

Psychology 2610 – Learning and Motivation
Fall, 2012, Dr. H.L. Armus
Mon. & Wed., 2:00-3:15 p.m.

Office: UH 1360

Office hours: M-F, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., and by appointment and by chance

Telephone: 419-530-2714

Textbook: Learning: Principles and Applications, 6th ed - Klein.

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 will 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

Complex learning situations

Chapters 13 & 14

Memory and forgetting

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

Examinations - There will be either two or three examinations, depending on student preference, including the final examination. Exams will generally have two essay questions and one multi-part, short answer (one or more sentences) question. Except in the **most unusual of circumstances**, there will be **no** make-up examinations.

Attendance - Attendance at all class meetings is expected; missed classes may result in lowered course grade. While I don't like to state this, it should be noted that all work is to be the student's own, and failure to comply with this requirement will result, at the least, in a failing grade for the course.

~~modern behavior principles and a treatment of some issues in psychological theory.~~