

PSCH 360 - LEARNING AND CONDITIONING

Fall 2016 Tuesday/Thursday 2:00 - 3:15 pm Lecture Center F4
CRN: 31168

Instructor: Steve Reilly

Office Hours: After class and by appointment

Office: 1042B BSB

Email: sreilly@uic.edu

Phone: 312-413-2625

Teaching Assistant: Jillian Seiler

Office Hours: 12:00 - 1:00 pm Wednesdays and by appointment

Office: 1080 BSB

Email: seiler3@uic.edu

REQUIRED TEXT: Frieman, J., and Reilly, S. (2015). *Learning: A Behavioral, Cognitive, and Evolutionary Synthesis*. Sage Publications.

Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in PSCH 242.

Pavlovian and operant conditioning are two fundamental forms of learning. Pavlovian conditioning is concerned with prediction whereas operant conditioning allows personal control in the achievement of goals and needs. Together, both forms of learning help us to determine the causal structure of our environment. Learning and conditioning phenomena and procedures have contributed and influenced many areas of relevance to psychology undergraduates including evolution of cognition and intelligence, social psychology, behavioral neuroscience, drugs and behavior, behavioral medicine, motivation and emotion, rehabilitation training, special education, infant cognition, developmental psychology, psychopathology and clinical psychology. The purpose of this course is to introduce the basic findings, concepts and principles of learning and conditioning that govern the acquisition of knowledge in human and nonhuman animals. We will focus on the two basic forms of associative learning: Pavlovian conditioning and operant conditioning.

There will be 3 exams, each worth 100 points (300 points total), based on material covered in class and from the assigned readings. Some of the material in the lectures is not present in the book. **Reading the assigned text constitutes the homework for this class and should be undertaken prior to the lecture presentation of that material. Reading the assigned text will increase your chance of obtaining a good grade.** Students who miss classes or are late for classes for any reason whatsoever are responsible for all notes, announcements, and handouts for that class. The exams will not be cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice questions. Final grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 240 or more points

B = 210 or more points

C = 180 or more points

D = 150 or more points

F = Below 150 points

Grade cutoff points are final and will not be changed

No make-up exams will be given except for the most serious of documented circumstances. A request for a make-up exam will only be considered if accompanied with a written note (including phone number) from a physician. Make-up exams must be taken within one week of the scheduled exam otherwise a score of zero points will be recorded for that exam. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that a make-up exam is taken.

Accommodations are available for students who have documented disabilities. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodation needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Please contact ODS at 312-413-2183 (voice) or 312-413-0123 (TTY).

In fairness to the vast majority of students who take their college career seriously, no form of cheating will be tolerated on exams. If you cheat in this class, you will receive a failing grade for the course and judicial charges will be filed.

If you have any problems or concerns throughout the class, the instructor and TA are here to help you. Please come and see us during office hours (or by making an appointment) before it's too late at the end of the semester. We are interested in your success in this class.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>HOMEWORK</u>
1. Issues in Learning and Conditioning	Chapter 1
2. Procedures and Phenomena in Pavlovian Conditioning	Chapter 2
3. Causal Inference in Pavlovian Conditioning	Chapter 3
Exam #1: Thursday September 22	
4. Predictors of Significant Events in Pavlovian Conditioning	Chapter 4
5. Representation of Knowledge in Pavlovian Conditioning	Chapter 5
6. From Knowledge to Behavior in Pavlovian Conditioning	Chapter 6
Exam #2: Thursday October 20	
7. Procedures and Phenomena in Operant Conditioning	Chapter 7
8. Behavior and Consequences in Operant Conditioning	Chapters 8+9
9. Inference and Representation of Knowledge in Operant Conditioning	Chapter 11

Exam #3: Thursday December 1

Your grade is determined by your performance in Exams 1, 2 and 3

No extra credit work will be accepted