

Psychology 222: Learning

Required Textbook: Learning and Adaptive Behavior, by Jerome Frieman (2007), Second Edition*. Published by Cengage Learning. *You may also use the First Edition of the text.

Overview of Course: This course is designed to introduce the topic of animal learning and behavior. Both “classical” (Pavlovian) learning and operant learning will be examined. Students will acquire knowledge of the procedures used to study learning, the various ways that learned behaviors are expressed, and the theories that propose to explain how learning is represented in memory.

Website: Use of the Sakai site is required for this course. If your Sakai login does not work, you will miss important emails and announcements, as well as be unable to complete paper assignments. Contact ITS (962-HELP), if Sakai is not working for you.

Course Requirements:

- **4 EXAMS: 75% of course grade**
 - The lowest grade from the first three exams will be dropped
 - There will be **no makeup exams** due to illness, athletic events, family plans, emergencies, etc. . The above exam policy accounts for these situations.
 - Missing an exam is not recommended, you never know what may come up later in the semester!
 - **Everyone must take the cumulative final exam**
 - This score will not be dropped
 - If you miss the final, you will be given a zero for the exam unless you have an Official Examination Excuse, in which case you will receive an AB for the course until making up the exam.
 - If you have a learning disability and are eligible for extended exam time, please contact Accessibility Resources & Service (<https://accessibility.unc.edu>) to arrange for them to proctor your exams. Please do this at least three days in advance of exams, they will not be able to help otherwise.
 - Contact me if you intend to take an exam at Accessibility Resources & Service!
 - **Exams will all be on scantron**
 - Bring a #2 pencil and scantron (available at Student Stores) with you to the test.
 - Be careful not to bend the scantron!
 - The use of cell phones, other electronic devices, and notes is prohibited during exams.
 - You will only have until the next exam to review an exam. Please RSVP for my office hours if you would like to review an exam.
- **10 Chapter Papers: 25% of course grade**

- You only need to complete 10 out of the 13 paper topics available under the Assignments tab in Sakai.
 - If you complete more than 10 papers then your lowest grade(s) will be dropped.
- **Papers must be submitted via Sakai.** However, I recommend writing your papers as Word documents and then copying/pasting them into the textbox to avoid losing work should something go wrong. Directions:
 - *Open your paper in Word*
 - *Go to the assignment in Sakai and click on ready to submit*
 - *Copy the text you want to paste into the Sakai textbox from the Word document*
 - *Click the icon which looks like a clipboard with a "W" on it, another window should open where you can paste your document*
 - *After you paste your document click to convert to HTML*
 - *Submit the paper*
- Papers must be submitted **before 9 a.m.** on the due date. **Late papers are not accepted for any reason.**
- Format of papers:
 - 1 page, single-spaced in length
 - 12 point Arial font (should be default in Sakai) with 1" margins
 - Paragraph form
 - No direct quotes (no text should be taken from online or hardcopy sources)
 - Paraphrase
 - Tip: read the section, write an outline of the main points, then use the outline to write the paper with the textbook closed.
 - No outside research needed; use textbook and/or lecture information. If you do choose to use outside sources, be sure to include a citation and reference.
 - Paper sections, e.g., intro, methods, etc. are not needed.
 - Reminder, plagiarism is an Honor Offence, do not try to use the words/ideas of others as your own (<http://studentconduct.unc.edu/>).
- Grading:
 - 80% Effort (did you write a full page?), 20% Comprehension (was your response reasonably accurate?)
 - Issues with a grade must be addressed before the next paper deadline.

General Course Issues: Although class attendance is not enforced, it is strongly encouraged. Exam questions will only be on material covered in class. This means you are responsible for any material in class not covered in the text, and only for material in the text that was also covered in class. Further, discussion points raised in class can be excellent starting points for each writing assignment. Thus, regular class attendance will save you both time and effort towards completing the course requirements. Finally, arriving late, personal conversation, and cell phone usage in class are disruptive and rude and will not be tolerated.

