

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

PSYC 40703 Conditioning and Learning

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: junior standing, three hours of upper level psychology courses, PSYC 26133 Research Methods in Psychology, BIOL 10043/10031 Biological Science/Laboratory, and one of the following: ENGL 10203 Composition II, ENGL 14343 Honors Composition or ENGL 24603 Introduction to Writing Studies

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Traditional and modern approaches to reinforcement, punishment, generalization, discrimination, and constraints on learning are examined and evaluated.

B. Additional Information

Course includes a requirement to assess and review literature outside of the textbook for reporting and submitting. Course requirements also include an exercise in assessing the conditioning of a specific behavior. Classical and operant theories are reviewed extensively as are modern theories of human and animal learning and information processing.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and evaluate the classic theories in psychology of conditioning and learning as well as apply them to both human and animal behaviors.
2. Examine theories of learning and make application of the theories observed examples.
3. Analyze research specific to conditioning and learning theories and reports.

4. Apply theoretical perspective to self-evaluation of personal behavior experienced or observed.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate effectively with a variety of audiences in any setting.

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will draw conclusions and solve problems.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Theories of Skinner
- B. Pavlov
- C. Watson
- D. Hull
- E. Thorndike
- F. Others modern theories of information processing
- G. Evolutionary Psychology perspectives
- H. Review of classic literature in the field
- I. Creativity
- J. Habituation
- K. Punishment
- L. Learned helplessness