

**YORK UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
PSYCHOLOGY 2210 3.0M: LEARNING
WINTER TERM, 2012**

Tuesdays, 2:30 - 5:30 p.m.

SLH-F

Course Director: Dr. Tony Nield

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Prerequisite: A grade of at least a 'C' in Psychology 1010 -- or its approved equivalent.

Text: Mazur, J. (2006). *Learning & Behavior* (6th ed). Upper Saddle River, NJ. Pearson

Tentative Schedule

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Topic</i> | <i>Chapter</i> |
|-------------|--|----------------|
| Jan. 3 | Introduction/Simple Ideas, Simple Associations | 1/2 |
| 10 | Innate Behaviour Patterns/Habituation/Basic Principles of Classical Conditioning | 3/4 |
| 17 | Classical Conditioning -- Theories and Research | 4/5 |
| 24 | Operant/Instrumental Cond./Reinforcement Schedules | 5/6 |
| 31 | Operant/Instrumental Conditioning: Foundations/Reinforcement Schedules | 6/7 |
| Feb 7 | TEST I | |
| 14 | Avoidance & Punishment | 8 |
| 21 | Reading Week | |
| Mar 28 | Theories and Research in Operant Conditioning/Stimulus Control | 9/10 |
| 6* | Stimulus Control & Concept formation/Comparative Cognition | 10/11 |
| 13 | Comparative Cognition | 11 |
| 20 | Learning by Observation/Motor Skills | 12/13 |
| 27 | Choice Behaviour | 14 |

FINAL EXAMINATION

(scheduled somewhere during the final exam period -- April 4 - 20)

* March 9 is the last date to drop the course without academic penalty

Evaluation: Your overall grade will be based on your performance on two tests, made up of multiple-choice, definition and short essay questions. Your best test will provide 55% of your mark and your worst test 45%.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tests

On the tests, you are responsible for all available material from the text and the lectures. You should have a "buddy" in the class so that you can exchange missed material. Be sure to check your grade on the mid-term test as soon as it is available. If you did poorly, and you don't know what went wrong, come and see us. You will need to consider the advisability of dropping the course by the official drop date.

The only acceptable reason for missing a test is a documented illness or emergency. Documentation must state the date of the illness or emergency AND the duration of the problems caused by it. We may confirm the documentation by contacting the provider. Failure to provide documentation may result in an 'F' on the missed test. If you miss a test, contact the Course Director or the TA within 24 hours of the test. If you don't contact us within that time, you must provide a legitimate reason for the delay. If there is a conflict with a test or exam due to religious observance, we must be informed no less than three weeks before the exam.

Each test will be 150 minutes long. If you come to a test feeling ill, do not write it without consulting us. If you start the test, you can not take a make-up test later.

Academic Honesty

In this course, there are two tests, so "honesty" requires that you do your own work and do not receive unauthorized assistance from friends or neighbours, and don't provide assistance to friends or neighbours -- you could both get into trouble. Information about general issues of Academic honesty (Integrity) can be found at: <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.htm>.

Bad Weather -- or Strikes

I will meet my classes unless York is officially closed -- or I am ill. If York closes on the day of the last meeting before a test, or on the day of a scheduled test, the test will be held one class later. Otherwise tests will be held as scheduled.

If you want to know if the University is closed, call 736-5600, or the main switchboard at 736-2100, or check local radio or television stations. Information can also be found on the York Web site:
<http://www.yorku.ca>

If you live out of town, and weather conditions make it dangerous for you to come to class, don't come. This would be a good time use your "buddy" to take notes.

If there is a strike, I will normally come to class unless York is closed, and you will be responsible for keeping up with your scheduled readings, or assignments. The class schedule will be revised by the University as appropriate.

If you hear of a potential strike, ask about your instructors' plans. If you don't know what they will do, go to class, or check with the instructor, the TA, or the instructor's secretary. General offices and information lines tend to give general information without regard to the specific course.

Assume nothing -- Union handouts and media reports are often unreliable. Every strike is unique in some way, so it is impossible to be completely clear as to how things will play out. Tests and Examinations may be held as scheduled during an ongoing strike -- for those who want to get them out of the way.