

PSY4009-2 SP25 - Psychology Of Cognition And Learning

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 Edit

Department of Psychology

PSY4009 Psychology of Cognition and Learning

4 Units

Spring 2025

MWF 1:30 PM – 2:35 PM

Evans 121

Final Exam: May 7, 2024 @ 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Information	Specifics for the Course
Instructor title and name:	Max Butterfield, Ph.D.
Phone:	(619) 849 - 2405
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TA	Fiona Lawlor flawlor0021@pointloma.edu
Office location and hours:	Culbertson 105 M/W/F 2:45 - 5:15 PM



Optional Texts	<i>Thinking, Fast and Slow</i> by Daniel Kahneman <i>Learning and Memory: From Brain to Behavior</i> (any edition) by Gluck, Mercado, and Myers
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PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Course Description

In this course, we'll explore the ways in which our lives are shaped by two of the most powerful influences on human behavior: The architecture of our brains, and the scope of our past experiences. We will cover a variety of important topics such as classical and operant conditioning, memory, attention, language, judgment, and decision making. We will not approach this content as merely a collection of facts, figures, and theory to be memorized. Instead, this course will provide a rich framework for understanding why people behave the way that they do, and it will help you apply these lessons to improve your daily life and your future vocation. Classroom activities will focus on lecture, discussion, and hands-on experiences, and you will be evaluated based on your engagement with the material, your knowledge of it, and your ability to apply it to real-world problems and situations. When all is said and done, you will understand the ways in which the fields of cognition and learning provide useful, engaging, and widely applicable lessons for individuals with a wide variety of interests and goals.

From the catalog: "A study of the major theories and empirical findings in the fields of cognition and learning, as well as practical applications to human behavior. Laboratory activities may be included. Prerequisite(s): PSY 1003 and PSY 3090 or consent of instructor."

Program and Course Learning Outcomes

You will be able to...

- Evaluate classic theories and contemporary empirical research in the fields of cognition and learning.
- Explore philosophical and empirical approaches to understanding human nature and individual differences.



differences.

- Develop a greater capacity for self-awareness and critical thinking.
- Develop professionalism by coming to class prepared, working collaboratively as a member of a team, and treating others with kindness, empathy, and respect.
- Develop a variety of applied skills, such as podcasting, experiment design, graphic design, project management, public speaking, and video editing.

Course Credit Hour Information

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 4 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 150 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes.

Assessment and Grading

Your final letter grade will be determined by a variety of assessments of your engagement, knowledge, professionalism, and ability to apply what you have learned. These assessments, and the points associated with them, can be found in the assignments tab in Canvas. Although your base grade will be determined by the overall percentage of points at the end of the semester, your final letter grade can also be raised or lowered based on the course's professionalism rubric.

Consummate Professional (letter grade increase)

- At least 90% attendance for in-person class meetings
- Always prepared for class
- Always familiar with course policies, university policies, and EAC policies (if applicable)
- Always turns in assignments on time or early
- Always kind, respectful, and helpful to all people
- Always pays attention and is on-task during class and lecture
- Team player who demonstrably does more than their fair share of work

Professional (maintains letter grade)

- At least 90% attendance for in-person class meetings
- Nearly always prepared for class
- Nearly always familiar with course policies, university policies, and EAC policies (if applicable)
- Nearly always turns in assignments on time or early
- Nearly always kind, respectful, and helpful to all people
- Nearly always pays attention and is on-task during class and lecture



- Team player who does their fair share of work

Unprofessional I (loss of one full letter grade)

- Less than 90% attendance for in-person class meetings
- Sometimes unprepared for class
- Sometimes unfamiliar with course policies, university policies, and EAC policies (if applicable)
- Sometimes turns in assignments late
- Sometimes unkind, disrespectful, or unhelpful to others
- Sometimes does not pay attention or work on-task during class or lecture
- Does less than their fair share of work

Unprofessional II (loss of two full letter grades)

- Less than 80% attendance for in-person class meetings
- Repeatedly unprepared for class
- Repeatedly unfamiliar with course policies, university policies, and EAC policies (if applicable)
- Repeatedly turns in assignments late
- Repeatedly unkind, disrespectful, or unhelpful to others
- Repeatedly does not pay attention or work on-task during class or lecture
- Does significantly less than their fair share of work

Before accounting for professionalism, grades will be based on the following:

A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Final Examination Policy

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](http://www.pointloma.edu/experience/academics/class-schedules) (<http://www.pointloma.edu/experience/academics/class-schedules>) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.



Incompletes and Late Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the due dates posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

Spiritual Care

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation \(https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/student-life-formation\)](https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/student-life-formation).

