

Learning & Motivation

Psych. 2610-001

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Fall, 2014

SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. Harvard L. Armus

Email: Harvard.armus@utoledo.edu

Office hours: M-F, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. and by appointment and by chance

Office Location: University Hall, Rm. 1120

Telephone: 419-530-2714

Class Location: University Hall, Rm. 4440

Class Time: Tues. & Thurs, 11:10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Catalog Description: Extended treatment of learning, conditioning, and motivation, including operant learning, reinforcement schedules, symbolic reward, generalization and related areas and theoretical developments.

Student Learning Outcomes: Adequate familiarity with the topics noted above, as assessed by examinations, reports, and classroom participation. In addition, I hope that students will be able to critique both published journal articles and research proposals and will be able to suggest further lines of research.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of PSY 1010 or equivalent.

Required Textbook: *Psychology of Learning and Behavior, 5th ed.*, Schwartz, Wasserman and Robbins, W.W. Norton & Co., ISBN 0-393-97591-6

Additional Material: Handouts from published and other works.

Missed Classes, Assignments, etc.: Students are expected to be on time for and attend all class meetings. Unexcused class absences may result in a substantially lower course grade. All assignments are to be submitted when they are due. Late submissions and emailed reports will not be accepted, and all reports must be typed.

Exams, etc.: There will be 3 non-cumulative exams, primarily of the essay variety, with each exam worth 25% of the final grade. Exams and assignments will be graded by a letter grade, A,B,C,D, or F, with + or – additions, if appropriate.

Except in the most unusual and unavoidable of circumstances, no make-up exams will be given, and a grade of F will be assigned for a missed exam.

Course Grades: Grades will be based on exams (75%) and on assignments and class performance (25%).

Addendum: I don't like to write this, but the University requires a statement of this sort: All work must be the student's own. Plagiarism will result, at a minimum, in a grade of F for the course.

Course Outline –

The following indicates some of the major areas to be covered. Lecture material and textbook assignments will, in general, deal with similar topics. However, often the textbook will cover areas not treated in lecture, and the lectures may cover areas not treated in the textbook, or not treated to the same degree. In general, the various topics will be treated roughly in the order in which they appear in the textbook, in addition, of course, to topics not dealt with in the textbook.

Note that the order in which textbook chapters will be considered deviates somewhat from a strict numerical order.

Chapter 1

Introduction to Learning – Definitions, some approaches to learning research and theory, ethical considerations

Chapter 3

Aspects of innate behavior; ethology, sensitization and adaptation, basics of classical (Pavlovian) conditioning, learning in very simple organisms

Chapters 4 & 5

Issues in conditioning and retention. Operant conditioning – Law of effect, terminology, operant-classical distinction, behavioral units, contingency & contiguity, nature of associations, reinforcement, reinforcement relativity, conditioned reinforcement, token economy, introduction to reinforcement schedules, extinction, recovery, partial reinforcement extinction effect, generalization & discrimination, redundancy, peak shift, transposition, theories of reinforcement, behavioral economics, reinforcement schedules in detail, natural & artificial concepts, etc.

Chapters 6-8

Appetitive and aversive conditioning

Chapter 10

Stimulus control of behavior, including generalization, discrimination, contrast effects, etc.

Chapter 2

Brief treatment of some theories of learning

Chapter 9

Effects on learning of various biological factors

Chapter 11

Cognitive influences on learning, including some applications to phobias, depression, etc.

Chapter 12

Memory and forgetting

In addition to the above, readings in journal articles and other material may be assigned.

University Policies:

Disability: The University of Toledo is an equal opportunity educational institution and is committed to providing equal access to education for all students. Students who have or believe they have a documented or documentable disability should contact the Student Disabilities Services office for accommodations or adjustments.

Student Support Services: University libraries, tutoring services through the Learning Enhancement Center in the Carlson Library, writing aid through the Writing Center, stress or mental health services through the University Counseling Center or the Department of Psychology Clinic.

Resources Related to Sexual or Gender-based Violence and Harassment: *[Inclusion of this statement is required by the dean of the College]*

The University of Toledo cares greatly about the health and well-being of our students, staff, and faculty, and takes all sexual or gender-based violence and harassment very seriously. If you have experienced sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, and/or stalking and want a confidential place to obtain support and information, please contact the Center for Student Advocacy and Wellness on the main campus in Health and Human Services Room 3017. You can call 419.530.2497 during regular business hours and 419.530.3431 for 24 hour

assistance from a trained advocate. In-person, walk-in appointments are also available Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Center for Student Advocacy and Wellness provides free and confidential advocacy and counseling services to students, faculty and staff. The YWCA H.O.P.E. Center also can be accessed as an off-campus confidential resource at 419.241.7273. Faculty, teaching assistants, and other university employees are mandated reporters of any incidents of sexual or gender-based violence or harassment. Thus, any disclosures of sexual or gender-based violence or harassment on or off campus made to faculty or teaching assistants, or other university employees must be forwarded to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Office will then contact you regarding your rights, your option to participate in the investigation, interim safety measures and/or academic accommodations, and the need to proceed with an investigation (even if none is requested). Your participation in the process is voluntary. You may call 419.530.3152 to file a complaint or visit the following website for more information and resources: <http://www.utoledo.edu/title-ix/>. Policies relating to Title IX can be found at: <http://www.utoledo.edu/title-ix/policies.html>.