San José State University
Psychology Department
Human Learning, Section 03, Psyc 155
Fall, 2015

Contact Information

Instructor: Susan Snycerski, Ph.D.
Office Location: DMH 311
Telephone: (408) 924-5662 (I only answer during office hours if I am not with a student; please do not leave voicemail. Instead, use Canvas to contact me.)
Email: susan.snycerski@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Class Days/Time: Section 3: Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:30-2:45 p.m.
Classroom: DMH 359
Prerequisites: Psych 1/General Psychology

Contacting your instructor and course materials:

All course materials such as the syllabus, readings, notes, assignment instructions, quizzes, excreta can be found on our Canvas website http://sjsu.instructure.com. This website should be checked prior to attending every class. If there is a need for me to cancel class, I will post a notice on the Canvas “Piazza” link.

All class-related questions regarding assignments, exams, or other course content must be posted to the “Piazza” link on Canvas. That is, I will not answer content questions that are emailed to me. This policy will ensure that all students have access to content-related answers that I provide. Before posting a question, be sure to read through the posts to make sure your question is not redundant and has not already been answered. You may email the instructor through the Piazza link on the Canvas website when you have personal, private questions, such as questions regarding your grade, the need and reason to miss a class, or cases of documented excuses from class.

Logging Into Canvas
Canvas Login URL: https://sjsu.instructure.com. You must first set up a
SJSUOne account before accessing Canvas. To do so, go to http://its.sjsu.edu/services/sjsuone/. The Username for Canvas then is your 9 digit SID and your password is the one you chose when you established your SJSUOne account. You will see the courses you are taking (assuming the instructor is using Canvas).

- **Further Assistance with Canvas** - Students should go first to http://guides.instructure.com/m/4212 with problems and then to the University Help Desk for Canvas problems, including logging in (http://www.sjsu.edu/helpdesk/).

**Course Description**

This course covers, among other topics, memory, forgetting, concept formation, language learning, reinforcement, and related topics. Traditional learning concepts, theories and findings with reference to contemporary classroom management, behavior modification, and other applications are also addressed.

**Warning:** This class discusses drug use in great detail. Those with previous or existing drug problems should be aware of this and consider whether or not exposure to these discussions may serve as triggers for cravings for drug use and possible relapse. If so, you may wish to consider dropping the course. Your instructor is not responsible for any adverse reactions to the course material.

**Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives (CLO)**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Understand, recognize, and provide examples of the basic and complex processes involved in classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and other forms of learning.
2. Understand, recognize, and provide examples of practical applications of learning and memory concepts to human and nonhuman behaviors.

**Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)**

Upon successful completion of the psychology major requirements...

- **PLO1 – Knowledge Base of Psychology** – Students will be able to identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

- **PLO2 – Research Methods in Psychology** – Students will be able to design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.

- **PLO3 – Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology** – Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.

- **PLO4 – Application of Psychology** – Students will be able to apply
psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.

- **PLO5 – Values in Psychology** – Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

**Required Texts/Readings**


Text can be purchased at the Spartan Bookstore or online.

**Other Readings**

Additional course reading material will be posted on our course management website, Canvas [http://sjsu.instructure.com](http://sjsu.instructure.com)

**Other equipment / material requirements**

Students will need reliable access to a computer and to the internet. Writing assignments will require access to the SJSU/King Library PsychInfo databases. More information will be provided in class. Four 882E scantrons are also required.

**Library Liaison**

Bernd Becker  
Phone: (408) 808-2348  
Email: Bernd.becker@sjsu.edu

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf).

1. **Classes:** This class covers a very large amount of material; therefore, attending lecture is crucial for your success in this class. There is too much information discussed in class that cannot be found in text and in the slides for you to do well in this course without you attending regularly. If you want to do well in this course, you should attend every class. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting the information from that class. Classroom participation is expected and may be graded via unannounced in-class quizzes, assignments, or other activities. In-class activities are only for those students present; that is, there are no make-up opportunities for in-class activities except in cases of documented emergencies (see below).
Exams: You will have four exams. Exams may comprise multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. Please bring a Scantron form (882-E) and pencils to each exam. For exams, all bookbags must be stored under your seat or at the front of the classroom. There will be no bathroom breaks during exams so please prepare yourself to sit comfortably for the duration of the exam. All hats with bills must be removed or turned backward during the exam. Only a pencil and eraser are allowed on desktops during exams.

