**Psychology 1A. Article Report 2. F 20. Milligan, PhD Due Date: November 3 (10 points)**

**Titles: 1.** Damisch, L., Stoberock, B. and Mussweiler, T. Keep your fingers crossed! How superstition improves performance. (2010) Psychological Science, 21(7) 1014-1020.

**2.** Wargo, E. The many lives of superstition. (2008) Observer, 21(9) 1-5

**1. a.** What is the main idea of Title 1? Cite a piece of research from Title 1 which supports the main idea and say how it does so.

**b.** What is the main idea of Title 2? Cite a piece of research from Title 2 which supports the main idea and say how it does so. (2 point)

**2.** According to Title 2, the following are categories of superstition: (1 point)

1) superstitious conditioning (by coincidence)

2) law of similarity

3) law of contagion

4) belief in ability to mentally influence or change real world events

5) tempting fate

Place each of the following into one of the categories listed above.

1) Throughout his career, Michael Jordan wore his college shorts underneath his Bulls uniform.

2) Using a “lucky pen” to take an exam.

3) Never talking about getting an A before you get the exam back..

**3. a.** From Titles 1 and 2, what are the benefits of superstitions?

**b.** From Title 2, what is a negative consequence of superstitions?

**c.** State any other negative consequences you can think of. (1 point)

**4.** From our class, especially Unit 2, what are ways, other than superstition, to improve exam performance? (1 point)

**5. a.** Superstitious behaviors, for examples, in sports, politics and exams, are on what schedule of reinforcement?

**b.** From Title 1: “Superior teams, as well as superior players within a team, exhibit more superstitious behaviors … this suggests that … superstitious thoughts and behaviors result in” (i.e., cause) “performance benefits.” What logical fallacy is involved here? From a behaviorist point of view, what is an alternative explanation? (1 point)

**6.** State two overgeneralizations from each Title. (2 points)

**7.** With any five people (excluding students in my Psychology 1A class), do the following, separately for each person: (2 Points)

1. Read aloud, “Jon and Jan, who are twins, both applied to graduate school at Stanford University. Their mother sent each of them a Stanford University t shirt before Jon and Jan heard whether they were accepted or not. Jon put the t-shirt on as soon upon receiving it; Jan put the shirt in a drawer while waiting to hear Stanford’s decision.” When you finish reading, ask the person if Jan or John is more likely to be accepted. If the answer is “yes”, ask the person who is more likely to be accepted.

2. Read aloud, “Bill and Belle, who are twins, are both taking a class in which the instructor randomly calls on a student to discuss assigned reading. Bill has not done the reading; Belle has done the reading.” When you finish reading, ask the person if Bill or Belle is more likely to be called on. If the answer is, “yes”, ask the person who is more likely to be called on.

Write down the person’s gender and age and the person’s answers to the questions.

**Please Note:** Items 1, 3, 4, and 7 above are each worth 1 point; items 2, 5, and 6 are each worth 2 points for a total of 10 points for Article Report 2. The optional questions below are worth a total of 1 point.

**Optional: (2 point)**

From Title 1:

**a.** Independent Variable in Experiment 1?

**b.** Independent Variable and Dependent Variable in Experiment 2?

**c.** Independent Variable and Dependent Variables in Experiment 3