

**LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY**  
**Psychology 2511 – Conditioning and Learning**  
**Fall 2016**

Welcome to the course. Your first task is to read over this course syllabus. Also, for the duration of the course, you should read all news and discussion postings made by me, the professor. My postings are to be considered required reading and the content of those postings might be asked about on an exam.

**THREE MODULES**

The course is arranged into 3 Modules. Each module will require the completion of an exam. There are no required assignments in this course. The modules will be released one at a time. You will be responsible (i.e. it may be covered on the exams) for all readings that are presented with each module. You may feel that there are a lot of materials but that is the nature of online courses.

The following book is required for this course and is available from the bookstore:

**Learning and Behaviour, Seventh Edition – Paul Chance**

Any other required readings for the course will be made available with each module.

**THREE ONLINE EXAMS**

There is an exam for each module. The exams will be open book. The exams will be multiple choice and they will not be cumulative. You will not be asked a question on an exam that was not covered in the materials for that particular module. You might want to ask, "There is a lot of readings and materials in each module, what should I focus on for the exam?" The answer is "everything". The exams are essentially testing whether you did the readings and watched the videos. My advice is that you become very familiar with the materials prior to the exam because you will not have much time during the exam to "look things up". The correct answer for any exam question is that answer which is the "best" option as per the materials presented in the course.

**It is very important to be saving your answers as you progress through the exam** because if time expires and you have not saved answers you will get zero for those questions. You can go back and change an answer later even if you have already saved it. However, once your time expires on the exam you will no longer be able to save any answers.

**It is recommended that you start the exam and plan to finish the exam prior to the exam's scheduled closing time.** This is because once the exam's closing time passes you cannot log back into the exam in the event that your computer crashes or your browser closes. You can log into an exam just prior to its "closing time" and you will still be able to complete the exam but you will be taking a risk and no concession will be provided if you have problems.

Grades for the exam will appear within a day or two after the closing of the exam; after I have had a chance to look at the questions statistics and make any needed grade adjustments. Therefore, exam grades will not appear instantaneously when you submit your exam.

You are to write exams alone and without ANY form of assistance from ANY other person. If the professor suspects you have cheated, he will contact you, and there will be repercussions. Lakehead University takes a most serious view of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism, cheating, and impersonation. Penalties for dealing with such offences will be strictly enforced. For questions regarding such issues please refer to the Lakehead University site which outlines the "Rights and Responsibilities" of all students as well as the "Student Code of Conduct".

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### MODULE 1

Available September 6, 2016 – 12 pm

#### Exam 1 (30%)

**Opens** – October 3, 2016 - 12 pm

**Closes** – October 4, 2016 – 6 pm

100 multiple choice questions completed online (Duration = 120 minutes)

### MODULE 2

Available October 3, 2016 - 12 pm

#### Exam 2 (35%)

**Opens** – November 7, 2016 - 12 pm

**Closes** – November 8, 2016 – 6 pm

100 multiple choice questions completed online (Duration = 120 minutes)

### MODULE 3

Available November 7, 2016 – 12 pm

#### Exam 3 (35%)

**Opens** – December 12, 2016 - 12 pm

**Closes** – December 13, 2016 – 6 pm

100 multiple choice questions completed online (Duration = 120 minutes)

## IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

### 1. QUESTIONS & CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR.

For the purposes of this course, **I will only be responding to contact made using the Desire 2 Learn email system.** Please do not phone me or email me to other addresses that you may find. I am not a full time Lakehead professor and hence I do not have an office or phone number at Lakehead University. If you are unsure how to use the in-course email then please post your question in the "General Questions & Discussion" forum or contact CEDL and ask for help. Please do not email me asking me to phone you, if you have a personal issue please express it via email.

If you have a question about any issue, including course content or how to use the course site, post it in the "General Questions & Discussion" forum. I will attempt to answer your question or another student might offer their assistance. If you have a question that you feel hesitant to post in the discussion forums, because it is of a personal nature, and not about course content, you may send it to me directly using the **in-course email (i.e. Desire 2 Learn email system)**.

## **2. TECHNICAL ISSUES.**

It is the responsibility of all students to learn how to use and navigate the "Desire 2 Learn" course website. If a student fails to complete a course requirement because they do not know how to use the Desire 2 Learn website no accommodation will be made. If a student is unsure how to use the site in any regard, or if the student is encountering technical difficulties with the site, it is the student's responsibility to rectify the situation or to contact CEDL technical support for assistance. Students are welcome to post their concerns in the "General Questions & Discussion" forum in the hopes that a fellow student can help them. I will not act as "technical support".

## **3. EXAM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WILL NOT BE RELEASED.**

You will not be able to view the exam questions after the exams. This is for test security reasons. I am careful to check "test item statistics" to weed out unfair questions (e.g. questions that few people got correct or questions that are poorly worded).

## **4. THERE WILL BE NO REWEIGHTING OF ANY GRADES FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL STUDENT. THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA ASSIGNMENTS OFFERED FOR THE PURPOSES OF INCREASING GRADES. PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL THE PROFESSOR ASKING FOR SUCH CONCESSIONS.**

## **5. THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO LATE OR EARLY EXAM SCHEDULING PERMITTED – A MISSED EXAM WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF ZERO.**

The fact that the exams take place over a range of time will make it difficult to demonstrate that any circumstance prevented you from completing an exam. For example, if a student were to leave an exam until the last few hours it is open and get sick or experience a computer crash just prior to the exam closing the professor will argue that the student should have written the exam at an earlier time – therefore leaving it to the few hours prior to its scheduled closing time was a risk that the student took. I am not being harsh. I am in fact trying to be fair with these rules. The rule is in place not to punish those students who meet misfortune but rather to protect those students who work very hard and never request or require undue accommodations. Certainly, if a student encounters an unfortunate circumstance over a long duration and cannot legitimately complete a course requirement then accommodations will be possible but the student will be required to provide documentation demonstrating the duration and nature of the circumstance. In other words, the student would have to demonstrate that they were incapacitated for the duration of the time that the exam was available. Obviously that is a fairly difficult criterion to satisfy. My advice is to complete requirements within the pre-allotted time frames. If a student requests an accommodation for a reason that is later determined to have been false, the professor will consider that to have been an act of academic dishonesty and there will be repercussions.

**6. THERE WILL BE NO TOLERANCE FOR DISCUSSION POSTINGS OR EMAILS WITH CONTENT THAT IS DEEMED TO BE DELIBERATELY HURTFUL OR INCITES HATE OR AGGRESSION.**

## **7. ACCOMMODATIONS.**

Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible.

For more information, please visit <http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca>

## **ABOUT THE PROFESSOR**

### **Dr. E.S. St-Pierre**

I am an adjunct professor in the psychology department at Lakehead University and a Clinical Psychologist working in private practice and for the St. Joseph's Care Group in Thunder Bay. I am a scientist-practitioner with experience in forensic and correctional settings as well as long-term psychiatric rehabilitation. My present role is psychologist for St. Joseph's Care Groups Integrated Seniors Programs. My duties involve the cognitive, personality, and mental health assessment of older adults as well as individual and group therapy with older adults. I teach various courses at Lakehead University and I have conducted research in the areas of evolutionary psychology, personality, interpersonal communication, and gerontology.