Students who arrive after the first person has finished the exam and left the classroom will lose their opportunity to take that exam, thus earning a zero grade for that exam. Please be sure to be on time for all exams!

No make up exams will be given. There are no exceptions unless in cases of documented emergencies or a Dean’s excuse. Thus, be sure to obtain a doctor’s note, court notice, accident/police report, and so forth if you must miss class. Inform me as soon as you can of the incident.

Cheating on exams or other assignments will result in a failing grade (F) for the course; a grade of F will be recorded and the student(s) will be reported to the Office of Student Code and Ethical Conduct. Plagiarism on written work will also result in a failing grade for the course. This policy is strictly enforced.

Final Exam
The Final Exam will consist of the 4th unit exam. It will not be cumulative. Please note the day and time of the final exam as it IS NOT during our regularly scheduled class time. The exam is in our regular classroom.

2. Extra-credit: There may be extra credit offered during the semester; notices will be announced in class.

3. Quizzes and/or assignments: There will be quizzes and/or assignments, all of which may consist of online, in-class, take-home, or group assignments, as time allows and at the discretion of the instructor. If you do not complete a quiz or assignment, you will receive a zero for that missed work. No make-up quizzes or assignments will be given (unless in cases described above). Students arriving late to class, once a quiz in in progress, lose the opportunity to take that quiz. Online quizzes and assignments that occur via the Canvas website have strict deadlines. Once the deadline has passed, the opportunity to take or submit a quiz or assignment expires. No exceptions will be made for this policy. Therefore, it is imperative that you allow yourself enough time to complete the assignment or quiz and upload it by the deadline. More details will be provided in class.

4. Late Work: All assignments/quizzes must be turned in at the beginning of class or uploaded/submitted to the Canvas website by the scheduled due date and time. There will be no exceptions to this policy (unless in cases of documented emergencies or a Dean’s excuse), and this policy will be strictly
enforced. DO NOT EMAIL ASSIGNMENTS. You will not receive credit for emailed assignments. Please note that the “due date” on Canvas is final; there is an “available until” date that is only for my record keeping. Therefore, just because an assignment may say “available until” that is NOT the date to follow, and any work submitted after the due date will not be accepted; the “due date” is final.

5. Self-management Project

You will design and conduct a semester-long self-management research project. This project will require you to identify one or more target behaviors of your own that you would like to change (e.g., increase or decrease the occurrence of a particular behavior such as flossing, eating fruits and/or vegetables, making lunch instead of buying, exercising, walking your dog, etc.) using the principles of behavior discussed in class. Choose a behavior that you would like to change that you do not mind sharing with your fellow classmates and instructor. For your privacy protection, do not choose very personal or illegal behaviors. Avoid providing “too much information.” More information on this project will be provided throughout the semester. All self-management information is posted on Canvas.

NOTE: Students wishing to exercise, change their diet (e.g., taking supplements), or engage in any other health behavior change should consult their doctor prior to doing so.

Plagiarism online tutorials. Students may wish to complete the online Plagiarism tutorial for a refresher on plagiarism before submitting papers.

http://library.sjsu.edu/online-tutorials/online-tutorials

6. Classroom behavior: Students are expected to respect their instructor and fellow classmates. Professional, courteous behavior and tolerance of different opinions are necessary for maintaining a comfortable classroom environment. Students should arrive on time; arriving late is distracting so please plan to be in your seat at the beginning of class. Students should raise their hands when asking or answering questions (i.e., do not just shout an answer).

