

## LEARNING PROCESSES

01 830 311 01  
TTH 1:10pm - 2:30pm AB-2225

Spring 2017

	<b>Course Instructor</b>	<b>Course TA</b>
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### Required Textbook

The Principles of Learning and Behavior, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition with MindTap access  
Michael Domjan  
ISBN: 9781337503648  
Cengage Learning

### General notes

Welcome to LEARNING PROCESSES. This course is as a survey of the processes that underlie the acquisition, storage, and expression of learning in animals -•- including humans. Below outlines guidelines and expectations. Major themes to be investigated in this class include elicited behavior, habituation, sensitization, foundations and mechanisms of classical conditioning, foundations and motivational mechanisms of operant conditioning, schedules of reinforcement, choice behavior, stimulus control of behavior, extinction, avoidance, punishment, and memory.

### 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.

University email accounts and SAKAI announcements should be checked at least daily by the student because this will be the primary means for sending information to the class or contacting individual students. Failure to monitor your email effectively is not an excuse for not having course information or for not following up on course issues in a timely manner. You are responsible for any announcements, etc., sent to the class via email.

I will try to answer your email within 3 business days. Having said that, PLEASE use a Subject that gives me some idea what you are writing about. 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 reread the section on "Questions" above. I 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.

### **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 (<http://newbrunswick.rutgers.edu/status>).

Students are expected to attend all classes.

### **Accommodations**

Appropriate accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please see web site of the [Office of Disability Services for Students \(https://ods.rutgers.edu/\)](https://ods.rutgers.edu/) for more information.

Disability Services (848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentationguidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration

form on the ODS web site at: [https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration form](https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration_form).

### **Academic Integrity**

The policies found in the [Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/) (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>) apply to this course.

Cheating and Plagiarism (Copied from the spring 2010 syllabus for Andy Egan's 01:730: 252 Eating Right: The Ethics of Food Choices and Food Policies.)

Short version:

**Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize.**

Longer version:

Cheating on tests or plagiarizing materials in your papers deprives you of the educational benefits of preparing these materials appropriately. It is personally dishonest to cheat on a test or to hand in a paper based on unacknowledged words or ideas that someone else originated. It is also unfair, since it gives you an undeserved advantage over your fellow students who are graded on the basis of their own work. In this class we will take cheating very seriously. All suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism will be automatically referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs, and we will recommend penalties appropriate to the gravity of the infraction. The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>. I strongly advise you to familiarize yourself with this document, both for this class and for your other classes and future work. To help protect you, and future students, from plagiarism, we require all papers to be submitted through Turnitin.com.

Since what counts as plagiarism is not always clear, I quote the definition given in Rutgers' policy:

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the use of another person's words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course. Some common examples of plagiarism are:

- Copying word for word (i.e. quoting directly) from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution.
- Paraphrasing without proper attribution, i.e., presenting in one's own words another person's written words or ideas as if they were one's own.
- Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.
- Incorporating into one's work graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other nontextual material from other sources without proper attribution.

**A SPECIAL NOTE:** Students often assume that because information is available on the Web it is public information, does not need to be formally referenced, and can be used without attribution. This is a mistake. All information and ideas that you derive from other sources, whether written, spoken, or electronic, must be attributed to their original source. Such sources include not just written or electronic materials, but people with whom you may discuss your ideas, such as your roommate, friends, or family members. They deserve credit for their contributions too! Judgments about plagiarism can be subtle. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask for guidance from your TA.

