

Psychology 363 Learning, Sept, 2015
Dr. Catharine Rankin
Kenny Rm. 3525,
822-5449,
crankin@psych.ubc.ca

Texts: Domjan :The Principles of Learning and Behavior, 7th Edition. Thomson Publishing Company.
Sniffy, the Virtual Rat (Pro version, 2012) by Alloway, Wilson, Graham and Kramer, Wadsworth Publishing

In addition my lecture notes are available for downloading from the class Connect website. These notes are copies of what I will be going over in class- having the notes will allow you to listen and to think about the material as it is presented rather than concentrating on taking notes. In addition I will sometimes expand on the notes and clarify some of the material.

Teaching Assistant: Troy McDiarmid (Kenny Room 3525, email: tmediarmid@psych.ubc.ca) His office hours will be announced in class.

Office Hours: I will be available after class most days. Otherwise please phone my office to set up an appointment.

Course Objectives: This is a one-term course on Learning. We will be covering the topic learning in a variety of ways: theoretical analyses, experimental research using animals, experimental research using humans, applications of research to daily problems, behavioral approaches, cognitive approaches and physiological approaches. The material to be learned will come from the assigned text, from lecture notes, from readings posted on connect and from my lectures. Some material will be redundant, some will not! There will be some information that is covered in lectures that is not in the text, and vice versa. You are responsible for all material.

Skills: In this course you will not only learn the body of material focused on principles of learning, you will also learn some important skills. These include: Learning how to pick out the most important information out of a larger body of information, learning how to answer the question asked and nothing else, learning how to prioritize and organize information so you can quickly and consistently answer a question. You will also learn ways that you can use the material in the course to modify you own behaviour.

Evaluation: There will be quizzes most weeks, and 2 lab reports. There will be two types of Quizzes- short answer and essay quizzes. Short answer quizzes will be providing five points of relevant information for two terms. Essay quizzes will involve taking 20 min to write the answer to an essay question (choose 1 of 2). There will be no final scheduled during the exam period. There will be 2 lab reports due that will total 40% of your grade. The first paper will be due Nov 9 before I begin speaking in class and the second paper will be due Dec 14 at my office in Kenny by 5 p.m.. Quizzes will account for 60% (approx. 40% for short quizzes, 20% for long quizzes) of your final grade, term papers will account for 40%.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Large classes of this size add certain constraints on the way in which I must teach the course. One such constraint is that there will be no (for emphasis let us repeat the word NO) make up exams in this course. This means that if you miss a short answer quiz you will simply lose the number of points associated with it. Your grade will therefore be computed as if that particular entry was a zero.

For essay quizzes if you are ill you must have a validated medical excuses. Such excuses must be in the form of a written note from your doctor attesting to the fact that on the day of the exam you were too ill to be expected to function reasonably. Please note, that Student Health Service will not provide these for quizzes, hence in the event of a missed quiz your medical excuse must be obtained from a private physician. If you should have a personal or psychological trauma which is of such a magnitude that you would be forced to miss an examination such as excuse must be accompanied by a written letter of explanation from your psychiatrist, psychologist, or student counselor. Exams missed due to a death in the family must be validated by a letter from the attending physician or clergyman. In the absence of such written verification you will not be excused. All medical excuses must be personally presented to the professor as soon as you are able to return to class for a make up to be scheduled. This means that if you are planning a personal crisis, bankruptcy, or a dream vacation, you had best schedule these events so that they do not conflict with your examination schedule, which is listed on the outline. If you do miss the exam you will also miss the points that it represents -- the choice, of course, is yours.

Cheating on the tests is unacceptable and anyone seen using any form of notes, looking at others papers or giving or requesting information from other students, or cheating in any form during the quiz will be given a zero for the exam and will be reported to the President's advisory committee for student discipline.

Papers should follow APA format for an experiment write-up (consult APA publication manual fifth edition if uncertain of this format).