State Authorization

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization \(https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/office-institutional-effectiveness-research/disclosures\)](https://www.pointloma.edu/offices/office-institutional-effectiveness-research/disclosures) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.]


PLNU Recording Notification

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.



PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Academic Policies](https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/tug-catalog/academic-general-policies/)  [\(https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/tug-catalog/academic-general-policies/\)](https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/tug-catalog/academic-general-policies/) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) in this course. Any work that utilizes AI-based tools must be clearly identified as such, including the specific tool(s) used. Please use the following sources to guide your citations when using AI.

[MLA Style Center: Citing Generative AI](https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/)  [\(https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/\)](https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/)

[APA Style: How to Cite ChatGPT](https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt)  [\(https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt\)](https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt)

[Chicago Manual of Style: Citing Content Developed or Generated by AI](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/qanda/data/faq/topics/Documentation/faq0422.html)  [\(https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/qanda/data/faq/topics/Documentation/faq0422.html\)](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/qanda/data/faq/topics/Documentation/faq0422.html)

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu <mailto:EAC@pointloma.edu>) or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible. (e.g.,



ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced a bias incident regarding language, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias (<http://www.pointloma.edu/bias>).

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX (<http://pointloma.edu/Title-IX>). Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu (<mailto:counselingservices@pointloma.edu>) or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix (<http://pointloma.edu/title-ix>).



If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias (<http://www.pointloma.edu/bias>).

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

PLNU Course Modality Definitions

- **Online Courses:** These are courses with class meetings where all instruction and interaction is fully online.
 - **Synchronous Courses:** At least one class meeting takes place at a designated time.
 - **Asynchronous Courses:** All class meetings are asynchronous.
 - **Hybrid Courses:** These are courses with class meetings that take place both in the classroom and online synchronously and/or asynchronously.
1. **In-Person Courses:** These are courses that meet in person with the instructor and students in a physical classroom setting. With approval by the area dean, this may include up to 25% of qualified class interactions through a Learning Management System (such as Canvas).

In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered asynchronously and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [Academic Policies](https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/tug-catalog/academic-general-policies/) (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/tug-catalog/academic-general-policies/>) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.



Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

A day of attendance in asynchronous content is determined as contributing a substantive note, assignment, discussion, or submission by the posted due date. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day. Instructors will determine how many asynchronous attendance days are required each week.

Use of Technology


In order to be successful in the online or hybrid environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements \(https://help.pointloma.edu/TDClient/1808/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=108349\)](https://help.pointloma.edu/TDClient/1808/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=108349) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers, microphone, or webcams compatible with their computer available to use. Please note that any course with online proctored exams requires a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible nor allowable) to complete exams online.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

Loma Writing Center

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage \(https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center\)](https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.







- Appointment Calendar: <https://plnu.mywconline.com/>  (<https://plnu.mywconline.com/>)
- Website: <https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center> (<https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center>)
- Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu (<mailto:writingcenter@pointloma.edu>)

Assignments At-A-Glance



Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Sun Jan 19, 2025	 Week 01: Habituation (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/77613/assignments/1143960) 	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 26, 2025	 Week 02: Classical Conditioning (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/77613/assignments/1143961) 	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 2, 2025	 Week 03: Operant Conditioning (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/77613/assignments/1143962) 	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 9, 2025	 Week 04: Generalization and Discrimination (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/77613/assignments/1143963) 	due by 11:59pm
Wed Feb 12, 2025	 Exam 1 (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/77613/assignments/1143956) 	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 23, 2025	 Week 06: The Brain (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/77613/assignments/1143964) 	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 2, 2025	 Week 07: Attention (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/77613/assignments/1143965) 	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 9, 2025	 Week 08: Memory_(https://canvas.pointloma.edu/)	due by 

Date	Details	Due
	courses/77613/assignments/1143966 	
Sun Mar 23, 2025	 Week 09: Language (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/77613/assignments/1143967) 	due by 11:59pm
Wed Mar 26, 2025	 Exam 2 (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/77613/assignments/1143957) 	due by 1:30pm
Sun Apr 6, 2025	 Week 11: Systems of Thought (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/77613/assignments/1143968) 	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 13, 2025	 Week 12: Heuristics and Biases (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/77613/assignments/1143969) 	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 20, 2025	 Week 13: Planning and Decision Making (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/77613/assignments/1143970) 	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 27, 2025	 Week 14: Choices (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/77613/assignments/1143971) 	due by 11:59pm
Mon May 5, 2025	 Exam 3 (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/77613/assignments/1143958) 	due by 10:30am
	 Roll Call Attendance (https://canvas.pointloma.edu/courses/77613/assignments/1143959)	

Date

Details

Due