## Exams And Other Assessments

### MindTap Questions

There will be voluntary questions on MindTap the online platform associated with this course. You can accumulate up to 75 points which can be applied to your final grade. *Please note: These questions are voluntary and will constitute the “extra credit” contribution to your final grade. This is a newer platform whose interface might be adjusted as the semester progresses.*

### Examinations

Dates of these exams are listed on the class calendar. Final exam schedules are listed here: <https://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>

Exam questions will cover material reviewed during class, online and assigned reading. You are responsible for all material in the chapters assigned unless otherwise indicated. Make up exam policy: You need to provide both (1) advance notice of your absence to me (via email) AND (2) acceptable documentation for the absence (e.g., an excuse from a doctor, a death notice, obituary, or funeral notice, a police report, etc.). Unless both of these criteria are met, you will not be permitted to take a makeup. **Make--up exams will be in essay format.**

Evaluations are based on your performance on the three exams in the course. Each exam is worth 100 points. The format will be multiple choice questions. A gentle reminder: **The points you earn determine the grade you receive.**

### **Course grades are based on 300 points:**

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

Extra credit: maximum 75 points distributed across the MindTap assignments.

### Changing Grades:

Students sometimes ask professors to change final grades, usually based on the need to achieve a certain grade in order to, for example, get into the business school, retain a scholarship, or avoid academic probation. Although I wish all of you the best of success in your studies, you hopefully can understand how changing one student's grade is unfair to the other students in the class. Therefore, requests for test score or grade changes will not be entertained. However, I have built in a mechanism to earn extra credit. Your final grade will be based solely on your scores on the course exams and extra credit, as described above.

### Student Wellness Services:

#### Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

#### Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/  
[www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/](http://www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/)

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professionals within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

#### Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/)  
The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty.

**\*\*Schedule of Reading Assignments and Exams\*\*****\*\* (All dates are approximate and changes will be announced in class) \*\***

Tuesday	17-Jan-17	Intro
Thursday	19-Jan-17	Intro
Tuesday	24-Jan-17	1. Background and Rationale for the Study of Learning ...
Thursday	26-Jan-17	2. Elicited Behavior, Habituation, and Sensitization.
Tuesday	31-Jan-17	2. Elicited Behavior, Habituation, and Sensitization.
Thursday	2-Feb-17	3. Classical Conditioning: Foundations.
Tuesday	7-Feb-17	3. Classical Conditioning: Foundations.
Thursday	9-Feb-17	4. Classical Conditioning: Mechanisms.
Tuesday	14-Feb-17	4. Classical Conditioning: Mechanisms.
Thursday	16-Feb-17	5. Instrumental Conditioning: Foundations.
Tuesday	21-Feb-17	<b>Midterm1</b>
Thursday	23-Feb-17	5. Instrumental Conditioning: Foundations.
Tuesday	28-Feb-17	6. Schedules of Reinforcement and Choice Behavior.
Thursday	2-Mar-17	6. Schedules of Reinforcement and Choice Behavior.
Tuesday	7-Mar-17	7. Instrumental Conditioning: Motivational Mechanisms.
Thursday	9-Mar-17	7. Instrumental Conditioning: Motivational Mechanisms.
Tuesday	14-Mar-17	Spring Recess—University Offices Open—No Classes
Thursday	16-Mar-17	Spring Recess—University Offices Open—No Classes
Tuesday	21-Mar-17	8. Stimulus Control of Behavior.
Thursday	23-Mar-17	8. Stimulus Control of Behavior.
Tuesday	28-Mar-17	<b>Midterm2</b>
Thursday	30-Mar-17	9. Extinction of Conditioned Behavior.
Tuesday	4-Apr-17	9. Extinction of Conditioned Behavior.
Thursday	6-Apr-17	10. Aversive Control: Avoidance and Punishment.
Tuesday	11-Apr-17	10. Aversive Control: Avoidance and Punishment.
Thursday	13-Apr-17	11. Comparative Cognition I: Memory Mechanisms.
Tuesday	18-Apr-17	11. Comparative Cognition I: Memory Mechanisms.
Thursday	20-Apr-17	12. Comparative Cognition II: Special Topics.
Tuesday	25-Apr-17	12. Comparative Cognition II: Special Topics.
Thursday	27-Apr-17	<b>EC due      Last day of Class</b>
Tuesday	2-May-17	Reading Days
Friday	5-May-17	<b>Final Exam      8:00 AM TO 11:00 AM</b>