ψ PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING

Learning
Psychology 202
3
Krista L. Byrd
807B
M 1:30-3:00 p.m.; T 3:00-4:00 p.m.;
W 3:00-4:00 p.m.; TH 9:30-10:00 a.m.
(760) 355-6335
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Chance, Paul. Learning & Behavior, 2009, 6 th Edition.
Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce you to the main concepts and theories of learning. This course surveys psychology as both a science and an applied discipline. Topics to be covered include, theories of learning, behaviorist and cognitive perspectives, research methodology, the relationship of genetics and the environment to behavior, Pavlovian theory, Operant Conditioning theory, observational learning, generalization, extinction and forgetting, cognitive processes, and the limits of learning.

Course Objectives:

The objectives of this course are: 1) To critically think about, discuss and gain knowledge of the main theories and concepts of the psychology of learning; and 2) To leave this course with a basic understanding of learning not only in the academic sense, but also how learning is applied and used in all aspects of everyday real world settings.

Course Format:

This course will consist of a combination of lectures, class discussion, assigned readings, videos, group and individual projects and performance on quizzes and exams.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Class Participation. You are expected to attend class and stay for the whole period. You will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the assigned reading by actively participating in class discussions. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get class notes from a fellow student. If you are going to miss a class, please call me **before** class to let me know. You may be dropped from class if you are absent consecutively for the equivalent of one week of instruction, but **DO NOT** count on the instructor dropping you. If you want to drop the class, it is your responsibility. Please check your I.V.C. e-mail and/or Blackboard before class in case the instructor will not be attending class that day.

Thought Papers. There will be two (2) thought papers due at various times during the semester. These are essays of 1-2 pages, which will be based on the readings and class material. Late papers will not be accepted and I DO NOT accept thought papers by e-mail. Thought papers should address the following: 1) A provocative or interesting idea regarding learned behavior from the text, class discussion, an article from the internet or magazine, and/or a television program, from your point of view. Don't provide a review of the reading/program, but your own thoughts regarding the topic. The main focus of thought papers is for you to **learn** to think critically about psychology. The intention of the assignment is to get some ideas down about the readings and then begin exploring your ideas. You do not have to write what you think I would agree with or what is necessarily true, you just need to justify your ideas and statements with explanations.

Assignments. There will be various in class and/or take-home assignments to help you learn the class material. All assignments will be worth 10 to 30 points.

SLO's. 1. Students will identify the main components of Classical Conditioning and demonstrate understanding of the theory through application in their environment; **2.** Students will identify the main components of Operant Conditioning and demonstrate understanding of the theory through application in their environment; and **3.** Students will identify the main components of Observational (Vicarious) Learning and demonstrate understanding of the theory through application in their environment.

Exams. Three (3) exams will be given. Exams will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer and essay questions from the textbook, lectures and videos. No make-up exams will be given unless you have called me **PRIOR** to the exam and let me know you will not be able to take the exam. If you contact me prior to the exam, you will have one week to make-up the exam. Each exam will be worth 100 points. **Please bring a SCANTRON & #2 pencil to each examination**.

Grading System:

90-100% = A	Exams	3@	100 pts.	300 pts.	
80-89% = B	Thought Papers	3@	25 pts.	75 pts.	
70-79% = C	Assignments	4@	10-30pts.	80 pts.	
60-69% = D					
0-59% = F	Participation		25 pts.	25 pts.	
				TOTAL:	480 pts.

Special Accommodation:

Should a student enrolled in the course require a special accommodation due to a disability in order to complete the requirements of the course, please advise the instructor immediately or contact the Disabled Student Programs and Services at (760) 355-6312.

Academic Dishonesty:

Please read and understand this section fully. Academic dishonesty (cheating) of any type will not be tolerated in my classroom. If a student is caught committing any type of academic dishonesty he or she will be given a 0 for the assignment/exam and will be reported to Student Affairs for further handling of the matter. In addition, unless you have made prior arrangements with the instructor, leaving during the class period or while watching a movie will be counted as an absence. If you get up and leave during class, please do not return. Coming in and out is disruptive to the other students as well as myself. Also, no cell phones should be answered during class or examinations.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Торіс	Reading Assignment		
01/14/13	Introduction to Class			
01/16/13-01/23/13	Introduction – Learning to Change	Chapter 1		
01/21/13	HOLIDAY – MARTIN LUTHER KING – NO CLASS			
01/28/13-01/30/13	The Study of Learning & Behavior	Chapter 2		
02/04/13-02/13/13	Pavlovian Procedures Thought Paper #1 Due	Chapter 3		
02/18/13	HOLIDAY – PRESIDENT'S DAY – NO CLASS			
02/20/13-02/25/13	Pavlovian Applications	Chapter 4		
02/27/13	Exam # 1			
03/04/13-03/11/13	Reinforcement Thought Paper #2 Due	Chapter 5		
03/13/13-03/20/13	Schedules of Reinforcement	Chapter 6		
03/25/13-03/27/13	Punishment	Chapter 7		
04/01/13-04/05/13	SPRING BREAK – HAVE FUN			
04/08/13-04/10/13	Applications of Operant Conditioning	Chapter 8		
04/15/13	Exam #2			
04/17/13-04/22/13	Observational Learning Thought Paper #3 Due	Chapter 9		
04/24/13	Generalization & Discrimination	Chapter 10		
04/29/13-05/01/13	Memory & Limits of Learning	Chapters 11&12		
05/06/13	Review for Final			
05/08/13	Final Exam - Cumulative			

This instructor reserves the right to make announced modifications to this course outline.