Psychology B344-Learning (Goodlett)
Class Number 10472; 9:00-10:15 PM, MW, LD 030
Syllabus Dated 8/20/2012

Text: Domjan’s *The Principles of Learning and Behavior*, 6th Edition

Grading: Your grade will be based upon the following
Three in-class exams (100 points each)
Final exam (150 points)
Four online quizzes (15 points each)
Short paper (30 points)

Attendance: You are strongly encouraged to attend class, because material in this course is complex and can be difficult. Exams will be based on information presented in the text as well as any additional information and concepts presented only in class. ONLY A DOCTOR’S NOTE will suffice as a valid excuse to miss an exam.

Office Hours: LD 126H; I will have office hours for 45 minutes after each class (M,W 10:15-11:00). My preferential communication is email at goodlett@iupui.edu; office phone is 274-6772

Schedule:
Aug. 20-22: Class Organization; Introduction Chapt. 1
Aug. 27-29: Habituation; Sensitization Chapt. 2
Sept 3: Labor Day (no class)
Sept 5: Foundations of Classical Conditioning Chapt. 3
Sept 10-12: Foundations of Classical Conditioning; Review Chapt. 3 (Quiz 1)
Sept 17: **Exam 1**
Sept 19: Mechanisms of Classical Conditioning Chapt. 4
Sept 24-26: Classical Conditioning; Instrumental Conditioning Chapt. 4,5 (Quiz 2)
Oct 1-3: Instrumental Conditioning; Schedules of Reinforcement Chapt. 5,6
Oct 8: Schedules of Reinforcement; Review Chapt. 6 (Quiz 3)
**Oct 10:** Exam 2
Oct 15: Fall Break (no class)
Oct 17: Motivational Mechanisms Chapt. 7
Oct 22-24: Motivational Mechanisms, Stimulus Control Chapt. 7,8
Oct 29-31: Stimulus Control, Extinction Chapt. 8,9 (Quiz 4)
Nov 5-7: Extinction; Review Chapt. 9
**Nov 12** Exam 3
Nov 14: Avoidance & Punishment Chapt. 10
Nov 19: Avoidance & Punishment Chapt. 10
Nov 21: Thanksgiving break (no class)
Nov 26-28: Memory Mechanisms Chapt. 11
Dec 3-5: Special Topics Chapt. 12
Dec 10: Review
**Dec 12 (Wed):** Final, 8:00-10:00AM

Other Dates to Keep in Mind:
Oct 12: Last day to receive an automatic W with advisor, but no instructor signature.
Nov 13: Last day to withdraw with grade of W or F

Please: In consideration of your fellow students, silence or turn off your cell phones when you get to class. No instant messaging permitted! For exams, please turn off cell phones completely, even the vibration setting can be distracting. Use computers for class activities only (without earbuds).
Overview of the Course
This class focuses on basic learning principles, and the vast majority of the information we’ll cover is taken from experiments with animals. This course is not easy, but I hope you will find it useful in any future you have in psychology. Conditioning and Learning is one of the oldest disciplines in psychology, and is a knowledge base that serves whether you plan to work with humans or animals, in careers ranging from counseling to neuroscience. If you master this material, you will not only understand the mechanisms of behavior better, but you will gain extensive experience in thinking about how to design and interpret the results of experiments. At the end, if you master this material, you’ll not only know what psychologists know about learning, you’ll know how it is that they’ve come to know that.

Reading
You are strongly advised to read the relevant chapters before coming to class, so that you may better follow the lectures. At the beginning of each class, I’ll announce which chapter you need to read prior to the next class. Largely, we will follow the textbook in order.

Vocabulary
One of the difficulties of the course is the amount of vocabulary: there are many terms to remember. Because these terms for the basis for discussing important concepts, you should attempt to memorize the terms as you read the chapters. Your text assists you in this by introducing new terms in bold text, and defining the bolded terms in a section entitled “Key Terms” at the end of each chapter. It is safe to assume that exams will be composed partly of questions (multiple choice and short answer) that are aimed at assessing whether you know these terms. You therefore might consider making flash cards that you can use to help learn these terms.

Concept, Theory, and Data
In this class, you’ll be learning many theories that will help you organize information from experiments that we discuss. You will probably be exposed to more experimental results, often graphically presented, than in any other psychology class. Often, these experiments will have complicated experimental designs that go far beyond “experimental” and “control” groups. By understanding the relationship between the concept or theory that each experiment teaches and the results of that experiment, you can excel in this class.

Paper Topic
The 3-5 page paper will be about setting up a plan to choose a behavior you want to encourage or discourage in a friend (animal or otherwise) or yourself, and documenting how your plan changed the frequency of the desired/undesired behavior. Partly, it serves as a way to review the material that will be covered in Exam 2. We will discuss the paper more as the time approaches.

Exams
The exams in this course will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and short essay. These exams will assess your ability to

- Understand the vocabulary
- Remember the concepts
- Remember the experimental designs, and how their results support or reject particular theories.

ONCOURSE is a primary tool for the course It will be populated with the syllabus, slides, handouts, questions, announcements, etc. and I will be posting things weekly, if not daily. The gradebook will be used, and I will communicate with the class (individually and collectively) through the ONCOURSE Email system.