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PSYX 270.50: Fundamentals of the Psychology of Learning

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Psyx 270: Foundations of Learning Online

Instructor Information

Instructor: Lia Harrington

Office: Corbin 358

Office hours: By appointment, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 1-2pm

Email: lia.harrington@umontana.edu (I will try to respond within 48 hours)

Office Hours

Although this is an online course, please do not hesitate to come talk to me in office hours! I will post my office hours by the second week of classes. However, do not feel constrained by these times. If you would like to meet me, please email me 3 dates and times that are best for you and I'll try to make one of them work for me. If you cannot meet me in person, email is another great option.

Required Textbook

Introduction to Learning and Behavior, Powell, 4th ed.

Textbook Readings

The textbook is required for the course and is essential for completing the weekly course assignments. As this is an online course, the textbook and posted materials are your lectures. Consequently, one must keep up with the reading to succeed in this course.

Course Description

Foundations of Learning is an introductory course in the historical, experimental, and methodological cornerstones in the psychology of learning.

Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate familiarity with basic concepts and theories in field of learning.
2. General understanding of well-known psychology experiments and their methods.
3. Strengthen ability to compose and critique written discussions.
4. Integrate materials covered in class/text with real world examples

Course Assignments and Grading Criteria

Assignments for this class include weekly quizzes, discussions, 2 lab papers, and 2 exams.

Quizzes

The weekly quiz is comprised of 10 multiple-choice (1 point each) questions. This assignment tests your knowledge of the reading material for the current week. Quizzes will be made available Sunday 12 AM and will close Saturday at 11:55 PM. You are only allowed one attempt for each quiz, so please read the assigned readings before attempting to complete the quizzes. The time limit for all quizzes is 15 minutes. Quizzes are worth 25% of your total grade.

Discussions

Each week there will be two graded discussions each worth 5 points. Discussions are worth 25% of your total grade.

Students must make detailed and thoughtful posts that reflect an appropriate application of emerging knowledge and vocabulary in the topic area. Each post must add value to the discussion and be related to the required readings for the week. Below are additional details of how I grade the quality of your posts. Discussion A and B for the week open Sunday 12 AM. Discussion A closes Wednesday of that week at 11:55PM. Discussion B closes Saturday at 11:55PM.

The actual content of your discussion post will be graded on a 0-3 scale (details below). Responses to peers is graded on a 0-2 scale. In total, one can earn up to 5 points per discussion. One must respond to at least one peer per discussion to earn peer interaction points. Feel free to respond to more peers. However, I will only “grade” one of your peer responses. Two points will be awarded for peer interaction if it is clear that you have thoughtfully reflected on the content written by your peer and have contributed something of substance as a result. One point will be awarded if you have written a few of interesting lines – albeit a bit fluffy. 0 points will be awarded for no peer commenting or simply a one-liner such as “Neat post!”

Discussion Content

Grade Evaluation	Points Awarded
Superior	3
Average	2
Below Average	1
Unacceptable	0

Peer Interaction

Grade Evaluation	Points Awarded
Superior	2
Average	1
Unacceptable/Did not comment	0

Grade Evaluation Terms

Superior:

Your contributions demonstrate a complete mastery of the materials assigned. Your responses might integrate multiple views and/or show strong analysis and reflection on topics and other student’s posts. You provide evidence that you are reading the assigned materials and other student postings and are responding accordingly, bringing out interesting interpretations. You

know the facts and are able to analyze them, apply them to real life scenarios and handle conceptual ideas. It is highly unlikely that you could get full credit in less than two paragraphs.

Average:

You have meaningful interaction with other participants' postings. Posts that state, "I agree" or "I disagree" and include a detailed explanation of what is disagreed or agreed upon and why, or introduce a perspective or concept that adds to the discussion. However, you may have rambling, lengthy posts with no clear point, your writing has a lack of clarity and comprehension, or there are considerable typos and grammatical errors.

Below Average:

You answer questions asked by me or other students but do not expand upon your response or you answer questions based only on your opinion, rather than on research or proper evidence. Your posts are unusually short (one paragraph or less) and you fail to demonstrate a clear working knowledge of the material covered for the week.

Unacceptable:

You will receive little credit in the week's discussion by just showing up and making trivial comments, without adding any new thought to the discussion. At the low end of the spectrum, no participation gets a "0." If you are not in the discussion, you do not earn any points. Comments such as "I agree" or other one-sentence responses will result in zero points. Copying and pasting from a website without providing your own substantial insight is also an unacceptable post- even if you have properly cited your sources. This assignment is an assessment of your understanding of the information covered in this class. Copying and pasting from websites does not demonstrate a working knowledge of the material.

Special Note: I check very carefully for plagiarism in the discussion posts. If you have plagiarized, you will get a zero for the entire assignment. If you plagiarize a second time, you will fail the course. If you engage in flaming behavior in the posts, you will get a zero for the entire assignment.

