

**SYLLABUS**  
**Seminar: Learning Memory and Cognition**  
**PSYC 705 - Fall 2009**

**Instructor:** Dr. XT Wang

**Place and Time:** SDU 404, F, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. (except Nov. 18 Wed)

**Office Hours:** MWF 12:00-1:00 pm (SD311) or by appointment

**Phone:** 677-5183

**Course webpage:** <http://www.usd.edu/~xtwang/psyc7051&m>

**Text:**

Gluck, M. A., Mercado, E., & Myers, C. E. (2008). Learning and Memory: From Brain to Behavior. Worth Publishers

**Reference Readings:**

Reed, S. (2010) Cognition: Theory and Applications (8<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Thompson.

Leahey, T. H. & Harris R. J. (2001) Learning and Cognition (5th ed). Prentice Hall.

Buss, D. M. (2004). Evolutionary psychology: The new science of the mind. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

**Course Topics and Lecture Schedule:**

- 1) Introducing Learning and Memory
- 2) Classical Conditioning and Theories
- 3) Instrumental/Operant Conditioning and Theories  
**Exam 1: October 15** (Relevant Chapters 1, 7, 8, 9)

- 4) Human Memory and Information Processing Models
- 5) Encoding and Forgetting
- 6) Retrieval and Remembering  
**Exam 2: November 6** (Relevant Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6)

- 7) Every Day Memories
- 8) Cognitive Biases and Heuristics
- 9) Biological Constraints on Learning and Evolutionary Psychology  
**Exam 3: December 11** (Chapters 2, 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 an additional literature search to find more research articles related to the selected topic. The topic of your paper (10-15 pages long, not including the title page and

reference list, double spaced, APA style) should be selected from the assigned chapter and focus especially on the sections on brain substrates and clinical perspectives. The paper is due on Monday **November 30**, 2009. 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](mailto: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 **30** minutes followed by **10** minutes for questions and discussion. Each presenter is required to provide three multiple-choice questions summarized at the end of your presentation via email to [xtwang@usd.edu](mailto:xtwang@usd.edu), together with an electronic copy of the ppt presentation. Some exam questions will be selected from these multiple choice questions. Both the ppt presentation file and the questions are due by the **day** of 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](mailto: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:

Three Exams	65%
Paper	15%
Presentation	15%
Participation	5%

Final grades will be determined based on the following scale:

Average Score	Final Grade
≥ 90	A
80 - 89	B
65 - 79	C
50 - 64	D
< 50	F

### **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 Associate Dean Kurt Hackemer 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.