

PSYC 3720: Learning

Tentative schedule

Instructor: Dr. Robert McDonald

CCBN: EP 1246

Phone: 394-3983

email: r.mcdonald@uleth.ca

Office Hours: By appointment

Readings: Coursepack

Course Website: Moodle

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 this course will be calculated using three performance measures including: 1) two midterm examinations worth 25% each. Two reaction papers worth 15% each (30% in total); 3) and a final examination worth 20%. The midterm will consist of multiple choice questions and a mixture of short and/or long answer questions. Reaction papers will be penalized 10% for each day late. The final exam will be a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions and will be given in scheduled class time.

Date	Topic	Readings
Week 1 (Sept 3)	Introduction	N/A
Week 2 (Sept 10)	Assumptions	--
Week 3 (Sept 17)	Learning Theory	1,2
Week 4 (Sept 24)	Learning Theory	3
OCTOBER 2	Midterm #1	
Week 5 (Oct 1)	Complex Conditioning	4
Week 6 (Oct 8)	Complex Conditioning	5
Week 7 (Oct 15)	Classes cancelled (conference)	(Oct 11 &16)
Week 8 (Oct 22)	Punishment	8
NOVEMBER 1	Midterm #2	
Week 9 (Nov 5)	Organization of learning	9,10,11,12
Week 10 (Nov 12)	Incidental learning	6,7
Week 11 (Nov 19)	Who am I?	13, 14
Week 12 (Nov 26)	Applied Approaches	15, 16
Week 13 (Dec 3)	Applied Approaches	17
DECEMBER 6	Final exam	

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. Two 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). During the first lecture I will discuss in detail what is expected for these assignments. I also 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 and/or long answer questions. You will be given exactly 60 minutes to complete each test according to my watch. Please bring your university identification, pencil and pen, and an eraser.

FINAL EXAM

The final exam will consist of multiple choice, short and long answer questions. You will be given 60 minutes to complete the test. The final exam will be administered during the last day of classes in the regular lecture room.

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)

*Please note that students in this course are subject to the student discipline policy for academic and non-academic offenses in accordance with the University Calendar.