San José State University
Department of Psychology
PSYC 155-03, Human Learning, Spring 2016

Instructor: Valerie Carr
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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs, 4:30-5:30pm, and by appointment
Class Days/Time: Tues/Thurs, 12:00-1:15pm
Classroom: DMH 359
Prerequisites: PSYC 1

Course Description
The goal of this course is to help you build an appreciation for the central role that learning and memory plays in our lives. None of us could have a conversation, ride a bike, sing the lyrics to a song, recognize our mothers, or even have a sense of our own identity if it were not for the ability to learn and to remember the past. Indeed, the function of memory is never as conspicuous and astonishing as when it fails us. In this course, we will survey the most influential theories and findings in this important and extensive area of research. Basic research and theory will be discussed, as well as a variety of fascinating topics including amnesia, repressed memory, and the accuracy of eyewitness memory.

Course Format
The material in this course will be presented through a combination of class lectures, in-class videos and demonstrations, and assigned readings from the textbook and scientific journals. Lectures will complement the reading material and will include additional information not covered in the readings. As such, attendance is essential for optimal performance in the course. Keeping pace with the reading schedule and being proactive about seeking help are similarly important in achieving a successful outcome. Please ask questions when you don’t understand information in lecture or in the readings -- asking questions and offering ideas during lecture is welcomed and encouraged!

Canvas
Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website at http://sjsu.instructure.com. You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas to learn of any updates.
Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- **Content goals**
  - CLO1: Demonstrate knowledge of major concepts of learning and memory
  - CLO2: Identify processes by which we encode, store, and retrieve information
  - CLO3: Explain research methodologies used in the study of learning and memory, primarily in humans, but also in other animals
  - Content goals will be assessed via midterms, quizzes, and the final exam

- **Critical thinking goals**
  - CLO4: Compare and contrast major theories of learning and memory, and evaluate evidence for and against these theories
  - CLO5: Apply key concepts in learning and memory to real-world problems and events
  - Critical thinking goals will be assessed with midterms, quizzes, homework assignments, the forgetting paper, and the final exam

- **Communication goals**
  - CLO6: Discuss complex topics of human learning and memory with a focus on failures of memory
  - Communication goals will be assessed via the forgetting project, which includes several smaller assignments as well as a final paper written in APA format

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)
Upon successful completion of the psychology major requirements, students will be able to:

- **Knowledge Base of Psychology**
  - PLO1: Identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

- **Research Methods in Psychology**
  - PLO2: Design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.

- **Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology**
  - PLO3: Use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.

- **Application of Psychology**
  - PLO4: Apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.

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

Required Texts/Readings


A small number of additional readings will be posted on Canvas as PDFs.
Course Requirements and Assignments

During this course, you will be required to participate in class and to complete the following: three midterms, a cumulative final exam, and a paper (see details below in “Grading Policy” and due dates at the end of the syllabus under “Schedule”).

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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

University policy F69-24 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf states, “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on three midterms (50%), a cumulative final exam (25%), a paper (15%), and in-class participation (10%).

- A (90 - 100%)
- B (80 - 89%)
- C (70 - 79%)
- D (60 - 69%)
- F (0 - 60%)

Students in the top or bottom 2.5% of each grade range will receive a plus or minus, respectively. The instructor reserves the right to relax (but not stiffen) this criterion, depending on the actual distribution of grades.

Exams

Exams will contain multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, and short answer questions that cover the assigned reading material and information presented in class. The lowest score of the three midterms will be dropped. This is to allow for flexibility to accommodate family emergencies, medical problems, and other unplanned events. Because of this drop policy, please note that no makeup midterms will be given, even in the event of a family emergency or illness.

Paper: Forgetting project

For this project you will record your own memory failures over a period of several days. You will then write a short paper explaining the cause of a particular instance of forgetting and try to come up with a solution that addresses that underlying cause. The purposes of this project are to (a) make you aware of the memory lapses that you experience daily; (b) emphasize the costs associated with those lapses, (c) allow you to relate the concepts and theories presented in this class to your life, and (d) encourage you to think about how such ideas might be applied to improving your own life. This assignment will be discussed in greater detail later in the semester. Note that there will be several steps involved in collecting the data for this project, and that your grade on this project will depend upon you completing these in a timely fashion.

