

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 the course will be calculated using three performance measures including: 1) two midterm examinations worth 25% each. 2) Two reaction papers worth 15% 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.

Date	Topic	Readings
Week 1 (Sept 9)	Introduction	N/A
Week 2 (Sept 13)	Assumptions	N/A
Week 3 (Sept 20)	Learning theory	1,2
Week 4 (Sept 27)	Learning theory	3
SEPT 30	Midterm #1	
Week 5 (Oct 4)	Complex conditioning	4, 5
Week 6 (Oct 11)	Complex conditioning (Reaction paper #1)	6
Week 7 (Oct 18)	Instrumental learning	7
Week 8 (Oct 26)	Punishment	8
OCTOBER 28	MIDTERM #2	
Week 9 (Nov 1)	Organization of mammalian learning and memory	11, 12
Week 10 (Nov 8)	Organization of mammalian learning and memory (Reaction paper #2)	13
Week 11 (Nov 15)	Conference (classes cancelled)	N/A
Week 12 (Nov 22)	Applied approaches	14, 15
Week 13 (Nov 29)	Applied approaches	16, 17
Week 14 (Dec 6)	Summary	N/A
DECEMBER 9	In class 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. 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 exactly 60 minutes to complete the test. The final exam will be administered in class on Thursday December 9.

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)