

PSYC 450

Learning

Spring 15

Tuesday, Thursday 11:00 – 12:15 HH 204

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Office hours: Tuesday 8 – 11, Monday & Wednesday 10 – 1, Tuesday & Thursday 12:15 - 1

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**I answer e-mail between 6am and 4pm on weekdays. You will get a reply within 24 hours during the weekday. I will answer all weekend e-mail by 9 am on the following Monday. This policy will not stand while I am out of town for conference or holiday.*

COURSE DETAILS

REQUIRED TEXTS: Domjan, M. *The Principles of Learning and Behavior* 7th edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning ISBN 978-1-285-08856-3 AND Alloway, T., Wilson, G., Graham, J. *Sniffy The Virtual Rat* Pro version 3.0 Thomson Wadsworth ISBN 9781111726256

COURSE DESCRIPTION: PSYC 450 Considers theories of learning, conditions necessary for and conducive to learning, and the relationship between learning and memory. Provides an understanding of learning to enable the structuring of experiences in which learning will effectively occur.

PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE REQUIREMENT: This course is one of the 300-400 level options for the bachelors of science degree in Psychology. "Psychology majors must achieve a C-grade or higher in all psychology courses that apply to the major" (2011-2013 Catalog, p.90).

NEUROSCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENT: This course is one of the Behavioral Neuroscience track options for the bachelors of science degree in Neuroscience.

COURSE INSTRUCTION: This course involves lecture and discussion on the topics listed in the course calendar along with many at-home activities that examines the topics in greater detail. Students are expected to complete all reading and homework exercises. Learning will be assessed with essay exams that demand the student apply the information and interpret research findings in Learning.

CREDIT HOUR POLICY: This course meets twice a week for 90 minutes, meeting the in-class time requirement. Further, students are expected to complete the assigned exercises, read the text and weekly engage in study for the scheduled exams. This work done outside of class should require at least three hours for each in-class hour. Therefore, this class meets the credit hour policy adopted by the University of Evansville.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE: University of Evansville Academic Honor Code. "I understand that any work which I submit for course credit will imply that I have adhered to the Academic Honor Code: I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid nor will I tolerate an environment which condones the use of unauthorized aid." Failure to adhere to this code will result in receiving an "F" for the course.

RELEVANT UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE LEARNING OBJECTIVES PSYC 450:

- You will have the opportunity to gain in depth factual knowledge about the history, various theories and applications of Learning through lecture, reading, and demonstrations. (Objective 1)
- You will have the opportunity to understand the ethical use of animals in the discovery of Learning principles. (Objective 2)
- You will have the opportunity to master communication, organizational, and critical thinking skills through writing and arguing well on the 5 exams in this course. (Objective 6)
- You will have the opportunity to use available resources including technology to answer questions and solve problems in the field of Learning with Sniffy™ The Virtual Rat: Pro Version 3.0 (Objective 8)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance: Class attendance and participation is required in this class. Please read the text before class. Posing questions during class will help everyone understand this topic better. Your letter grade will be dropped by one grade (A to A-) if you miss more than 10% of the class (more than 3). Absences with a valid University of Evansville sanctioned excuse will not count against the grade. Whenever possible, excuses should be presented BEFORE the missed class. Students are responsible for obtaining material that they miss.

In Class work: We will be engaging the concepts presented in Domjan for their methodology, scientific merit, and application. We will be drawing from your experiences in other courses such as Education, Psychology and Sociology, to name a few. Please come to class prepared to ask questions about the reading and engage in that material. I will NEVER spend an entire 90 minute period lecturing. You are advanced students and therefore, expected to engage with the material thoughtfully and wisely.

Semester Exams: There are four exams covering lecture, Sniffy™ The Virtual Rat lab 3.0 exercises and all other assigned reading material. Question format is essay. You will be asked to apply the course material, solve problems related to the course material and explain procedures used to test learning theories. Each exam will be worth 50 points. Only a valid University of Evansville sanctioned excuse will be accepted for make-up exams. Whenever possible, excuses should be presented BEFORE the missed exam. If you miss the exam for reasons other than a sanctioned excuse you will receive no points for the exam. Semester exams are 60% of your semester grade.

Exercises: Workbook exercises and associated Sniffy activities are very important for learning the course material. I will provide the exercises you need to do in the Sniffy Pro 3 program. They do not run in perfect order with the program, please pay attention! Some exercises take more time than others. Please allow a few hours (2 – 3) of study time for each exercise. The twelve exercises are posted on BlackBoard and correspond to particular Sniffy™ The Virtual Rat Pro 3.0 program sections. You need a personal computer to run the Sniffy application. If you do not have a personal computer we can make arrangements for access to a computer. Turn in the exercises as scheduled (see course calendar **Exercise**) at start of class. Early pages are encouraged, late are not accepted. Too many times students will put this off and not get the full benefit of the exercises. Each exercise is worth 10 points and is worth 25% of your semester grade.

