

Fall 2012

Conditioning and Learning (01:830:311:H1)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:20 - 11:40 AM, PSY 307

Instructors

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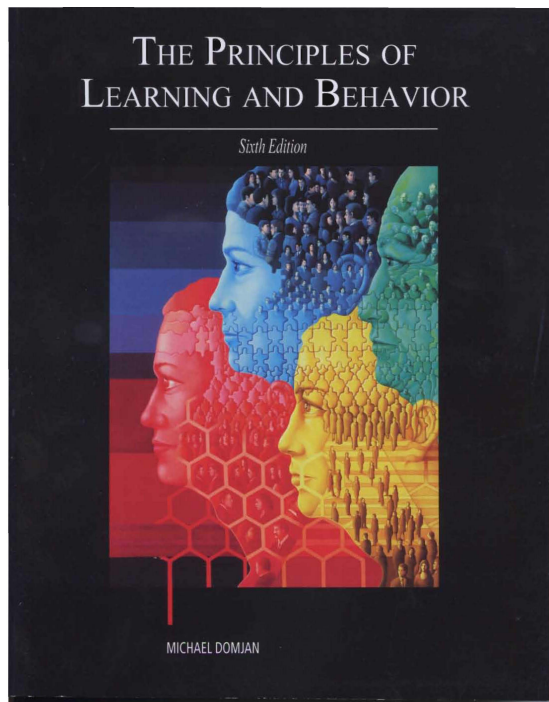
Office Hours Tuesdays, 1:00 – 2:30

and by appointment

Dr. Carolyn Rovee-Collier

Psychology 311

Required Text



Domjian, M. (2009). *The Principles of Learning and Behavior*. (6th Edition). Cengage Learning. ISBN 1424086086.

To be available at New Jersey Books, 37 Easton Avenue, New Brunswick. Copies may also be available at Barnes & Noble.

This is a "Custom Rutgers" softbound version, which is cheaper than the standard text. If you can find a used version of the hardbound version of the 6th Edition, you can use that. The contents are the same.

A copy of the book will be on reserve at the Kilmer Area Library.

Exams and Grading:

You are expected to comply with Rutgers' [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Your grade is based on your performance on the three exams in the course. Each exam is worth 100 points and contains 5 essay questions and a 20-point bonus question drawn from question sheets posted in advance. Course grades are based on 300 points:

Points	Grade
270	A
265	B+
240	B
235	C+
210	C
180	D

Pairs of students will each make an oral presentation of a published research article to the class. There will also be a written component to this exercise; each pair of students will produce a PowerPoint "poster" to accompany their presentation. (You will not be required to produce a physical poster; you will project it on the screen during your presentation.) All aspects of each presentation will count toward a grade of $\sqrt{}$, +, or -. Most presentations are expected to be good to excellent and will receive $\sqrt{}$. Unusually exceptional (+) or poor (-) presentations by a member of the pair will increase or decrease that student's final course points by 5 points. *If one member of the pair is absent, then the other member will be responsible for the entire presentation, and the absent member's final grade will be reduced by 10%.*

If you have questions about your grade on an exam, you should discuss it with Dr. Ackroff before the next exam.

If you have a schedule conflict with an exam, you may be allowed to take a makeup exam at the discretion of the instructor. You must notify the instructor of your absence **before** the exam is given in order to be allowed to take a makeup. If you miss an exam, you will be allowed to take a makeup exam only if you provide documentation for a valid reason for missing the exam. For absences due to colds, etc., a note from your Health Center or doctor will be acceptable. For more serious issues such as a death in the family or serious health or personal issues, you may present a note from your Dean's office verifying that you missed the exam due to an excused absence. This note should also indicate a reasonable time frame in which you will be able to make up the exam. You should give this note to the instructor within 1 week of your return to class.

If an exam is cancelled or postponed on the day of the exam, there will be a member of the Psychology Department in the room at the scheduled time to make the announcement. Notices posted on doors or the blackboard are likely to be hoaxes.

Attendance and Correspondence Policies:

- **Attendance:** You should attend all meetings of all of your classes. Lectures are based on the material in the assigned readings, but may also cover material not discussed in the readings. You are responsible for all of this material.

