

The Psychology of Learning

SYLLABUS

PSYC BC 1105/1107 x

Lecture: Tues. & Thurs. 10:35-11:50 am in 304 Barnard Hall

Lab (1105 only): Mondays or Fridays, Milbank 410

Instructor:

Hannah Hoch, Ph.D., BCBA

Office hours: Tues. 9:00-10:30 am; Thurs. 9:30-10:30 am in Milbank 415-L.

* Best to schedule an appointment

Email: drhoch@gmail.com

* Email is the most efficient contact method. When sending an email, please include the course title in subject line and always include your full name in the text. Please communicate in full sentences so I will be sure to understand your question.

Course Overview:

This course examines basic learning and motivation processes that allow organisms to acquire new knowledge and adapt to their environments. These learning processes include classical and operant conditioning, reinforcement, categorization, and others. Students will become acquainted with research methods used to study these and other processes. Students may enroll in the lecture section alone (1007) or the lecture/lab combination (1105).

Required Textbook:

Catania, A. C. (2007). *Learning (4th Interim Edition)*. Cornwall on Hudson, NY: Sloan Publishing. (Available at Columbia Bookstore.)

Supplementary Texts:

Domjan, M. (2003). *Principles of Learning and Behavior (5th edition)*. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth.

Mazur, J. E. (2006). *Learning and Behavior (6th Edition)*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice hall.

Exams:

There will be two exams and a final exam. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions. Questions will be taken from reading assignments and class lectures. Please bring a #2 pencil with a clean eraser to all exams. Exams will begin promptly at 10:35 am. **Students arriving late to exams will not be given extra time to complete the exam.** Makeup exams will **only** be given in **extenuating circumstances** with appropriate documentation and must be taken as soon as possible after the scheduled exam date.

Extra Credit: Journal Article Summary

Up to 5 points of extra credit will be added to the lowest exam grade for completion of a Journal Article Summary. The article must be approved before the summary is written. Summaries should include: (a) article reference, listed in APA format; (b) a statement of the article’s purpose; (c) a description of the methods used (including participants, setting, target behaviors, procedures, and experimental design); (d) a description of the results of the study; and (e) a discussion of the significance of the results. Sample journals: Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior; Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis; Animal Learning and Behavior; Journal of Experimental Psychology; Psychological Record.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend class and arrive on time. A key factor in student success is class attendance, which is not easily replaced by copying someone else’s notes. If you miss a class, you are responsible for finding a reliable student to take notes for you (you may have someone tape the class for you if necessary). Students are responsible for all material, including changes to the syllabus presented in class. **Please turn off all cell phones and pagers during class. No calls should be answered during class.** If you forget to turn off your phone and it rings please exit the classroom immediately.

Honor Code:

The instructor values Barnard’s Honor Code for the integrity it fosters. All exams and assignments in this class are to be completed in accordance with the Barnard Code of Honor, as specified in the Honor Code Booklet (available in the Dean of Studies office).. Columbia students commit themselves to the Honor Code upon registering for a Barnard course. Further information can be found on the Barnard College website at: <http://eclipse.barnard.edu/~honor/honorcode.html>

Course grade:

<u>BC 1105</u>		<u>BC 1107</u>	
Exam 1	20%	Exam 1	30%
Exam 2	20%	Exam 2	30%
Final Exam	25%	Final Exam	40%
Lab	35%		

Please note: Students who may require accommodations for a specific disability must notify the *Office of Disability Services* and the instructor as soon as possible.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE:

DATE	TOPIC	READING
9/5	Introduction	N/A
9/7	Learning & Behavior, Behavior Taxonomy	Chap. 1-2
9/12	Elicited & Emitted Behavior (Reflexes, Habituation, Sensitization)	Chap. 4
9/14, 9/19	Respondent Behavior: Conditioning	Chap. 12; Addendum to Chap. 12
9/21, 9/26	Operant Conditioning; Consequences of Responding: Reinforcement (Shaping, Extinction)	Chap. 5; Addenda to Chap. 5-6; Chap. 7 (Shaping)
9/28, 10/3	Consequences of responding: Aversive Control (Punishment, Escape, Avoidance)	Chap. 6; Addenda to Chap. 5-6
10/5	EXAM #1	
10/10	Operants: The Selection of Behavior (Response classes, differentiation, induction, operant classes)	Chap. 7; Addenda to Chap. 7-9
10/12, 10/17	Stimulus Control	Chap. 8; Addenda to Chap. 7-9
10/19	Conditional Discrimination	Chap. 9; Addenda to Chap. 7-9
10/24, 10/26	Schedules of Reinforcement	Chap. 10; Addenda to Chap. 10-11
10/31, 11/2	Schedule Combinations; Choice & Matching Law	Chap. 11; Addenda to Chap. 10-11
11/7	Social Learning	Chap. 13
11/9	EXAM #2	
11/14	Verbal Behavior	Chap. 14
11/16	Verbal Behavior & Nonverbal Behavior	Chap. 15, Addendum to Ch. 15

DATE	TOPIC	READING
11/21	Psycholinguistics	Chap. 16
11/28	Verbal Learning Procedures & Transfer	Chap. 17
11/30	Memory & Remembering	Chap. 18 & 19, Addenda
12/5	Cognition & Problem Solving	Chap. 20
12/7	Structure & Function in Learning	Chap. 21
12/21	FINAL EXAM (Tentative Date)	

ANY CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS AND POSTED ON THE WEB (IN COURSEWORKS).