Lab Papers

There will be two "Lab" papers in this course where I will ask you to synthesize course content and to expand upon your knowledge by exploring additional material I post or by critically thinking about experimental applications. The general length of the papers is expected to be around 2-3 double-spaced Times New Roman font 12 typed pages. Additional details will be provided later in the course.

Midterm and Final

The midterm exam will only include material covered previously by the text or online resources. You will be given 60 minutes to complete 40 multiple-choice questions. The final will follow the same format, except it will cover the second half of the course. Please do not wait until the last minute to submit the exam because you will be unable to submit it once time expires. All exams submitted after the exam duration will be graded a zero (0). Please plan accordingly. The midterm is worth 15% of your total grade.

Course Grading

Your final grade for the course will consist of scores on weekly quizzes, discussion posts, midterm, final, and lab papers. Note: I round up when grading. (79.5 -->80 B)

The following table shows the percent weight of each assignment for your total grade.

Assignment	Percentage
Quizzes	25%
Discussion	20%
Lab Papers (2)	25%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%

The following table shows the Grade scale for the Final Course grade.

Final Course Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

Course Calendar

(Subject to Change)

Week	Dates	Topic/Book Chpt.	Assignment
1	1/26-1/30	1	Discussions, Quiz
2	2/2-2/6	2	Discussions, Quiz
3	2/9-2/13	3	Discussions, Quiz
4	2/16-2/20	4	Discussions, Quiz
5	2/23-2/27	5	Discussions, Quiz, Lab 1
6	3/2-3/6	6	Discussions, Quiz
7	3/9-3/13	7	Discussions, Quiz
8	3/16-3/20	Review	MIDTERM

Week	Dates	Topic/Book Chpt.	Assignment
9	3/23-3/27	8	Discussions, Quiz
10	3/30-4/3	Spring Break!	Spring Break!
11	4/6-4/10	9	Discussions, Quiz
12	4/13-4/17	10	Discussions, Quiz
13	4/20-4/24	11	Discussions, Quiz, Lab 2
14	4/27-5/1	12	Discussions, Quiz
15	5/4-5/8	13	Discussions, Quiz
16 (FINALS)	5/11-5/15	Review	FINAL EXAM

Course Guidelines and Policies

Announcements

Students are responsible for all announcements made in class. These may include changes in policy, due dates, or assignment requirements. Announcements are posted in the announcements section of the course or are directly emailed to the students.

Technology Policies

Please contact UM Online if you experience technical difficulties. Though I would love to be able to help, I am not qualified to do so. **Critical Note: I do not allow technical issues or not having the proper software as reasons for late or incomplete work.** To ensure your own protection, please keep technical support contact information available offline and please do not wait until the last minute to complete your work each week! To access technical support (and save their contact information offline) please click on the "Tech Support" link to the left of the page.

Technical Alternatives

Also, keep in mind your technical alternatives if you have computer difficulties. If you live near the University, campus computers are an option. Otherwise, consider the public library, an internet café, a computer at work, or a friend or family member's computer. Have a plan of action in mind so that you can complete the required work each week if an issue arises.

System and Software Requirements

Please refer to the [UMOnline web page](#) that lists downloads and plug-ins that they may need to complete your course.

Late Work, and Make-up Work

Students cannot, under any circumstance, make up the discussion posts assignment. Due to the interactive nature of this assignment, students must be engaged in this process throughout the week each week in order to receive credit.

To make up multiple missed assignments it is mandatory that you (1) notify your Instructor before the time of the assignment and (2) provide proper documentation verifying the reason for your absence. Examples of proper documentation include a medical note or a death or family emergency. Remember, prior notification and documentation is mandatory! You can provide documentation by (a) scanning and emailing the documents, (2) mailing the documents, or (3) bringing them by my office during office

hours. I do not allow students to make up work until I have received the proper documents. I do not allow make up work during the week of final exams.

Grades of Incomplete

Departmental and university policies regarding incompletes do not allow changing “incomplete” grades after one year has passed since the “I” was granted.

Academic Misconduct

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Plagiarism

The Student Conduct Code discusses plagiarism. However, it is a serious offense worth re-mentioning. This course requires students to adhere to APA format when citing, paraphrasing, or referencing sources. If you have plagiarized, either intentionally or accidentally, you will receive a zero on the entire assignment. If you plagiarize a second time, you will fail the course.

Netiquette

Students must engage in proper “netiquette.” Netiquette, or “network etiquette” is a professional and mannerly way of communicating with others in the online medium. Failure to engage in proper netiquette will result in earning a zero for each assignment where an incident has occurred.

Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Dropping/Adding/Changing grade option

Please see the [Registrar’s Office webpage](#) for further information and deadlines.