Psychology 335

Conditioning, Learning, and Behavior

Fall, 2010

Instructor:	Stacey Zaremba, Ph.D.
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Office Hours:	Monday	10:00 - 11:30
	Wednesday	10:00 - 11:30
	Thursday	11:30 - 12:15
	Friday & Tuesday	by appointment only.

If none of these times are convenient for you, other times can be arranged by appointment. Please feel free to e-mail or call me.

Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday (3b: 10:20 – 11:30)

Class Room: 235 PPHAC

Course Description:

The procedures, phenomena, and processes of conditioning and learning in animals and humans compose the subject matter of this course. Major issues, research findings, and contemporary theories of conditioning and learning will be considered. The behavioral approach to the study of learning will be emphasized. Topics include classical (pavlovian) and instrumental (operant) conditioning and their interaction; reinforcement; stimulus generalization, discrimination, and control; biological constraints on learning; and cognitive components of conditioning and learning.

Because laboratory work is a part of this essential course we will conduct lab meetings in our class. The lab meetings will be used to prepare the laboratory assignments and to discuss and analyze data.

Course Requirements

Examinations:

There will be three exams administered during the course of the semester. The exams will cover all the material presented in the lectures and the material from the required readings. All of the exams will be given during the normal class time. All exams are non-cumulative. These exams will be comprised of short answer and essay questions. Note: Exams will be given only on the days scheduled, and the only excuse for failing to take an exam is documented illness or death in the family. An unexcused absence from an exam will be recorded as a zero grade. Make-up exams will be administered at 7:30 am.

Ethogram Assignment:

An ethogram is a comprehensive description of the behavior for a given species. You will select an animal to observe and create an ethogram for the animal you researched and studied. An Animal Behavior Observation handout will be distributed in class that will describe the assignment as well as the details for the paper.

Spatial learning Lab:

We will conduct an experiment on spatial learning in rats. Details regarding the lab project will be provided in class. Most of the laboratory work (running the animals) will be completed outside of regular class time. Because this lab will require the use of live rats and students will be made aware of the guidelines for the care and use of animal subjects. These guidelines will be reviewed and discussed in class.

Once the experiment is conducted and the pooled data is analyzed students are required to write a report using APA style and format. Late papers will be devalued by 1/2 a letter grade for each day late.

Student Presentations: Applications of the Basic Principles:

Students will work in small groups to present various topics related to the application of Classical and Operant Conditioning. Each group will organize a 30-minute presentation (presentation dates and topics are listed below). For each of the presentations you must: clearly state the relationship between the application being discussed and the basic learning principle(s) it relates to; present a clear and detailed description of the application; and discuss the use and effectiveness of your application. Each group must select two readings that will be distributed to your classmates on your application. Your readings are due to me two class periods before your presentation date. You must develop

a PowerPoint presentation as a group that highlights the most significant information for your topic. Copies of the PowerPoint presentation must be distributed to all students on the day of your presentation. The material from these presentations will be covered on the exams.

Attendance and Class Participation:

This class, due to its size and content, is one in which participating in class is quite important. Attendance for this course is expected at all class meetings and missed classes will lower the student's grade. The lectures are intended to supplement the readings. As such, the lectures will not duplicate the reading materials but will emphasize the most central aspects of the chapter and/or discuss particularly difficult concepts. Students are expected to have read the assigned material before class meets and should be prepared to discuss the material in class.

Evaluation:

Your grades for this course will be determined according to your performance on the three essay exams, Spatial Learning Research Paper, the Ethogram, Application Presentation and handout and class participation.

Exams…….....……	40%
Spatial Learning Paper…….....	20%
Ethogram ……...	15%
Participation.....	15%
Application Presentations……	15%

Policy on Plagiarism

The Moravian College faculty has become increasingly concerned by the problem of plagiarism on campus. The Psychology Department's policy on this subject is important for students to understand. Simply put, plagiarism is the intentional misrepresentation of someone else's work as your own. This includes such diverse situations as quoting directly from a published work without giving the author credit, having your roommate write the paper, "borrowing" from fraternity or sorority files, buying a paper from a professional service, and so on. The policy of the department is that the student must keep all note cards and rough drafts on a paper until the grade is assigned. The instructor may request these materials, along with the source materials, at any time. Evidence of plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the College policy on academic honesty, copies of, which are available at the departmental secretary's desk.

Required Readings:

(MD) Domjan, M., (2010), *The Principles of Learning and Behavior*: Active Learning. 6th Edition, Thomson/Wadsworth Press.

(RR) The journal articles listed below will be placed on reserve in Reeves Library.

Course Outline

(Outline subject to change at the discretion of the instructor)

Week 1: August 31 & September 2

Organizational Meeting and Syllabus Review (9/31)

Introduction to Learning and Behavior (9/2)

(MD) Chapter 1

Week 2: September 7 & 9

Historical Origins Of the Behavioral Approach (9/7)

(MD) Chapter 1

Ethical Issues: Regarding the Behavioral Approach (9/9)
(Using Animals and Application Issues)

(RR) Herzog: Dealing with the Animal Research Controversy
(RR) Martin and Pear: Ethical Issues

Week 3: September 14 & 16

The Nature of Elicited Behavior (9/14)

(MD) Chapter 2 (Pgs. 32-40)

Ethogram Project Distributed and Discussed(9/16)

Week 4: September 21 & 23

Habituation and Sensitization (9/21)

(MD) Chapter 2 (Pgs. 40-58)

Fall Convocation for the College – 10:30 – Noon (9/23)

Week 5: September 28 & 30

Animal Behavior Observations
Ethogram Papers Due (9/28)

Exam I (9/30)

Week 6: October 5 & 7

Principles and Mechanisms of Classical Conditioning

(MD) Chapter 3 & 4

Week 7: October 12 & 14

Fall Break – No Class (10/12)

Principles and Mechanisms Wrap-up if needed….

Student Presentations:

Applications of Classical Conditioning:
Systematic Desensitization (10/14)

Week 8: October 19 & 21

Student Presentations:

Applications of Classical Conditioning:
Taste Aversions and *Drug Tolerance (10/19)*

Exam II (10/21)

Week 9: October 26 & 28

An Introduction to Spatial Learning and the Spatial Learning Lab

(MD) Chapter 11
(RR) Articles to be distributed in class

Week 10: November 2 & 4

Spatial Learning Lab – Data Collection

Week 11: November 9 & 11

Basic Principles of Operant/Instrumental Conditioning

(MD) Chapter 5

Week 12: November 16 & 18

Schedules of Reinforcement and Choice Behavior

(MD) Chapter 6

Week 13: November 23 & 25

Film on Behavior Analysis and Self-Abusive Behavior: Harry (11/23)

Thanksgiving Break – no class – Enjoy! (11/25)

Week 14: November 30 & December 2

Spatial Learning Lab Due – Results Discussed (11/30)

Student Presentations:
Applications of Operant/Instrumental Conditioning: *Token Economies and Service Animals* (12/2)

Week 15: December 7 & 9

Student Presentations:
Applications of Operant/Instrumental Conditioning: Autistic Children (12/7)

Evaluations and Closure (12/9)

Finals Week

Exam III