In-class participation

The majority of your grade will be based on the midterms, final exam, and paper. However, there will also be several quizzes and homework assignments—announced in advance—that will account for 10% of your final
grade. Your lowest quiz/homework score will be dropped to allow for flexibility to accommodate family emergencies, medical problems, and other unplanned events. Because of this drop policy, there will be no opportunities to make up missed quizzes, nor will late homework assignments be accepted. Should you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what material you missed—preferably by contacting one of your fellow students—and to prepare for the next class session.

**Handing in assignments**

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the specified due date. This includes all homework assignments, assignments relating to the forgetting project, and the forgetting paper itself. If you know in advance that you will be unable to attend class the day that an assignment is due, you must submit it in advance of class that day. As mentioned above, no late assignments will be accepted. However, partial credit will be given for late papers as follows: for each day your paper is late, your score will drop one letter grade.

**Viewing grades**

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See University Policy F13-1 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf for more details.

**Classroom Protocol**

Students are expected to maintain a level of professional and courteous behavior at all times. You are required to silence your cell phones and other electronic devices before the beginning of class. Note that although laptops are permitted, they are to be used for note-taking purposes only. Students not abiding by these policies will be asked to leave the class and will not be permitted to use their devices for the remainder of the semester.

**University Policies**

**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. To learn important campus information, view University Policy S90–5 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf and SJSU current semester’s Policies and Procedures, at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.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 address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as the next step.

**Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. 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/.
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 and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate 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. Such 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.”
  - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
  - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “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.”

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 at 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 is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

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 at 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.

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 http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf.
Student Resources

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’ free tutoring and mentoring is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. Peer Connections tutors are trained to provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group and individual tutoring are available. Peer Connections mentors are trained to provide support and resources in navigating the college experience. This support includes assistance in learning strategies and techniques on how to be a successful student. Peer Connections has a learning commons, desktop computers, and success workshops on a wide variety of topics. For more information on services, hours, locations, or a list of current workshops, please 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.

SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services

The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Carlos in the new Student Wellness Center, Room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide confidential 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 and Psychological Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.
Note: The schedule is subject to modification as the instructor deems necessary. You are responsible for noting any changes to the schedule announced either in class or via Canvas.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>Welcome and intro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 2</td>
<td>Experimental methods</td>
<td>Ch 1 and 2</td>
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<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>Habituation and sensitization</td>
<td>Ch 3</td>
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<td>Feb 9</td>
<td>Perceptual learning and priming</td>
<td>Ch 3</td>
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<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>Classical conditioning I</td>
<td>Ch 4</td>
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<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>Classical conditioning II</td>
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<td>Feb 23</td>
<td><strong>Midterm #1</strong></td>
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<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>Working memory</td>
<td>Ch 9</td>
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<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>Cognitive control</td>
<td>Ch 9</td>
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<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>Episodic memory I</td>
<td>Ch 7</td>
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<td>Mar 8</td>
<td>Episodic memory II</td>
<td>Ch 7, Moser &amp; Moser</td>
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<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>Skill learning</td>
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<td>Mar 17</td>
<td><strong>Midterm #2</strong></td>
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<td>Mar 22</td>
<td>Encoding I</td>
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<td>Mar 24</td>
<td>Encoding II</td>
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<td>Mar 29, 31</td>
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<td>Apr 5</td>
<td>Memory expertise</td>
<td>Ericsson</td>
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<td>Apr 7</td>
<td>Retrieval I</td>
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<td>Apr 12</td>
<td>Retrieval II</td>
<td>[None]</td>
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<td>Apr 14</td>
<td>Forgetting</td>
<td>Anderson</td>
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<td>Apr 19</td>
<td><strong>Midterm #3</strong></td>
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<td>Apr 21</td>
<td>Sleep and memory</td>
<td>Stickgold</td>
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<td>Apr 26</td>
<td>False memory, <strong>paper due</strong></td>
<td>Loftus, Roediger</td>
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<td>Apr 28</td>
<td>Emotion and memory</td>
<td>Ch 10</td>
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<td>May 3</td>
<td>Memory in the courtroom</td>
<td>Lacy</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>Social learning</td>
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<td>May 10</td>
<td>Aging and memory</td>
<td>Ch 12</td>
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<td>May 12</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<td>May 20</td>
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