

Framingham State University
Syllabus
PSYC 236 Psychology of Learning

Instructor: Mirari Elcoro, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Office:

E-mail:

Office hours:

Required Text:

- *Introduction to Learning and Behavior Fifth Edition* by Russell A. Powell, P. Lynne Honey and Diane G. Symbaluk (2017). Cengage Learning
- Additional materials will be posted on D2L

Course Description.

This is a three-credit course designed to provide exposure to theories and research on learning and behavior by studying some of the classic and contemporary literature on these areas of psychology. This course will help you understand the behavioral views and their applications to study various topics within the area of learning. We will emphasize the understanding of the major psychological principles that underlie behavior and its change through environmental manipulations. We will study how the principles of behavior can be examined in controlled laboratory experiments as well as how they can be applied to understand complex human activity.

Goals and Expectations.

This is a challenging course and your attendance to lecture is required. Attendance verification is also required by the Registrar's Office. Your performance in the course will be greatly influenced by your attendance. You might have studied some of the topics of this course in PSYC 1101 (e.g., classical conditioning); PSYC 3400 involves a more sophisticated understanding of such concepts. You may occasionally encounter short readings; the contents of these are dense and reading them might take longer than what you thought. It is expected that you understand the basic principles of behavior and apply them to situations of your daily life. To help you accomplish such goal, it is not only recommended that you attend class, but read the assigned materials before going to class to be able to participate and ask questions. You are expected to participate in classroom discussions. To facilitate this interaction, bonus points may be awarded at the instructor's discretion. I encourage you to come by my office during my office hours or we can also set an appointment so that you can ask me questions about the readings and the class. Preparing outlines and flashcards for studying is recommended and making use of the study guides may also be valuable. Persistence and dedication are required for your success in this course.

Email Communications.

Use properly descriptive and professional style when communicating via email with your instructor. Expect replies to your emails during week days (Mondays through Fridays).

Academic Integrity.

Violations of the Armstrong State University Academic Integrity Policy (including cheating and plagiarism) are taken very seriously. Any violation of this policy will become part of the student's permanent educational record. More information on the Academic Integrity policy and procedure can be found at www.armstrong.edu/studentintegrity.

Discrimination, Sexual Assault, and Harassment.

Armstrong is dedicated to providing a safe and equitable learning environment for all students. Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Title IX Office in Victor Hall Room 238 or by email diversity@armstrong.edu. This is important for the safety of the whole Armstrong community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The University Counseling Center provides 24/7 confidential support, and their website (<https://www.armstrong.edu/health-safety/counseling-center>) describes reporting options and other resources.

Disability Related Accommodations.

Armstrong State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities, as required under federal law. The purpose of disability accommodation is to provide equal access to the academic material and equal access to demonstrate mastery of the material. Students with disabilities must meet all the academic requirements and standards of the class, including the attendance policy. If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services, located on the second floor of Memorial College Center, room 208. You will need to meet with Disability Services Staff, who can help you gather documentation of your disability or refer you to an appropriate resource for assessment. Once documentation of the disability is gathered and approved, Disability Staff will provide you with an Accommodation Letter, detailing the appropriate, approved accommodations, which you should present to your instructor to discuss and implement your accommodations. Disability accommodations work best starting at the beginning of the semester, but can be approved and started at any point in the semester. Accommodations start at the time the Accommodation Letter is presented to faculty, within reasonable timelines. Accommodations are not given retroactively. Accommodations are not part of your academic transcript. <https://www.armstrong.edu/health-safety/counseling-center>

Professional Development Evaluation.

By taking this course, you are consenting to documentation of your performance, above and beyond grade assignments, for psychology departmental evaluation purposes. Professional Developmental Evaluations (PDE's) are used by the psychology department in order to evaluate students' attainment of professional skills and standards, such as being prompt, reliable, and receptive to feedback. This information is used to give constructive feedback to students and also is used to establish readiness for senior internship placement. Non-psychology majors will likely not be affected by this process, although Professional Development Evaluations are completed on all students enrolled in psychology courses, beginning in Spring, 2016. If you are unfamiliar with items assessed on the Professional Development Evaluation, you may request a copy from the instructor.

