

PSYC 2044 || Psychology of Learning || Fall 2016

Instructor: Amanda Halliburton, M.S.

Class Meets: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12:20 pm – 1:10 pm

Class Location: Williams Hall Room 220

Instructor's Email: ahallibu@vt.edu

Office: Williams Hall Room 325

Office Hours: Mondays 1:15 – 2:45 pm; Fridays 10:45 am – 12:15 pm

Prerequisite: Introductory Psychology (PSYC 1004/2004)

Required Text:

Domjan, M. (2015). *The Principles of Learning & Behavior* (7th edition). Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning.

Course Overview

Welcome to Psychology of Learning!

This course will give you an overview of key psychological principles and processes that form the foundation of learning and motivation. We will primarily focus on classical and operant conditioning, though we will also discuss other related topics. My major goal is to teach you how to identify and analyze conditioning at work around you, as well as how to apply these principles to problems in your own life that you would like to solve. Please see the Course Rules & Regulations section for information about what I expect from you.

Grading Criteria

Course grades will be based on the following:

Quizzes.....	10 x 10 pts = 100 pts (55%)
In-class writing assignments.....	5 x 5 pts = 25 pts (15%)
Midterm project.....	25 pts (15%)
Final project.....	25 pts (15%)
SONA credit.....	up to 5 extra pts
TOTAL.....	175 pts (+ 5 EC)

Quizzes: After we finish each lecture, a quiz will be posted on Canvas. The quiz will be multiple-choice and will consist of 10 questions. The quiz will open right after we finish the lecture and will close five days later. The questions will mostly come from the lecture, but I reserve the right to include a few questions from the reading to make sure you are staying on top of it. Out of 12 quizzes total, I will drop the two lowest quiz grades. Please refer to the schedule on Canvas to see when quizzes are due. Although these quizzes can be completed at

home and are thus open-book and open-note, as per the Honor Code you cannot consult classmates or unauthorized sources (e.g., Google, Wikipedia) to answer the questions.

In-class writing assignments: From time to time, I will give a short writing assignment at some point during class. The topics will be varied and the assignments will not be announced ahead of time; therefore, you should avoid missing class in order to not miss out on completing them. You will be given time in class to compose a brief response to the prompt and turn it in, so please bring paper and a writing utensil with you even if you primarily use your laptop to take notes. You will not need to do research in order to respond to these prompts, and they will primarily be graded for completeness (i.e., as an assessment of attendance/participation). You must complete five of these assignments in order to receive full credit (25 points total).

Midterm project: You will analyze an advertisement (commercial, store ad, magazine ad, etc.) using classical conditioning principles. Details are given in a rubric posted on Canvas. You will provide me with a copy of the ad (Youtube link, scanned image, photo, screenshot, etc.) and a completed 1-page form (on Canvas) for your analysis. This assignment must be completed individually and is due to me via Canvas by **11:59pm on Thursday, October 13th**. Time in class will be provided to work on this project.

Final project: During fall break, I will set up groups and post the list on Canvas. You will meet with your group and come up with a common problem that affects VT students. Then, you will design a solution for the problem using operant conditioning principles. Details are given in a rubric posted on Canvas. You will provide me with a 1-2 page outline of the problem and your solution, which will be submitted to me via Canvas by **11:59pm on Friday, November 18th**. I will suggest edits, if necessary, and approve your project over Thanksgiving break. Your group will present the final project during the final exam time slot for our class (see schedule). Classmates may ask questions and provide feedback after your presentation, time permitting. *Therefore, all students are expected to be present for the entire final period in order to receive full credit on this project.* Time in class will be provided to work on this project in your groups.

SONA credit: Extra credit can be earned by participating in SONA research conducted in the Psychology Department (<https://vt-psyc.sona-systems.com/>). I will double your SONA points, up to 5 total class points. Thus, for every 30 minutes of research participation, 1 point will be added to your total grade, up to 5 points (2.5 credits in SONA). Extra credit points must be completed by **Wednesday, December 7th**. An alternative assignment is available if you do not feel comfortable participating in SONA research. I will enter extra credit points in Canvas after I finish grading your final projects and entering those grades.

Grading scale:

93-100%: A	80-82%: B-	67-69%: D+
90-92%: A-	77-79%: C+	63-66%: D
87-89%: B+	73-76%: C	60-62%: D-
83-86%: B	70-72%: C-	59% or less: F

Note: I do not round up final grades; please do not ask me to do so after the final!

Course Rules & Regulations

Classroom conduct: I believe that an environment of mutual respect is critical in helping us all perform at our best in our roles as instructor and students. This implies that you are expected to come to class (prepared and on time!), participate when appropriate, and refrain from engaging in off-task behavior that will distract you and your fellow students. This also implies that I will respect you (e.g., by returning graded assignments to you in a timely manner). Participation is expected in my class and I reserve the right to call on students if necessary.

Lecture notes: I will post a copy of my lecture notes on Canvas prior to the first class period in which that lecture will be given. My notes will overlap with the text in some ways and expand beyond it in others, and not all information will be provided on the slides, so I recommend that you come to class prepared to take notes using your laptop or pen/pencil and paper.

Reading: You are expected to keep up with the textbook reading as much as possible and to come to class prepared by having read the pages specified for that day (see schedule).

Canvas: I will be using Canvas to post grades and course materials, and you will also be using it to turn in some of your assignments. I know it is fairly new and we are all still getting used to using it, so don't hesitate to ask if you have a question about Canvas features. *Additionally, I expect you to pay attention to deadlines for assignments and to not need constant reminders from me.*

Instructor contact: You may reach me via email, or we can meet during office hours (see above for when and where these are held). Please don't be shy I am happy to address questions, provided that the information you need is not already available to you in this syllabus ☺ If I have to have an unscheduled absence from class, I will make arrangements for a substitute.

Late work: The *only* assignment I will accept late is the midterm project, which I will accept up to two days late at a cost of **10%** per day. I will not accept it after two days have passed.

Honor code: The Undergraduate Honor Code pledge that each member of the university community agrees to abide by states: "As a Hokie, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do." Students enrolled in this course are responsible for abiding by the Honor Code. A student who has doubts about how the Honor Code applies to any assignment is responsible for obtaining specific guidance from the course instructor before submitting the assignment for evaluation. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code. For more information about the Honor Code, please visit: <https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/>.

Accommodations: If you need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share with me, or need special arrangements in case of building evacuation, please discuss this with me as soon as possible and notify Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD): Lavery Hall Suite 310, (540) 231-3788, <http://www.ssd.vt.edu/>.