Course Syllabus for Psychology 220: Learning - Cuyamaca College Spring 2010

***Section** 5781*

Room: F508 Time: 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 Days: Monday, Wednesday

Text: Learning and Behavior, Paul Chance 6th edition.

Instructor: Steve Weinert
Office: F510
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Office Hours: Check Web for Office hours (http://www.cuyamaca.edu/steve.weinert)

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

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. **There will be no Plus/Minus Grading for this course this semester.**
90% and above you receive an A
80% to 89% you receive a B
70% to 79% you receive a C
60% to 69% you receive a D
Below 60% you fail 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.

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 like an interactive classroom, and encourage student interaction. Please be respectful to all of the people in the class around you. Everybody has opinions and that is great. If someone's opinion does not mesh with yours then through education we can understand each other. Through conflict there is no resolution, just a victor. If there is some important reason to have your phone on, please put it on vibrate, or flash light, so as not to disrupt those around you. If you must answer it make sure that we can all here what you are saying…

Students with Special needs: Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should notify the instructor immediately (and no later than the second week of class).

Here is a breakdown of the days of the class and the topics that are going to be covered. Due to the speed of this course, please make sure to read the Chapters PRIOR to coming to class that day.

Date	Topic	Chapter
January 25, 2010	Intro to course	1
January 27, 2010	Evolution & Learning	
February 1, 2010	The study of Learning & Behavior	2
February 3, 2010		
February 8, 2010	First Vocabulary Quiz/Game	
February 10, 2010	Classical Conditioning	3
February 15, 2010		
February 17, 2010	Classical Conditioning	
February 22, 2010	Pavlovian Applications	4
February 24, 2010		
March 1, 2010	EXAM 1	
March 3, 2010	Reinforcement	5
March 8, 2010		
March 10, 2010	Schedules	6
March 15, 2010		
March 17, 2010	Punishment	7
March 22, 2010		
March 24, 2010	EXAM 2	
March 29, 2010		
March 31, 2010		
April 5, 2010	Operant applications	8
April 7, 2010		
April 12, 2010	Observational Learning	9
April 14, 2010		
April 19, 2010	Generalization	10
April 21, 2010	Discrimination	
April 26, 2010		
April 28, 2010	EXAM 3	
May 3, 2010	Forgetting	11
May 5, 2010		
May 10, 2010	Constraints of Learning	12
May 12, 2010		
May 17, 2010	Applications	Beyond
May 19, 2010	Exam 4	
May 24, 2010		
May 26, 2010		
May 31, 2010		

01/25/10	**Regular Day & Evening Classes Begin**
January 25 - February 5	Program Adjustment Period
02/05/10	Last Day to Add Semester-Length Classes
02/05/10	Last Day to Drop Semester-Length Classes Without a "W"
02/05/10	Last Day to Receive a Refund for Semester-Length Classes
02/08/10	Census Day
February 12 - 15**	Holiday (President's Day Weekend - Friday, Lincoln Day & Monday, Washington Day)
02/26/10	Last Day to Apply for P/NP (CR/NC) - Semester Length Classes
03/19/10	Last Day to Apply for Spring 2010 Degree/Certificate
03/19/10	End of First 8-Week Session
03/22/10	**Second 8-Week Session Begins**
03/29/10	Classified Staff Appreciation Day
March 29 - April 2	Spring Recess
04/02/10	District Employee Holiday (Good Friday)
04/23/10	Last Day to Drop Semester-Length Classes
05/21/10	End of Second 8-Week Session
May 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, & June 1	**Final Examination Days**