Grading:

- Tests are worth 250 points

- Only the first and second highest and the final are counted
- Papers are worth 25 points
 - Only the 10 highest are counted
- Course grade (%) = total points/10

| Letter Grade | Course Grade (%) | Letter Grade | Course Grade (%) |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| A | (93-100) | C- | (70-72) |
| A- | (90-92) | D+ | (67-69) |
| B+ | (87-89) | D | (60-66) |
| B | (83-86) | F | (<60) |
| B- | (77-79) | | |
| C+ | (77-79) | | |
| C | (73-76) | | |

Schedule

| Day | Topic | Chapter | Assignment |
|--------|---|---------|----------------------|
| W 8/20 | Course Overview | | |
| F 8/22 | Introduction & Conceptual Issues | 1 | |
| M 8/25 | Natural Selection and Types of Learning | 1 | |
| W 8/27 | Basics of Pavlovian Conditioning | 2 | Chapter 1 Papers Due |
| F 8/29 | Specific Conditioned Responses | 2 | |
| M 9/1 | **Labor Day – No Class** | | |
| W 9/3 | Specific Conditioned Responses | 2 | |
| F 9/5 | Casual Inference and Contingencies | 3 | Chapter 2 Papers Due |
| M 9/8 | Contingencies Cont. & Time and Space | 3 | |
| W 9/10 | Pavlovian Conditioning as an Inference Task | 3 | |
| F 9/12 | The Role of Saliency | 4 | Chapter 3 Papers Due |
| M 9/15 | The Roles of Relative Validity and Surprise | 4 | |
| W 9/17 | The Rescorla Wagner Model | 4 | Chapter 4 Papers Due |
| F 9/19 | !!!EXAM 1!!! | | Chapters 1-4 |
| M 9/22 | Conditioning as Declarative Knowledge | 5 | |
| W 9/24 | Higher-order Conditioning | 5 | |
| F 9/26 | Conditioned Inhibition and Context | 5 | |
| M 9/29 | Behavior Systems | 6 | Chapter 5 Papers Due |
| W 10/1 | Systems Cont. and Functions of Conditioning | 6 | |
| F 10/3 | Functions of Conditioning Cont. | 6 | |

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| M 10/6 | Basics of Operant Conditioning | 7 | Chapter 6 Papers Due |
| W 10/8 | Four Varieties of Operant Conditioning | 7 | |
| F 10/10 | Operant vs Pavlovian Conditioning | 7 | Chapter 7 Papers Due |
| M 10/13 | !!!EXAM 2!!! | | Chapters 5-7 |
| W 10/15 | Motivation and Drive | 8 | |
| F 10/17 | ***Fall Break – No Class*** | | |
| M 10/20 | Functions of Reinforcers and Hill Climbing | 8 | |
| W 10/22 | Differential Reinforcement & Extinction Effects | 8 | |
| F 10/24 | Ratio Schedules of Reinforcement | 9 | Chapter 8 Papers due |
| M 10/27 | Interval Schedules of Reinforcement | 9 | |
| W 10/29 | Changing Reinforcement Schedules | 9 | |
| F 10/31 | The Empirical Matching Law | 10 | Chapter 9 Papers Due |
| M 11/3 | Bias | 10 | |
| W 11/5 | Melioration and Significance of Matching | 10 | Chapter 10 papers Due |
| F 11/7 | !!! EXAM 3!!! | | Chapters 8-10 |
| M 11/10 | Inferences in Operant Conditioning | 11 | |
| W 11/12 | Representations of Knowledge | 11 | |
| F 11/14 | The Stimulus in Operant Conditioning | 11 | |
| M 11/17 | ***Conference – No Class*** | | Chapter 11 Paper Due |
| W 11/19 | ***Conference – No Class*** | | |
| F 11/21 | Behavioral Variation and Superstitions | 12 | |
| M 11/24 | Natural Selection of Operant Behaviors | 12 | |
| W 11/26 | ***Thanksgiving Break – No Class*** | | Chapter 12 Paper Due |
| F 11/28 | ***Thanksgiving Break – No Class*** | | |
| M 12/1 | Social Learning | 13 | |
| W 12/3 | Social Learning | 13 | Chapter 13 Paper Due |

Saturday 12/6 at 8:00am – Cumulative FINAL EXAM!