3, 2/17, 3/3, 3/24, 4/7, 4/21, and 5/5. You will have from 7 AM until 11 PM to complete the exams, which will consist of 50 multiple choice questions randomly selected from the publisher's test bank. No student will receive the same exam. It is your responsibility to be sure you are using a computer that will remain connected until you finish your test.**

**An additional assignment will involve summarizing a research article on any aspect of human or animal learning, and including related information from your textbook. About 3/4 of your paper should be a summary of your article and about 1/4 should be related info from your text. Choose a research article from a professional journal (see Library Resources). When searching, do not type in**

**"learning." Choose a term from your book such as habituation, extinction, or classical (Pavlovian) conditioning. It may be best to choose a topic from the chapter you are currently learning.**

**You must submit this assignment through Blackboard exactly as instructed under Library Resources, providing a link to your article so that I may read it. Assignments sent incorrectly or to my e-mail address will not be graded. Dates for this assignment will be: 2/10, 3/10, 3/31, and 4/14. You may submit the assignment from 7 AM on the day before it is due until 11 PM on the due date.**

**Grades: For each exam and written assignment you will receive points and will not see a letter grade until the end of the semester. Each exam will be worth a possible 100 points and each summary will be worth a possible 20 points. To receive an A, you must have a minimum of 663 points. To receive a B, you must have a minimum of 585 points. To receive a C, you must have a minimum of 507 points. To receive a D, you must have a minimum of 429 points. Grades will be posted on Banner within a week after the last exam.**

**Assistants for this course: For technical problems, call Joe Renieri at 837-8489. His office is in the library. Research librarian, Jacob Galindo, also in the library, can be reached at 837-8414. Call him if you need help learning how to submit your writing assignments.**

**Pertaining to students with disabilities: Sul Ross is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. For such services, contact Mary Schwartz in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. Phone: 432 837-8203.**

**Distance Education: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course.**