Students are expected to attend class and maintain a level of professional and courteous behavior in the classroom. Respect for the rights and opinion’s of others is expected. The free and open exchange of ideas is the cornerstone of higher education, but we must always remain respectful of others, even if we disagree strongly with them. Disagreement is acceptable, but discourteousness is not. Behavior that creates a threatening or harassing environment (either online or in class) will not be tolerated. Severe and pervasive disruptions of class activities are a violation of the Student Code of Conduct will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. In short, let’s all be kind to one another.
Method of instruction
This course will use the classic lecture-discussion format as its primary form of
instruction. In addition, this course will use films, web-based content, guest
lectures (when available), and in-class activities to supplement lectures.
Powerpoint lecture material for each chapter is available online; I will attempt to
post lecture notes prior to class. However, sometimes I may be unable to do so.
Please remember that I post these notes as a courtesy and I appreciate your
patience if notes are not up before class time.

Be advised that due to time constraints not all text material will be covered in
lecture. This does not mean that such material is not important, nor does it mean
that such material will not appear on exams. You are responsible for all text and
lecture material. Students are encouraged to ask questions during class or via
the course web site.

Grading Policy
Your grade will be determined by the total number of points you earn throughout
the semester.

Grading
4 Exams @ 200 points each = 800
Quizzes (online, in-class, announced or unannounced), assignments,
and/or activities. Point values, due dates, and descriptions of requirements for
assignments and/or quizzes will be provided in class. = 80
Self-management project = 120
Total points available = 1000

Grading scale:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points earned</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Points earned</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tr>
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<td>≥ 98</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>73</td>
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<td>93</td>
<td>93</td>
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<td>90</td>
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<td>88</td>
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<td>78</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>C+</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Any disputes over an awarded grade must be accompanied by the
  original graded assignment.
- Students should verify grades for each assignment on the Canvas
  website. There is a one-week period after each assignment grade is
  posted for students notify the instructor if they think there in an error
in the posted grade. Grade challenges may result in a higher grade, lower grade, or no grade change based on the evaluation of the instructor.

Classroom Protocol

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90–5 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Laptops and Tablets

Laptops/notebook/tablets are the only electronic devices allowed for note taking (i.e., no cell phones) and students using these devices will sit in the first two rows on the left and right of the classroom only. No exceptions. Laptops/tablets should be charged prior to class. In-class laptops or tablets are restricted to course-related activities (i.e., taking notes). Other activities (e.g., checking email, Facebook®, MySpace®, surfing, etc.) distract both the instructor and students and will not be tolerated. Inappropriate laptop use during class will result in the student being dismissed for the remainder of the class session. Repeated inappropriate use may lead to loss of permission to use the device in class for the duration of the course.

Cell phones and other electronic devices

Please be certain to turn off or put in silent mode (not vibrate mode as that is still audible and is distracting) all cell phones, pagers, and any other devices that produce distraction prior to the start of class. Phones should not appear on the desktop; rather, they should be stored during class sessions in pockets, book bags, purses, and the like. DO NOT TEXT DURING LECTURE. It is rude and distracting to the instructor and fellow classmates. If I see you using a phone during class I will ask you to leave class for the remainder of the session. I expect your full attention for the duration of each 75-minute class session.

In addition, research shows that Websurfing/texting during class may lower your grade (and disrupts those around you). Go to: http://chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/students-stop-surfing-after-being-shown-how-in-class-laptop-use-lowers-test-scores/4576
University Policies

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Expectation of Work Load: Senate Policy S12-3 on student work expectations

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course-related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

The credit hour is defined as "the amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than:

(1) One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester

(2) A credit hour is assumed to be a 50-minute (not 60-minute) period.

As an example, the expectation of work for a 3-credit course is 150-minutes of direct faculty instruction and a minimum of six hours of out-of-class student work each week.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course.

“Common courtesy and professional behavior dictates that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. This permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
“Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Therefore, neither recording of class lectures or discussions nor distribution of course materials are allowed.

**Academic integrity**

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

**Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

In 2013, the Disability Resource Center changed its name to be known as the Accessible Education Center, to incorporate a philosophy of accessible education for students with disabilities. The new name change reflects the broad scope of attention and support to SJSU students with disabilities and the University’s continued advocacy and commitment to increasing accessibility and inclusivity on campus.