All papers must be turned in before the start of class on the day that they are due. **PAPERS AND LAB REPORTS WILL PROGRESSIVELY LOSE POINTS FOR LATENESS!** (the clock starts at the start of the class when they are due)

The papers will be graded out of 20. There will be 5 points for general style and APA format (style includes spelling and grammar). There will be 5 points for an abstract and introduction that sets up the problem, there will be 5 points for methods and results that are presented in a way that allows the reader to know what was done (and to replicate if they wanted to) and what was found. There will be 5 points for a discussion section that discusses the results and their implications. The text of the paper should be at least 7 and not be more than 10 typewritten pages. You should cite at least 2 published research reports (not books or reviews) in either the introduction, the discussion or both.

CAUTION:

Psychology Department's Position on Academic Misconduct

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. In the first place, the Department has implemented software that, can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. In addition, the Department subscribes to *TurnItIn*--a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. All materials (term papers, lab reports, etc.) that students submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn's own proprietary databases. The results of these comparisons are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" containing several, sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class.

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating or

plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript.

All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals. Do **not** use Google/Yahoo/MSN Search/etc. to find articles for assignments in this course. **Do** use any of the indexes and databases listed under Indexes and Databases, Subject Resources, OneSearch or Metasearch on the Library's website at <http://www.library.ubc.ca>. (Not sure which index to use? Click HELP on the library homepage at www.library.ubc.ca or try Subject Resources.)

If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (<http://students.ubc.ca/calendar>).

To understand how to avoid plagiarism read the information on this website:

http://www.arts.ubc.ca/Plagiarism_Avoided.373.0.html

Plagiarism is defined as copying large chunks of material out of other written sources without adequate citation, or simply paraphrasing someone else's work and claiming it was yours. Plagiarism is also defined, for the purpose of this course, as having anyone other than yourself writing the text of your paper. Plagiarism will earn you not only a zero for the paper, but also a failure in the course and will be turned over to the President's advisory committee for student discipline.

Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the university Calendar. You are encouraged to read this material. If you run into trouble and need information about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, free workshops and advice are available from the Student Resources Centre which can be reached through the School and College Liaison Office at 822-4319.

Psychology Department's Policy on Grade Distributions and Scaling

In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all psychology courses are required to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. According to departmental norms, the mean grade in a 300-level class is 70 for a good class, 68 for an average class, and 66 for a weak class, with a standard deviation of 13). The corresponding figures for 100- and 200-level Psychology courses are 67, 65, and 63, with a standard deviation of 14. **Scaling** is likely to be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by the professor or department.

Remember Sept 22 last day to withdraw without a "W" on transcript – Oct 16 last day to withdraw with a "W" on transcript.

Psychology 363 Learning, September, 2015

Tentative Course Outline (subject to change-before any quiz check with instructor or TA)
Dr. Catharine Rankin, Kenny Rm. 3525 phone 604-822-5449

Date	Topic
Sept. 9, 11	Introduction and brief history 1 ch 1
14, 16, 18, 21	Non-Associative Learning 1 ch 2
23, 25, 28, 30	Foundations of Classical Conditioning ch 3 4
Oct. 2, 5, 7, 9	Foundations of CC ch 3, 4
14, 19, 21	Principles and Applications of CC ch 3, 4
16	Intro to Sniffy
21, 23, 26, 28	Theories of Classical Conditioning ch 3,4
Nov 30, 2, 4,	Reinforcement ch 5, 6
6, 9, 13	Reinforcement (cont)
9	Term Paper 1 due worth 20% of grade
16, 18, 20, 23	Stim control +Application of Reinforcement ch 8
25, 27, 30, 2	Punishment ch 10
Dec 4	Development of fear learning (articles on connect)
Dec 14	Term Paper 2 due worth 20% of grade

Quizzes

“S” – short answer- choose two out of 3 to answer- 5 pts each= 60 -10 min (5 min each answer) each
(drop bottom 3 answers)

“L” – essay- choose one out of two to answer – 20 points each= 60- 20 min each

Sept 18 S1
Sept 25 S2
Oct 2 S3
Oct 9 L1
Oct 16 S4
Oct 23 S5
Oct 30 S6
Nov 6 L2
Nov 13 S7
Nov 20 S8
Nov 27 S9
Dec 4 L3

(for short answer quizzes will omit the bottom three answers: NOTE Answers, not Quizzes!!)