SNIFFY EXERCISES & SNIFFY BOOK PAGES FOR EACH WORKBOOK SECTION:

Exercise Number	Corresponding Book Chapter	Sniffy Program Exercise Number	Sniffy Program Book Pages
1	1	None	None
2	2	None	None
3	3	Exercises 1, 10, & 11	xvii, p. 1-6, 7-31, 33-41, 77-86
4	4	Exercises 4, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 & 7	p. 33-36, 45-53, 87-97, 121-133, 99-120, 57, 64-68
5	5	Exercises 22& 23	135-143, 145-153
6	6	Exercises 31, 32, 33, 34 & 35	p. 173-187
7	7	None	None
8	8	Exercises 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 & 42	p. 191-212
9	9	Exercises 2, 3, 25, 26, 27 & 36	p. 33-36, 41-45, 156-166, 187-189
10	10	Exercises 28, 29 & 30	p. 167-172
11	11	None	None
12	12	None	None

Grade Calculation:

Grade = (((12 Sniffy Exercises/120) * 0.25)) + ((Sum of Four Exams /200)*0.60)) + ((Class work and homework/50) *0.15))*100

Grade Distribution:

95 – 100 A 87 – 89.4 B+ 80 – 82.4 B- 73 – 76.4 C 67 – 69.4 D+ 60 – 59.4 F
 90 – 94.4 A- 83 – 86.4 B 77 – 79.4 C+ 70 – 72.4 C- 60 – 66.4 D

DROPPING A COURSE: A course may be dropped without a designated grade through the last day to register or add a course (see below for exact dates). From that date through the 11th week, a grade of W is assigned. After the 11th week, a grade of F is assigned. Discontinuance of attendance does not automatically constitute a withdrawal. Students failing to file a proper drop/add form by the appropriate deadline must complete classes for which they are registered or receive a grade of F.

Last day to drop without a grade for Spring 2015 is Friday, January 16.

Last day to drop and receive a "W" for Spring 2015 is Thursday, April 2.

INCOMPLETE GRADE: All course work is to be completed within the semester it is attempted. If an emergency prevents a student from completing some portion of the required assignments, an instructor may give an 'I' or incomplete grade only if the following circumstances are met:

1. The student's other work in the course would earn a passing grade.
2. The outstanding task can be completed without further class attendance.

Outstanding course work normally should be completed within six weeks of the class ending, but the instructor may allow up to one year from the end of the term for which the "I" grade is granted. It is the student's responsibility to remove this deficiency from their record within the agreed-upon period or within one year, whichever is less. (Registering for a course a second time does not remove an incomplete grade.) If the instructor has not submitted a grade change after the grace period, the registrar is authorized to change all grades of I to F.

COURSE CALENDAR

Date	Topic in Domjan & (Exercise)	Date	Topic in Domjan & (Exercise)
1/13	Definition of Learning Historical Antecedents	3/7-3/15	SPRING BREAK
1/15	Dawn of Modern Era, Methodology Use of Nonhuman Animals	3/17	Associative Structure of Instrumental Conditioning, Behavioral Regulation
1/16	Last Day to Register/Add Courses and Drop without a 'W'	3/19	Identification & Measurement of Stimulus Control: Factors too!
1/19	MLK Jr. Day	3/24	Learning Factors in Stimulus Control Contextual & Cond. Relations (E7)
1/20	Elicited Behavior (E1) Effects of Repeated Stimulation	3/26	Extinction & Original Learning Enhanced Extinction, What Is Learned In Extinction? Resistance to change (E8)
1/22	Dual Process Theory Habituation Sensitization Extensions of Emotions & Motivated Behavior	3/31	REVIEW/ New Findings (E9)
1/27	Classical Conditioning, Experimental Situations (E2)	4/2	Exam 3 Chapters 7, 8, 9
1/29	Excitatory & Inhibitory Pavlovian Conditioning Procedures	4/2	LAST DAY TO DROP WITH A 'W'
2/3	REVIEW/ New Findings (E3)	4/3-4/5	EASTER BREAK
2/5	EXAM 1 Chapters 1, 2, 3	4/7	Avoidance Behavior, Punishment Crick Lecture Wednesday, 4/8 4:00pm
2/10	Effective Conditioned and Unconditioned Stimuli	4/9	What is Comparative Cognition? Animal Memory Paradigms (E10)
Crick Lecture Wednesday, 2/11 4:00pm		4/14	Memory Mechanisms, Forgetting
2/12	Nature of Conditioned Response	4/16	Food Catching & Recovery, Timing, Serial Pattern Learning (E11)
2/17	Association of Conditioned and Unconditioned Stimuli	4/21	Categorization & Concept Learning Tool Use & Language Learning in Nonhuman Animals
2/19	Instrumental Conditioning Found. (E4)	4/23	Educational Neuroscience
2/24	Simple Schedules of Intermittent Reinforcement	4/28	REVIEW/ New Findings (E12)
2/26	Choice Behavior: Concurrent Schedules, Complex Choice (E5)	4/29	READING/ STUDY DAY
3/3	REVIEW/ New Findings (E6)	4/30	11:00 AM EXAM 4 Chapters 10,11,12
3/5	EXAM 2 Chapters 4, 5, 6		

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: It is the policy of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Written notification to faculty from the Office of Counseling and Health Education is required for any academic accommodations. If you are eligible to receive and accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please discuss it with me and allow two-week notice. Otherwise, it is not guaranteed that the accommodation can be received on a timely basis. If you have questions about services for students with disabilities or procedures for requesting services, you may contact the Office of Counseling and Health Education at 488-2663.