Objective of Course:

The study of learning and the science of behavioral selection have had a profound impact on all aspects of human interaction, including special and regular education, business, health care, rehabilitation therapy, and the treatment of deviance. Behavior analysis is the scientific investigation of the interaction of organisms with the social and physical environment. The underlying message is that all living organisms alter their behavior as a reaction to the consequence of that action. This class covers what we know about learning as an adaptive process. It assumes an objective orientation, invokes a requirement for evidence, and teaches a basic fluency in the experimental analysis of behavior. With these skills, a person may apply learning principles to the treatment of personal, family, professional, or other problematic behavior situations.

Integration of Course with Laboratory:

The course, Psy 210, describes how the investigation of simple behaviors in simple organisms relates to such complex issues as the development of cognitive skills in children or providing therapy for depressed patients. Still, nothing can demonstrate simple principles of learning better than a behavioral demonstration in a living organism. Laboratory experiences wherein college students conduct research with living subjects has become a rare enterprise. When a pigeon is observed and its behavior systematically manipulated in an unadorned environment, many fundamental principles are exposed that apply to all living organisms. The existence of a basic science and the study of empirically determined foundations is part of the experience of Psy 211, the Learning Laboratory. I have no doubt that this experience helps to stamp in these foundations, and I believe that it fosters deep, critical and creative thinking on the topic of learning.

The goal of the laboratory is to clarify theories and principles as described in class. To meet this goal, laboratory exercises will periodically be discussed in the course itself. Students should also feel free to mention any problems with experiments or any conflicting results they observe in lab.

Course Requirements:

Required reading is

eReserve website, password PSYC). When possible, individual copies of articles will be distributed in class.

Sniffy Pro version 2.0 can be used to write a paper in the class. A version is provided in the Mac Lab (Olin 104) and in the learning lab (Hulings 12). If you want to load a copy onto your own computer, see me. Assigned exercises for class will be denoted Sniffy in the daily assignments that follow.

There are three examinations in this course, covering the readings that precede each. They are scheduled on the following days:

- **Exam 1**: Wednesday, January 25
- **Exam 2**: Monday, February 20
- **Final Exam**: Essay Question, Friday, March 9th

Test questions consist of definitions, identification items, short-answer questions, graphical analysis, and essay questions. Materials from readings and lectures are the focus of the test. Each exam will test over only the materials specifically assigned during that block of the course, with the exception of the final exam, which will be single essay questions for you to tackle.

There is also one short paper assignment. Sniffy, the virtual rat, can be used to accomplish this, but see me if you’d rather do a behavioral modification project. A separate handout explains the paper assignment. This paper is due:

**Tuesday, March 13th, by 4:00 pm in the psych office.**

**Make Up Policy:**

Students are expected to take tests on the dates and at the times specified in order to assure fairness to all. A student who misses an exam without prior approval may receive a substantial penalty on the subsequent make up exam. In cases of unavoidable conflict, arrangements should be made at least **one full day prior to the date and time** of the scheduled exam.

**Special Arrangements:**

Students who need special arrangements for taking exams, or who have special needs that might require larger font type on handouts, audio taping of lectures, etc. should see me early in the term. Also, students who feel they do not have the proper background for the course should see me.

**Grading:**

Grades are based on a total of the points earned from participation in class, and from proficiency on exams, and excellence on the paper assignment. The distribution of points for assignments follows:

- Exam 1, 2, and 3: 25% each.
- Paper: 20%
- Class participation during discussion days/assignments: 5%.
Daily Assignments [readings to be accomplished preceding the class day];

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Reading/Event/Discussion</th>
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| 1/04  | Wednesday | Introduction to topic. Review of handouts.  
**Domjan**, Ch. 1, Introduction. |
| 1/06  | Friday   | Elicited Behavior: Habituation and Sensitization  
**Domjan**, Ch. 2, Habituation & Sensitization. |
| 1/09  | Monday   | **Children and Monkeys:**  
*Cognition, 72,* B11-B21.  
| 1/11  | Wednesday | Beginnings of classical conditioning.  
Discussion on applied examples of habituation/sensitization |
| 1/13  | Friday   | Continued Classical Conditioning.  
Discussion of SUPERSTITIONS (ahem) on Friday the 13th.  
**Domjan**, Ch. 4., Mechanisms.  
Sniffy Pro exercise: Classical Conditioning in Class |
| 1/16  | Monday   | Discussion of Classical Conditioning Effects and Clinical intervention  
fears and phobias;  
**Read this article:** Nesse, R. and Ellsworth, P.  
*American Psychologist, 64,* 129-139.  |
| 1/18  | Wednesday | Habituation, Classical Conditioning, and more:  
Drug Addition. |

Read one of these:  
*Psychological Review, 108,* 4-32.  


1/20

Friday

More contemporary ideas: Drug Addiction, and Memory and Classical Conditioning.


1/23

Monday

**Review for Exam 1: Habituation, Sensitization, Classical Conditioning, Drug Addiction, and Memory**

SNIFFY classical conditioning mechanisms (4, workbook)

1/25

Wednesday

**Exam I: Habituation, Sensitization, Classical Conditioning.**

1/27

Friday

Beginnings of Operant Conditioning.

**Domjan**, Ch. 5, Instrumental Conditioning: Foundations.

SNIFFY operant conditioning.

1/30

Monday

Continued Operant Conditioning.

**Domjan**, Ch. 6, Schedules of Reinforcement and Choice Behavior.

2/01

Wednesday

Discussion of Food and Choices, please read:


On schoolwork and break life, please consider one of these:


2/03

Friday

Class canceled.

2/06

Monday

MidTerm Break! Relax!
2/08 Wednesday Domjan, Ch. 7, Instrumental Conditioning: Motivational Mechanisms.


Sniffy Pro exercise with reinforcement.

2/13 Monday Domjan, Ch. 10, Punishment & Avoidance

2/15 Wednesday Domjan, Ch. 10, Punishment & Avoidance Learning.


2/17 Friday Review for Exam II: Rewards and Punishments

2/20 Monday Exam II: Rewards and Punishment/Avoidance

2/22 Wednesday Stimulus Control Domjan, Ch. 8. Stimulus Control.

2/24 Friday Animal Cognition. Domjan, Ch. 11, Animal Cognition: Memory Mechanisms

2/27 Monday Complex Animal Cognition Domjan, Ch. 12, Complex Animal Cognition

2/29 Wednesday Special topics: monkey work and animal cognition

3/02 Friday Wrap up: Sniffy and Paper topics.

3/05 Monday Special topics: comparative cognition update.

3/07 Wednesday Special topics: Contemporary clinical issues, and Essay Given.

3/09 Friday Essay Due, and Poster Session scheduled for today.

Sniffy/Behavior Modification paper due: Tuesday March 13, by 4:00 pm in the psych office.