**Accommodation to Students’ Religious Holidays**

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of
the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add
deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add
deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days
before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor
to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty,
and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at
http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the
Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional
computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also
available in the Martin Luther King Library.
A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from
Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital
camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD,
and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens
and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to
inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they
learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are
couraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content
based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective
critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and
campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of
undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by
appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including
preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory,
alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other
related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student
use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street
Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance
of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing
Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for
more information.
SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.
This course will follow this syllabus to the extent possible. The timing and specific nature of topics and activities may change. You are responsible for keeping informed of any changes made to the class syllabus. Such changes will be clearly stated in class. You are responsible for checking the class website before each class. If, for any reason, your instructor must cancel class a message will be posted on the course website under the “Piazza” link. Therefore, it is extremely important to check the website before each class.

Note that the textbook chapters and other assigned readings should be read by the date listed. There will be unannounced quizzes on the reading material.

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8-20</td>
<td>Introduction to the course</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
8-27   | Chapter 1: Introduction to Learning, History of Behavior Analysis                                     |
| 3    | 9-1    | Chapter 1 continued                                                                                   |
|      | 9-3    | Chapter 2: Research Methods                                                                           |
| 4    | 9-8    | Research Methods continued                                                                             |
|      | 9-10   |                                                                                                         |
| 5    | 9-15   | Basic Research with Humans: Snycerski, Laraway, & Poling (2000) Modules link under Unit 1              |
|      | 9-17   |                                                                                                         |
| 6    | 9-22   | **Exam 1**  
Chapters, 1, 2, 3, Basic Research with Humans, and any additional materials presented in class.  
Chapter 6: Operant Conditioning |
<p>|      | 9-24   |                                                                                                         |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>9-29</td>
<td>Operant Conditioning continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10-6</td>
<td>Motivating Operations continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10-8</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Schedules of Reinforcement</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10-13</td>
<td>Schedules continued</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10-15</td>
<td>Chapter 8: Extinction and Stimulus Control</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>10-20</td>
<td>Extinction and Stimulus Control continued</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10-22</td>
<td>Exam 2 Chapter 6, 7, 8 readings on Motivating Operations, and any additional materials presented in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>10-27</td>
<td>Chapter 9: Escape, Avoidance, and Punishment</td>
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<td>10-29</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11-3</td>
<td>Negative Punishment: Poling, Austin, Snycerski, &amp; Laraway (2002) Modules link under Unit 3</td>
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<td>11-5</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Choice, Matching, and Self-Control</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11-10</td>
<td>Chapter 11: Observational Behavior and Rule-governed behavior</td>
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<td>11-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11-17</td>
<td>Exam 3 Chapters 9, 10, 11, Negative Punishment chapter, and any additional materials presented in class. Chapter 3: Elicited Behaviors and Classical Conditioning</td>
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<td>11-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>11-24</td>
<td>Classical Conditioning continued</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>Chapter 5: Applications of Classical Conditioning</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12-3</td>
<td>Applications of Classical Conditioning continued</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12-8</td>
<td>Poster Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Thursday 12-10</td>
<td>Exam 4 Chapters 3 &amp; 5 and any additional materials presented in class. DMH 357 12:15-2:30 p.m.</td>
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**Self-Management Project (SMP) due dates (due by 9:00 p.m. on Canvas)**

Part 1: Proposal due September 15 (last day to begin baseline data collection)
Part 2: Baseline due September 29
Part 3: Intervention due October 20
Part 4: Progress Report/Recycle and Final Graphs/Narrative due November 17
Part 5: Poster presentation due December 8 (in class poster presentation)

This syllabus is partially based on materials by Dr. Robert J. Pellegrini, Dr. Sean Laraway, Dr. Ronald Rogers, Dr. Glenn Callaghan, Dr. Greg Feist, and Dr. Mark Van Selst,