

# Course Syllabus for Psychology 220: Learning - Cuyamaca College Spring 2012

**Section 5781 Room:** F508 **Time:** 9:30 a.m.- 10:45 **Days:** Monday, Wednesday

**Text:** Learning and Behavior, Paul Chance 6th edition. Active learning edition, or standard edition is fine.

**Instructor:** Steve Weinert **Office:** F510

**Contact:** steve.weinert@gcccd.edu or 619-660-4552 **Text:** 619-537-6303

**Office Hours:** Check Web for Office hours (<http://www.cuyamaca.edu/steve.weinert>)

**Course Material:** <https://gcccd.blackboard.com> and <http://weinertpsychology.blogspot.com/>

**Course Description:** 3 hours lecture. Examine and explore the basic principles and research of human and animal learning. **Prerequisite:** Introduction to Psychology (PSY 120)

## What I expect of you:

**Course Objectives:** At the end of the semester you will be able to:

1. Compare and provide examples orally or in writing of reflex, fixed action patterns and inherited behavioral traits
2. Identify habituation, sensitization, releaser and a sign stimulus from research articles
3. Describe and define research methods in behavioral psychology presented in class and compare and apply their use in research
4. Define and contrast in writing different classical conditioning paradigms presented in class and text
5. Identify and describe the variables that affect the rate and strength of classical conditioning
6. Identify examples of contingency and contiguity in classical conditioning and operant conditioning procedures
7. Compare and contrast stimulus substitution theory and conditioned compensatory conditioned response theory
8. Apply the principles of classical conditioning to aversion therapy
9. Describe, compare and give examples of operant procedures including positive and negative reinforcement and punishment presented in class
10. Analyze real life situations and identify operant procedures in effect
11. Produce methods of shaping behavior using chaining and successive approximation
12. Define and contrast procedures and results of vicarious learning as presented in class and text
13. Identify and predict graphical patterns of behavior based on simple and complex schedules of reinforcement
14. Compare characteristics of generalization and discrimination processes
15. Describe the procedures presented in class that are used to study the behavior of memory
16. Describe and recognize examples of the biological limits of learning as presented in class

**Grading:** Your grade will be based on the total percentage out of approximately 400 points that are earned throughout the class. All points in the class are weighted equally. You will earn points in class for activities and through exam scores. The exams will consist of multiple choice and short answers questions. You cannot drop exams. Any missed points during the semester can be made up during the final exam by answering essays. You must take the final exam in this class.

90% and above you receive an A

88% and 89% will receive a B+

80% to 87% you receive a B

78% and 79% will receive a C+

70% to 77% you receive a C

60% to 69% you receive a D

Below 60% you fail the class.

**Attendance:** For successful completion of the course you must attend class. Attendance and participation in activities is required to receive an A in the class. If you are going to miss class for some reason make sure you e-mail the instructor to make sure that any missed assignments can be completed.

**Behavior Guidelines and Conduct:** I am going to be honest with you up front. This class is not the most exciting and dynamic class you will have ever taken. In fact at time it can be down right boring. Of all the psychology courses however, this is the only course in which you can use the material in your day to day life.

	Topic	Chapter
Monday, January 23	Intro to Course 1	
Wednesday, January 25	Class activity	
Monday, January 30	Evolution & Learning	1
Wednesday, February 01	The study of Learning & Behavior	2
Monday, February 06		
Wednesday, February 08	Class Activity	
Monday, February 13	Classical Conditioning	3
Wednesday, February 15		
<b>Monday, February 20</b>		
Wednesday, February 22	Pavlovian Applications	4
Monday, February 27		
Wednesday, February 29	EXAM 1	
Monday, March 05	Reinforcement	5
Wednesday, March 07		
Monday, March 12	Schedules	6
Wednesday, March 14		
Monday, March 19	Punishment	7
Wednesday, March 21		
Monday, March 26	Exam 2	
Wednesday, March 28	Applications	8
<b>Monday, April 02</b>		
<b>Wednesday, April 04</b>		
Monday, April 09	Observational Learning	9
Wednesday, April 11		
Monday, April 16	Generalization	10
Wednesday, April 18	Discrimination	
Monday, April 23		
Wednesday, April 25	Exam 3	
Monday, April 30	Class Activity	
Wednesday, May 02	Forgetting	11
Monday, May 07		
Wednesday, May 09	Limits	12
Monday, May 14	Review	
Wednesday, May 16		
Wednesday, May 23	Final	

**Cheating and plagiarism (using as one's own ideas writings, materials, or images of someone else without acknowledgement or permission) can result in any one of a variety of sanctions. Such penalties may range from an adjusted grade on the particular exam, paper, project, or assignment (all of which may lead to a failing grade in the course) to, under certain conditions, suspension or expulsion from a class, program or the college. For further clarification and information on these issues, please consult with your instructor or contact the office of the Associate Dean of Student Affairs.**