Attendance.

Class roll will be called the first week of class for the purposes of attendance verification. To be counted as present, you must be in class at the starting time and you must stay for the entire meeting. Attendance will also be recorded using a sign-in sheet during in-class activities, which will occur often,

but not necessarily during each class. The points that you will receive for attendance then, will be earned while you conduct such in-class activities (see section titled Participation/Activities below). Students are responsible for all class content regardless of attendance. Only official university-related activities scheduled on class days that can be properly documented (in a timely fashion) will serve as an excused absence and will result in an opportunity to make-up the activity.

Acceptable Classroom Behavior.

While the university is a place for the exchange of ideas in an atmosphere that allows for debate and disagreement, all classroom behavior should reflect the values of respect and civility. Students share the responsibility to maintain an appropriate learning environment. Please silence cell phones during class. Participation in class is defined as asking questions, answering questions, raising important points, and giving pertinent examples of classroom material staying within relevance to the current topic area. Do not: monopolize discussion, sleep in class, use a computer or cell phone for activities not related to class, engage in side conversations, bring guests without asking me first, or make verbal/physical threats to students or faculty.

Grades.

Will be posted online on D2L. Graded quizzes and exams will be available for your review during office hours or a scheduled appointment. You will receive feedback for your assignments on D2L and grades for these will also be posted on D2L. Any questions regarding feedback and grades of these assignments should also be addressed to the instructor during office hours or other scheduled appointment. Grades for participation/activities will also be posted on D2L.

Participation/Activities.

There will be regular planned activities (expect weekly activities, most of them will be in groups). These activities will be graded, so your attendance is required to participate and obtain grades in this portion of the class. Only official university-related activities scheduled on class days that can be properly documented (in a timely fashion) will serve as an excused absence and will result in an opportunity to make-up the activity. Otherwise, there will be no make-up activities, although materials used (if any, such as handouts) will be provided to the students during office hours. Up to 180 points of participation may be earned.

Quizzes.

There are twelve online (D2L, internet access required) quizzes to encourage reading the assigned chapters and to prepare you for the exams. Computers are accessible on Armstrong's campus in Science Center room 273 and many computer labs across campus. Students need to be proactive in completing the quizzes. Technical problems, such as "computer has a virus" or "internet went out" are not acceptable. No make-up quizzes will be given for any reason. Each quiz will be worth 20 points and the lowest score will be deleted to calculate your final grade. The quizzes will be available Fridays starting at 6:00 a.m. until Mondays at 6:00 p.m., see schedule below for specific information about windows of availability. The quizzes have a time limit of 45 minutes. Students will only have one opportunity to take each quiz. Prepare prior to taking the quiz and refrain from using supporting materials and/or receiving help from anyone while taking the quiz. The quiz should be completed independently.

Exams.

There are three non-cumulative exams worth 100 points each. No make-up exams will be given for any reason. If you miss one exam, your grade on the final exam will be adjusted to make up for the missing exam grade. For example, given that the Final Exam is worth 120 points, if you get 105 points on the

Final Exam, the adjustment will be as follows: $105/120 = 0.875 \times 100$ (maximum points for non-cumulative exams) = 87.5 points will be the points for your missed exam.

Assignments.

Two assignments are expected to be completed following the schedule below. Each assignment is worth 100 points. A late penalty applies for each day an assignment is turned in late; 20% off the total will be deducted per day. Assignments will not be accepted after grades on the corresponding assignment are posted (expect about one week since the due date).

- Assignment 1. Based on McDaniel, M. A., Howard, D. C., & Einstein, G. O. (2009). The read-recite-review study strategy: Effective and portable. *Psychological Science*, 20, 516-522.
- Assignment 2.

Final Exam.