If you arrive late or must leave before class is over, please sit near a door and try to be as inconspicuous as possible. It is distracting to everyone to have people walking in and out of the classroom during class.

Classes are held according to the schedule below as long as the University is open. If the weather

appears to be threatening, you can check the [Campus Operating Status](#) here.

If a class is cancelled, postponed, or moved on the day of class, there will be a member of the Psychology Department in the room at the scheduled time to make the announcement. Notices posted on doors or the blackboard are likely to be hoaxes.

- **Classroom Etiquette:** Please turn off all cell phones, etc., before class begins.

If you wish to use a laptop computer to take notes, that is fine. If you wish to use a laptop computer to surf the web, play games, IM your friends, etc., I would suggest you go to the nearest Student Center. This advice also applies to having side discussions with your classmates, reading newspapers, doing puzzles, etc.

- **Online Etiquette:** The Chat Room on sakai is provided for you to exchange course-related information. Arranging study groups, asking (and answering) questions about the course material, asking for help with notes you may have missed are all legitimate uses of the Chat Room. Making comments about others or their posts is not. Violating this policy will result in your loss of access to **ALL** sakai resources.
- **Questions:** I encourage you to ask questions during class. If something is unclear, or if you have a question related to the material being discussed, please ask your question then. Chances are that some of your classmates would also like some additional discussion of the topic.
- **Email:** We try to answer email promptly. Having said that,
 - Please use a Subject that gives me some idea what you are writing about. This is especially important if you send mail from an account other than eden. Mail from sexgoddess@aol.com with a subject of "hello" is likely to be considered spam and deleted unread.
 - If you ask a question whose answer is on the course web page or Syllabus, the reply is likely to say that.
 - If you ask a question about your standing in the course, please include your name and which course and section you are enrolled in.
 - Please re-read the section on "Questions" above. We realize that there are times when you are reviewing notes after class and/or before an exam when you will discover that you have a question. But it is in everyone's best interest for you to ask your questions in class, rather than after the fact, if you have a question while class is in session.
 - You are responsible for any announcements, etc., sent to the class via email.

Schedule

Date

Topic

Reading

Tuesday, September 4	Course Introduction	
Thursday, September 6	Introduction	Chapter 1
Tuesday, September 11	Elicited Behavior, Habituation, and Sensitization	Chapter 2
Thursday, September 13	Classical Conditioning: Foundations	Chapter 3
Tuesday, September 18	Chapter 3 cont'd; Autonomic Conditioning	
Thursday, September 20	Classical Conditioning: Mechanisms	Chapter 4
Tuesday, September 25	(No Class)	
Thursday, September 27	Theories of Learning	
Tuesday, October 2	Review	
Thursday, October 4	EXAM I	Chapters 1 - 4 and supplementary material
Tuesday, October 9	Instrumental Conditioning: Foundations	Chapter 5
Thursday, October 11	Applications of Instrumental Conditioning	
Tuesday, October 16	Schedules of Reinforcement and Choice Behavior; Decision Making	Chapter 6
Thursday, October 18	Instrumental Conditioning: Motivational Mechanisms	Chapter 7
Tuesday, October 23	Stimulus Control of Behavior	Chapter 8
Thursday, October 25	Extinction of Conditioned Behavior	Chapter 9
Tuesday, October 30	Review	
Thursday, November 1	EXAM II	Chapters 5 - 9 and supplementary material
Tuesday, November 6	Aversive Control: Avoidance and Punishment	Chapter 10
Thursday, November 8	Comparative Cognition I: Memory Mechanisms	Chapter 11
Tuesday, November 13	Student Presentations	
Thursday, November 15	Student Presentations	
Tuesday, November 20	Student Presentations	
Thursday, November 22	(No Class -- Thanksgiving)	
Tuesday, November 27	Comparative Cognition II: Special Topics	Chapter 12
Thursday, November 29	Optimal Foraging Theory	
Tuesday, December 4	Dietary Selection	
Thursday, December 6	Human Memory	
Tuesday, December 11	Review	
Friday, December 21	EXAM III	Chapters 10 - 12 and supplementary

material

8:00 - 9:20 AM

[Rules for Final Exam Conflicts](#)

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