

# **PSYC 3720: Learning**

## **Tentative schedule**

**Instructor: Dr. Robert McDonald**

**CCBN: EP 1246**

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**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Readings:** Learning and Behavior, First Edition  
(author: Mark E. Bouton)

**Course Website:** <http://people.uleth.ca/~r.mcdonald/>

**Content:** Basic principles underlying change resulting from experience in all animals including humans. Topics include: learning theory, operant and classical conditioning, organizational principles of mammalian learning and memory, and applied approaches.

**Requirements:** Your final mark for the course will be calculated using three performance measures including: 1) two midterm examinations worth 25% each. 2) Three reaction papers worth 10% each (30% in total); 3) and a final examination worth 20%. The exams will consist of multiple choice and short or long answer questions. Reaction papers will be penalized 10% for each day late.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Week 1 (Sept 7)	Introduction	N/A
Week 2 (Sept 14)	Learning theory	Chapter 1, 2
Week 3 (Sept 21)	Reflexes to classical conditioning	Chapter 3
Week 4 (Sept 28)	Complex Conditioning I	Chapter 3
Week 5 (Oct 5)	Complex Conditioning II	Chapter 4
<b>OCTOBER 6</b>	<b>Midterm #1</b>	
Week 6 (Oct 12)	Complex Conditioning III	Chapter 5, 6
Week 7 (Oct 19)	Conference (lectures cancelled)	IT assignment
Week 8 (Oct 26)	Instrumental Learning	Chapter 7, 8
Week 9 (Nov 2)	Instrumental Learning	Chapters 9, 10
Week 10 (Nov 9)	Punishment	Chapter 7
<b>NOVEMBER 12</b>	<b>Midterm #2</b>	
Week 11 (Nov 16)	Organization of Mammalian Learning and Memory	-----
Week 12 (Nov 23)	Organization of Mammalian Learning and Memory	-----
Week 13 (Nov 30)	Applied Approaches	-----
Week 14 (Dec 7)	Applied Approaches	-----
<b>DECEMBER 10</b>	<b>In class final exam</b>	

## **REACTION PAPERS**

These assignments are designed to assess your ability to understand the concepts and data presented in the course, the implications of this material, and your own ideas about them. Three assignments will be given during the term and you will be given one week to return them to your instructor in class. The topics will be based on material covered in the course. Each paper should be 2 double spaced pages (12 font). I encourage you to discuss these assignments with me if you have any questions or concerns.

## **MIDTERM EXAMS**

The midterms will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and/or long answer questions. You will be given exactly 60 minutes (according to my watch) to complete each test.

## **FINAL EXAM**

The final exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and long answer questions. You will be given two hours to complete the test. The final exam will be administered in class on Thursday December 10.

## **MARKING SCHEME**

A+ (88+), A (84-87), A-(80-83), B+(77-79), B(74-76), B-(70-73), C+(67-69), C(64-66), C-(60-63), D+(57-59), D(54-56), D-(50-53), F(<50)