



**American University of Beirut
Department of Psychology**

SYLLABUS

Course: Psyc 220-Psychology of Learning and Behavior
Semester: Fall 2018
Class Location: Nicely 322
Class Time: Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 9:00-9:50 AM
Professor: Sabine Saade, Ph.D.
Email: ss241@aub.edu.lb
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00-10:50 AM
Office: Jesup 107C

I-Course Description

This course investigates the principles of learning and behavior. The psychology of learning, or *behavioral psychology*, is not to be confused with educational psychology. This course introduces you to the psychology of learning by examining the classical and operant (instrumental) conditioning paradigms, both from an experimental and an applied perspective. This is a 3-credit course recommended for juniors and seniors and is offered only to those who have taken Psychology 101/201.

II-Textbook (Available at the AUB Bookstore)

Domjan, M. (2014). *The principles of learning and behavior* (7th Ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

III-Learning Objectives

Upon the successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- a. Identify the principles of classical and operant conditioning.
- b. Understand the key mechanisms underlying classical and operant conditioning.
- c. Describe key concepts in the study of learning and behavior analysis.
- d. Discuss methodological approaches to the experimental analysis of behavior.
- e. Operationally define operant behavior.

- f.** Understand information communicated in behavioral graphs.
- g.** Identify the different experimental designs used in behavioral research (e.g., multiple baseline design and changing criterion design).

IV. Course Schedule *(Tentative, may be subject to modifications)*

Week	Topic	Chapter
Week 1 F August 31	➤ Introduction to the course	
Week 2 M September 3 W September 5 F September 7	➤ Background and rationale for the study of learning and behavior	Chap 1 Chap 2
Week 3 M September 10 W September 12 F September 14	➤ Elicited behavior, habituation and sensitization	Chap 2
Week 4 M September 17 W September 19 F September 21	➤ Classical conditioning foundations	Chap 3
Week 5 M September 24 W September 26 F September 28	➤ Classical conditioning mechanisms	Chap 4
Week 6 M October 1 W October 3 F October 5	➤ Instrumental conditioning foundations	Review Exam 1 (Chap1-2-3-4) Chap 5
Week 7 M October 8 W October 10 F October 12	➤ Instrumental conditioning foundations	Chap 5
Week 8 M October 15	➤ Schedules of reinforcement and choice behavior	Chap 6

W October 17 F October 19		
Week 9 M October 22 W October 24 F October 26	➤ Instrumental conditioning: Motivational mechanisms	Chap 7
Week 10 M October 29 W October 31 F November 2	➤ Stimulus control of behavior	Review Exam 2 (Chap 5-6-7) Chap 8
Week 11 M November 5 W November 7 F November 9	➤ Stimulus control of behavior ➤ Extinction of conditioned behavior	Chap 8 Chap 9
Week 12 M November 12 W November 14 F November 16	➤ Extinction of conditioned behavior	Chap 9 Chap 10
Week 13 M November 19 W November 21 F November 23	➤ Aversive control: Avoidance and punishment	Chap 10
Week 14 M November 26 W November 28 F November 30		Class Activities
Week 15 M December 3 W December 5		Presentations
To be assigned	FINAL (Chap 8,9 &10)	

V. Dates to Remember

1. Wednesday October 3-Exam 1
2. Wednesday October 31-Exam 2
3. Friday, November 23-Last day for withdrawal from courses

VI-Course Evaluations

You will have 3 exams to take. Those exams will not be cumulative. As for their format, they will consist of multiple-choice, and/or true-or-false questions. Exam 1 will count for 20% of your final grade, exam 2 for 30% and the final for 35%.

You will also be required to do a presentation pertaining to a psychological phenomenon or disorder from a behavioral perspective, either in terms of analysis (e.g., how is the phenomenon/disorder you have selected examined or explained behaviorally), or in terms of treatment (e.g., using operant procedures to treat the psychological disorder you have selected). More details will be provided four weeks before the presentation's deadline.

1. Exam 1(20%)-Chap 1, 2, 3 and 4
2. Exam 2 (30%)-Chap 5, 6 and 7
3. Final (35%)-Chap 8, 9 and 10
4. Presentation (15%)

VII-Course Policies

Class Attendance and Policy: Despite Lebanon's infamous traffic congestion, you are expected to arrive to class on time. Failure to do so may prevent you from entering the class as it may disrupt the rest of the students. Students who miss more than one-fifth of the sessions will be required to withdraw from the course with a grade of "W" for that course. Failure to show up to an exam will result in a grade of F except for medical reasons that are provided by the University Infirmary or the American University Hospital.

Phone Use: You are not allowed to use your mobile phones, Ipads or iPhones in class.

Academic Dishonesty: No form of cheating or plagiarism whatsoever will be tolerated and will result in failing the class. Please refer to AUB's student of conduct for more information.

<http://www.aub.edu.lb/pnp/generaluniversitypolicies/Documents/StudentCodeConduct/StudentCodeConduct.pdf>