One cumulative final exam worth 120 points. It is scheduled for Thursday May 4, 2017 from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Check the schedule for Final Exams at

https://www.armstrong.edu/images/uploads/registrar/Final_Exam_Schedule_Spring_2017.pdf

for any changes. There will be no make-up or adjustment for the final exam.

Extra Credit. Up to 20 points (5 points for one hour of participation) of extra credit will be added to your final grade if you participate in a research project (please visit

http://www.armstrong.edu/Science_and_Technology/psychology/psych_student_participation_in_research for more information on how to sign in for research participation).

Keep track of Your Grades

Exams (100 each)	Quizzes (20 each)		Class Participation / Activities (18 each):		Assignments (100 each)
Exam 1:	Quiz 1:	Quiz 7:	Act.1:	Act. 6:	Assignment 1:
Exam 2:	Quiz 2:	Quiz 8	Act. 2:	Act. 7:	
Exam 3:	Quiz 3:	Quiz 9:	Act. 3:	Act. 8:	Assignment 2:
	Quiz 4:	Quiz 10:	Act. 4:	Act. 9:	
	Quiz 5:	Quiz 11:	Act. 5:	Act.10:	
	Quiz 6:		Total Class Participation/ Activities (180):		Total Assignments (200):
Total Exams (300)	Total quizzes (200, delete lowest):				
Final Exam (120):					Extra credit (20):

TOTAL POINTS: _____ out of 1000

Grading Scale.

Letter grades based on a 1000-point scale: A = 895 or above, B = 894-795, C = 794-695, D = 694-595, F = 594 or below

Schedule.

A day-by-day schedule with course dates and deadlines is presented below. I strongly recommend that you check this schedule often, as it will remind you of important deadlines, quizzes, exams, and contents covered in each class. This schedule is intended to help you plan your entire semester.

Although every effort will be made to adhere to the schedule, policies and assignments described above,

Week	Tuesday	Thursday	Online Quizzes Fridays 6:00 a.m.-Mondays 6:00 p.m.
1	01/10 - Chapter 1	01/12- Chapter 1	
2	01/17 - Chapter 2	01/19 Chapter 2	01/20-01/25 Quiz 1: Based on Chapters 1,2
3	01/24 – Chapter 3	01/26- Chapter 3: Assignment 1 is due	01/27-01/30 Quiz 2: Based on Chapter 3
4	01/31 - Chapter 4	02/02 - Chapter 4	02/03-02/06 Quiz 3: Based on Chapter 4
5	02/07- Exam 1 (Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4)	02/09 - Chapter 5	
6	02/14 - Chapter 5	02/16 – Chapter 6	02/10-02/13 Quiz 4: Based on Chapters 5,6
7	02/21- Chapter 6	02/23 – Chapter 7	02/24 – 02/27 Quiz 5: Based on Chapters 6,7
8	02/28- Chapter 7	03/02 - Chapter 8	03/03 – 03/06 Quiz 6: Based on Chapters 7,8
9	03/07- Chapter 8:	03/09 - Exam 2 (Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8)	
	03/14 – <i>Spring Break</i>	03/16- <i>Spring Break</i>	
10	03/21 - Chapter 9	03/23 Chapter 9	03/10-03/13 Quiz 7: Based on Chapter 9
11	03/28- Chapter 10	03/30- Chapter 10 Assignment 2 is due	03/31-04/05 Quiz 8: Based on Chapter 10
12	04/06- Chapter 11	04/06- Chapter 11	04/07 – 04/10 Quiz 9: Based on Chapter 11
13	04/11- Chapter 12	04/13- Chapter 12	04/14 – 04/17 Quiz 10: Based on Chapter 12
14	04/18 Chapter 13	04/20 –Chapter 13	04/21 – 04/24 Quiz 11: Based on Chapter 13
15	04/25- Exam 3 (Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 13)	04/27- Review	

adjustments may be necessary depending on the progress of the lectures or other extenuating circumstances. If any of the components of the syllabus require revision, due notice will be given.