

# **Syllabus for Section 1**

**M 2:00-4:45 pm**

**(if you are not in Section 1,  
then do not use this syllabus)**

**FALL 2006**

**PSYCHOLOGY OF  
LEARNING (Psy 333)**

**D.W.Lee**

## PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING, Psy 333, Section 1 Fall 2006, M 2:00-4:45 pm, Lecture Room PSY-155

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Diane W. Lee  
**OFFICE :** Psy 421  
**OFFICE HRS:** MW 12:00-1:30pm, or by appt.

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**Text :** Lieberman, D.A. (2000). *Learning: Behavior and Cognition* (3rd edition). Stamford,CT:Wadsworth.

### COURSE OVERVIEW

The specific purpose of this syllabus is to acquaint you with the policies by which this class will be conducted, what you can expect of it, and, in turn, what is expected of you. Please refer to it when needed during the semester. By enrolling in this course, you will be studying about the Psychology of Learning. Try to define "learning". At first pass, you may think you will be learning-how-to-learn or learning about techniques that can be used to increase your GPA. This is not at all the case. The study of learning is an excellent example of "pure" science; that is, the goal is to determine general principles that underlie learning and memory formation. In contrast, the goal of "applied" science is to apply those general principles to everyday life. Although we will talk about some applications, they will not be the overriding theme. Rather, we will talk at length about the systematic study of how animals modify their behavior as a result of experience. There are many forms of learning and we will start our class by taking a look at some historical antecedents then dive into studies on fundamental processes including habituation, sensitization, classical conditioning, and operant conditioning. We will end by discussing more complex forms of learning and animal cognition.

There are 2 main goals for this class. The first goal is to provide you with a basic understanding of 1) how animals come to learn about their environment and then modify their behavior in response; 2) how we as scientists manipulate the environment in order to determine basic laws of learning; and 3) how we as humans can manipulate our environment and modify our own behavior. In order to prepare you for academic as well as non-academic challenges you will face in the future, the second goal of this course is to provide you with an opportunity to 1) broaden your critical thinking and assessment skills; and 2) sharpen your writing skills.

**GRADING & EXAMS:** Grades will be based on the results of an OPEN-BOOK EXAM taken in class as well as 10 multiple choice quizzes. A total of 12 quizzes will be administered but the results of the lowest 2 will be dropped with the following exception: QUIZZES 11 AND 12 CANNOT BE DROPPED! Grading will be on an absolute scale (i.e., NOT on the curve). That means everyone in the class may get an A. **There will be absolutely no opportunity to "make-up" tests in the traditional sense.** Instead, you will be able to drop the two lowest scores from quizzes 1 to 10. A missed quiz will be given a score of "0" and therefore will be dropped first. If after the two lowest scores on your quizzes are dropped, you are not satisfied with your grade then you may elect to take a COMPREHENSIVE RE-TAKE FINAL. Taking the COMPREHENSIVE RE-TAKE on the day of the final is **purely optional**. If you have taken all of your QUIZZES plus your OPEN-BOOK EXAM and are satisfied with your grades, then you may elect not to take the COMPREHENSIVE RE-TAKE FINAL.

10 QUIZZES (out of 12) are worth	300 points	and are equal to 75% of your final grade.
OPEN-BOOK EXAM is worth	<u>100 points</u>	and is equal to 25% of your final grade.
	400 points total	

### FINAL GRADE CUT-OFFS (out of a possible 400 points):

A = 90-100%	= 360-400
B = 80-89%	= 320-359
C = 70-79%	= 280-319
D = 60-69%	= 240-279
F = 59% or lower	= 239 or lower

DURING THE SEMESTER, IF YOUR SCORES ARE LOWER THAN YOU DESIRE, I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO SEE ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT CORRECTIVE MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN.

**QUIZZES.** During the first 15-20 minutes of class, a quiz will be given approximately once a week consisting of 15 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each. Material for quizzes will be derived from both lectures and readings. To complete the quizzes, it will be necessary for you to bring **Scantron Form 882-E** to class. After the quiz is over, your scantron will be collected. The correct answers will be provided so that you can obtain your

score immediately. We will not be able to discuss the exam in class however you may discuss your individual score on a specific exam with me and/or view the answer key for that quiz in my office during office hours. Quizzes will start promptly at the beginning of the class period and end 20 minutes later; there will be no opportunity to "make up" these quizzes however the 2 lowest scores from quizzes 1 to 10 will be discarded. **YOU CANNOT DROP QUIZZES 11 OR 12!** Since a missed quiz will be assigned a score of "0", missed quizzes will represent the lowest scores and be the first to be discarded. Scantrons will not be returned during class periods but will be posted alphabetically outside of my office door; please pick them up at your convenience.

**OPEN-BOOK EXAM.** Material for the OPEN-BOOK EXAM will be derived from your readings in the textbook. The format of this test is long essay; that is, you will be given a number of questions that will require you to cite, review, and discuss relevant research material in your textbook. The test is designed to have you synthesize the material from various chapters. At least 1 week before the test is given, I will prepare a handout to help you gain information that will be necessary for you to include in your test answers in order to earn a good grade. This handout should be used as a guide to help you through the test process and provide you with a basic approach to answering test questions using good critical thinking and writing skills. To complete the OPEN-BOOK EXAM, it will be necessary for you to bring a **full size (8.5 x 11) BLUE BOOK** to class.

