

PSYC 21a Learning and Behavior

Meeting Time: Mon, Wed, Thurs 12 – 1:00 pm

Instructor: Prof. Jerome Wodinsky

Fall, 2007

Brown 115

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs 2 – 3:00

SYLLABUS

Texts: (1) J.E.Purdy, M.R.Markem, B.L.Schwartz & W.C.Gordon: *Psychology of Learning and Memory*, 2nd Edition

(2) M.Domjan: *The Essentials of Conditioning & Learning*, 3rd Edition

<u>Week of:</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Text</u>	<u>Readings Reference</u>
Thu, Aug 30	Introduction	P-Ch 1; D-Ch 1	Hilgard & Bower
Mon, Sept 3	Labor Day – No Class		
Tues, Sept 4	Pavlov: Basic Principles	P-Ch 2; D-Ch 2,3	Rescorla: Control
Sept 10	Contiguity & Contingency	P-Ch 3; D-Ch 4	Rescorla: Inhibition
Sept 17	Wagner-Rescorla Model	P-Ch 3	
Sept 24	Conclusion of Pavlov FIRST EXAM on Pavlovian Conditioning during this week		
Mon, Oct 1	Thorndike: Basic Principles	P-Ch 4; D-Ch 6,7	Rashotte: Methods
Thur, Oct 4	Shimini Atzet – No Class		
Oct 8	Latent Learning	D-Ch 8	Rashotte: Latent Learning
Oct 15	Contrast		Rashotte: Contrast
Oct 22	Extinction SECOND EXAM on Thorndikian learning during this week	P-Ch 5	Rashotte: Extinction
Oct 29	Punishment	P-Ch 4,5,6; D-Ch 9,10	
Nov 5	Avoidance Conditioning		
Nov 12	Avoidance Conditioning		
Nov 19	Stimulus Generalization	P-Ch 7; D-Ch 11	
Thur, Nov 22	Thanksgiving – No Class		
Nov 26	Discrimination		
Mon, Dec 3	THIRD EXAM on Punishment, Avoidance, Generalization, Discrimination during this week		
Thur, Dec 6	Last day of class		

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Three one-hour exams, non-cumulative, each covering about one-third of the course. The lowest grade of these three exams will be dropped in calculating the overall grade.

One three-hour final exam which is cumulative, covering the entire course. No new material will be introduced for the final exam. The final exam will consist of two or three questions from each of the previous lists of study questions (see #2 below).

The grade is based upon either a 60:40 or a 50:50 split between the final exam and the two highest one-hour exams, whichever ratio is more beneficial to the student.

2. Approximately one-week prior to each of the one-hour exams, a list of 10-12 study questions will be provided, three or four of which will constitute the exam.
3. If students write out the answers to the study questions, I will individually or in small groups go over the written answers, correct them and make suggestions for improvements.

Thus, you will have both the questions and answers to the exam questions in advance of the exam. Because of this, I expect a higher level of performance on the exams than if this procedure was not followed.

4. The aims and purposes of this procedure are:
 - a. to reduce test-taking anxiety
 - b. to channel and direct students' studying and reduce random reading
 - c. to get to meet and know students individually, and not as merely a passive audience in a formal lecture course
 - d. to transmit my standards of excellence to each student
5. Since I want students to read the assigned readings in the field covered and not merely read those sections covered by the exam study questions (I do not wish this to be a course in how to take an exam), I reserve the right to include one question on each exam that is either in the readings or in my lectures that is not one of the study questions.

You are responsible for the lecture material, even if it is not covered in the readings. You are responsible for the reading material, even if it is not covered in the lectures.

6. Except under unusual circumstances, there will be no make-up exams for missed exams. A missed exam will simply be the exam that is dropped from calculation of the final grade.

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and you wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. The University policy on academic honesty is distributed annually as section 5 of the Rights and Responsibilities handbook. Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Campus Life for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the University. If you have any questions about my expectations, please ask.