

My name is Larry Rudiger. I'm Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychological Science at the University of Vermont. I'm coming to you from my kitchen here in suburban Burlington, Vermont.

I'm one of the principal instructors for PSYS 001: Introduction to Psychological Science, and I believe you're probably enrolled in the class.

In this little video Michael instructor dr. Sue Fenstermacher and I wanted to introduce you to some of the ways that we've designed the course to maximize your learning. But here is really the big take-home message.

You can learn where are you need to when you need to, going at your own pace. I want to give you some more details on the flip over to a presentation. Okay? Here we go.

Okay in this part of the video I want to cover five topics: Number one.

What are you going to be learning about.

Number two: what is the big picture on how the course is put together.

Number 3: What are the things that you are going to need to succeed in the course.

Number 4: What are the things that you don't need to succeed in the course? And finally, how about the schedule how are things going to be laid out.

What are you going to learn?

The emphasis of this class, which really reflects the nature of the Department of Psychological Science, is the science of behavior.

This covers a wide range of topics.

And I think that you're going to find something of interest if not a whole lot of things of interest. But in this semester, there are three things that we're going to focus on in particular.

What does the science of behavior tell us about the nature of learning?

Now with in psychological science we draw a distinction between learning,

which is the durable change of behavior as the result of experience;

and memory, which is our capacity to commit things to memory and then we recall them or draw them out when we want.

Obviously these are topics that have enormous practical implications. But what's interesting is that even advanced learners which I would include college students as,

may not have an accurate understanding of their own memory process. We've been doing this for many years--starting out the semester on this topic, and hopefully you will find.

"news that you can use," not only in this class but across the board.

Given recent events,

we're also going to look at how the science of behavior helps us better understand the nature of bias and racism. Now at the University of Vermont one of our signatures is an emphasis on equity and on the nature of social diversity. There is a university-wide requirement for courses that you will take. And so what we're going to be doing in this class is emphasizing how the science of behavior helps us understand these aspects of our culture.

And then finally, what is it that the science of behavior tells us about the nature of the covid-19.

We're going to look at this from several different directions, and hopefully will help you understand how you can thrive even under these trying conditions. but also understand how other people here and abroad are responding to the pandemic.

All right now I want to talk a little bit about how the course is put together.

Generally, the main feature of this course is that it is self-paced and mastery-based and this is based on a whole lot of research conducted by some colleagues of mine and this model for the class we've been using in the all online version of it for almost a decade and I think with a good deal of success.

We started using it on campus a couple of years ago for selected students and we're now making available to all of you.

Especially in the age of covid-19 that really matters a lot.

You can learn from anywhere.

You can be in Burlington.

It doesn't matter you can be somewhere else it doesn't matter you can

start in Burlington and you decide that you're going to return home. You can start in Burlington and you decide that you are not going to leave your own residence: it doesn't matter where you are.

Because the courses self-paced then you can learn at your own pace.

Our recommendation right now is that you take advantage of opportunities that are going to be made available during your regular scheduled class time on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Because the class is self-paced then you will be taking exams at your pace.

And what's more--and we're still working out the details on the system for this to make it as easy as possible on your end that you can get help from us.

A lot of the time it can be in real-time; it can be through email; they can be through video chat it can be through a text to chat and like I said, stay tuned for the details.

Now to make all this work here are the things that you're absolutely going to need.

I'm going to say decent internet connectivity.

Because I living in Burlington and lucky that I have access to Burlington Telecom, which if you're into this sort of thing means that I have fiber optic cable to my house. It's really really fast, which is nice if you've got that great if you have something not quite so fast that's still going to work we keep internet connectivity in mind when we're designing the learning activities so that they will still work even with modest, but still decent internet power and connectivity.

Similarly it really is probably going to be necessary for you to have a reasonable computer. It can be a laptop or can be a desktop machine.

I'll be honest: I know that their students have succeeded in the class doing everything on a smartphone it's possible I don't think I would recommend.

Also you should be able to do just about everything using a tablet.

We're going to talk about this more when we go into the science of learning and memory, but our recommendation is that you plan on designing and then using flashcards to support your process of committing the information to memory so that you can then drop on it when you're taking the quizzes that are associated with the class.

The reason that we emphasize real flashcards is it's one way to get away from the screen, to sort of minimize your screen time, because we know that, in the age of COVID, you've got a lot of screen time in your life.

To be an efficient learner just in general but especially for this class.

You're going to need to spend a fair amount of time really focused on what you're doing.

And our suggestion is that you schedule that time, and that's going to not be just during the classes posted schedule time but other learning time as well.

Finally it's going to help have a sense of humor.

About everything.

About problems with your internet connection about problems with our internet connection, about times that the system just completely goes down, and we take this into account, the way that the class is designed and we tried to make it less vulnerable to that sort of thing.

As we go along just remember we are trying our best and everybody has the same goal, which is maximizing your learning experience in this class.

Now there is some things that you're not going to need that you may think of us being necessary features of any course, especially a college course.

We don't use a conventional textbook, either a hard copy paper textbook or an online quote, textbook rather most of the learning in the learning materials are something that you gain access to when you enroll in the class, and you are assessed a \$65 fee.

It is through a company called Acrobatiq and you'll learn more about that in time but it is based on the evidence around how people learn. I've been using this for quite a while I've done a little bit of work helping them develop it. And I just to be clear. I don't make any money on this. In fact, I use that relationship to negotiate a lower fee than most people at other schools pay to have access to these powerful learning tools.

Because of how the course is set up let's say things come up, and for example you are not available during.

your schedule class time on occasions. That's not a problem. We've got things set up so that you can go back and you can view materials that were shown during class.

Similarly because the exams are taken at your at your schedule at your pace then it's not like you're going to miss an exam spot.

Finally.

We're hoping to make it available if you like to have sort of.

Video chat with us if you want to use that as a way to get some clarification around the material: fine.

That's not required.

It's not expected.

Similarly for you to be on camera during this course is not required or expected.

So you are not going to have to have a place where you've got the kind of privacy where you might want to then you know be able to interact with us. It's fine if you want to but it's not required.

Alright finally I'm going to talk a little bit about the schedule.

So the course will be available before the first day of class.

Then we will really introduce how the course is put together starting on your schedule class in the during your schedule class slot on Tuesday September 1st. Now there are multiple sections of this version of the class, and so we will introduce that as well. But everybody's first day is on Tuesday September 1st.

From that point you can go at your own pace.

Because there are not big exams covering a big portion of the material then you don't have to put those in your schedule. One thing we know especially from the first and second-year students who are taking multiple survey courses is that it just seems to work out that several courses will have exams around the same time of the semester: that's not a feature of this course and so you don't have to schedule the exam.

That's because you're going to go at your own pace.

Now.

As a result since you going at your own pace.

You actually can finish the course early.

The main thing is.

You have to get done with the class by the end of finals week and our absolute deadline for this is on the Friday of finals December 11th at noon. We then need the few days after that to do the last-minute sort of things to figure out what people's grades are and to get those submitted to the Registrar on time.

So help you but found that useful oh who's this this is one of my celebrity kittens and they're not really kittens this is Terrible Tot, her sister Tiny Tater is asleep in the living room: you'll be seeing them this semester.

So like I said I'll be found that useful and we really look forward to seeing you.

By all means if you have any questions you can get ahold of us at the course email address which I put right here in the screen.

Good luck stay safe and will see you soon.