**COMPREHENSIVE RE-TAKE FINAL.** At the end of the semester the two lowest quizzes (from quizzes 1 to 10) will be eliminated from your grade, then all of your scores will be added up and a grade given. If, after dropping the lowest two quizzes and adding up all the rest of your scores, you are not satisfied with your final grade then you may elect to take a COMPREHENSIVE RE-TAKE FINAL. This RE-TAKE FINAL will cover all of the material presented in the class and be comprised of questions similar to the ones presented on each of the 12 QUIZZES as well as the OPEN-BOOK EXAM. The COMPREHENSIVE RE-TAKE FINAL will consist of 30 multiple choice questions worth 1 point each for a total of 30 points. The points earned on the RE-TAKE will be used to replace the score on one of your quizzes. To complete the COMPREHENSIVE RE-TAKE FINAL, it will be necessary for you to bring **Scantron Form 882-E** to class.

### **UNIVERSITY WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from classes. Instructors have no obligation to withdraw students who do not attend courses, and may choose not to do so. The deadline to withdraw from a class without a "W" is **Monday, September 11, 2006**. Withdrawal from a course with a "W" after the first 2 weeks of instruction is permissible only for serious and compelling reasons and requires the signature of the instructor and the department chair. The university deadline to withdraw from classes in Fall, 2006 is **Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**.

**AFTER November 17<sup>th</sup>**: During the last three weeks of instruction (November 20<sup>th</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup>), you may not drop (withdraw from) a class except for a very serious reason that is clearly beyond your control, such as injury or accident (which must be documented). Usually, such circumstances mean that you will be withdrawing from all your classes. You will need the approval of the college dean as well as that of the class instructor and department chairperson for each class you drop. The College of Liberal Arts adheres to this policy strictly, and does not sign withdrawal forms in the final three weeks of instruction for other reasons.

### **PLAGIARIZING, CHEATING, and the USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Don't do it!!! You are responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism and cheating. Please see the CSULB Catalog for definitions. Important note: **no electronic devices** will be allowed in class at any time during exams; this includes cell phones, calculators, PDAs, and computers (and everything else). If they are not put away where they cannot be seen or used, you will be asked to turn in your test and leave the classroom. You will receive a "0" and this exam score will not be dropped. If done twice, you will receive an F for the semester.

### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

I want to make this class enjoyable for all. I believe that you can earn the grade that will satisfy you whether that is an "A" or otherwise. If you assume the responsibility of understanding the material through reading, attending lectures, asking questions, and taking the tests, I will assume the responsibility of helping you get the grade you decide will make you happy and satisfied. I believe that attending lectures is an important aspect of any course. Each meeting, I will choose the most important aspects of the assigned readings to discuss and identify possible problem areas that might need clarification. In class, we as a group will share our viewpoints about the topics and add our valuable experiences to the mix. Much of your grade is determined by scores on weekly quizzes, and please remember that there are no traditional "make-up" exams in this class. If a test is missed, it is indeed **missed!** I do not need to be informed if you will miss class but please do arrange for someone to share their notes and come talk to me if you need any assistance. Here's to a productive and pleasurable semester.

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	<b>QUIZ #</b>	<b>LECTURE #</b>	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>CHAPTER PREP</b>
Week 1 Mon 8/28	-----	1	Introduction & Overview	Ch.1
Week 2 Mon 9/4	-----	-----	--Labor Day, no class--	-----
Week 3 Mon 9/11	Quiz 1 covers: Lecture 1	2	Habituation & Sensitization Classical Conditioning: Foundations	Ch.1-2 Ch.2
Week 4 Mon 9/18	Quiz 2 covers: Lecture 2	3	Classical Conditioning: Foundations	Ch.2
Week 5 Mon 9/25	Quiz 3 covers: Lecture 3	4	Classical Conditioning: Foundations	Ch.2
Week 6 Mon 10/2	Quiz 4 covers: Lecture 4	5	Classical Conditioning: Applications	Ch.3
Week 7 Mon 10/9	Quiz 5 covers: Lecture 5	6a	Classical Conditioning: Applications Theories of Conditioning	Ch.3 Ch.4
Week 8 Mon 10/16	-----	6b	Theories of Conditioning	Ch.4
Week 9 Mon 10/23	Quiz 6 covers: Lectures 6a-6b	7	Theories of Conditioning	Ch.4
Week 10 Mon 10/30	Quiz 7 covers: Lecture 7	8	Reinforcement	Ch.5
Week 11 Mon 11/6	Quiz 8 covers: Lecture 8	9	Reinforcement	Ch.5
Week 12 Mon 11/13	-----	----- 10a	<b>OPEN-BOOK EXAM</b> What is Learned?	<b>Ch.6,7</b> Ch.8
Week 13 Mon 11/20	Quiz 9 covers: Lecture 9	10b	What is Learned? Memory & Attention	Ch.8 Ch.9
Week 14 Mon 11/27	Quiz 10 covers: Lectures 10a-10b	11	Memory & Attention Role of the Reinforcer	Ch.9 Ch.10
Week 15 Mon 12/4	Quiz 11 covers: Lecture 11	12a	Role of the Reinforcer Learning & Evolution	Ch.10 Ch.11
Week 16 Mon 12/11	Quiz 12 covers: Lectures 12a-12b	12b -----	Learning & Evolution REVIEW	Ch.11 ALL
<b>Mon 12/18 12:30-2:30</b>	-----	-----	<b>RE-TAKE FINAL</b>	<b>ALL</b>