

Learning & Memory

(PSY433/533, section 17783)



Fall 2012

Class Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00-5:20pm

Class Venue: McKenzie Hall (MCK) 229

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| Instructor: Monique A. R. Udell, Ph. D. Office: Straub 326 Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-3:30pm Email: mudell@uoregon.edu **Note: the best way to reach me (outside of class or office hours) is by email** | TA: Jordan Livingston Office: Straub 429 Office Hours: Monday 1:00-3:00pm & Wednesday 11:00am-Noon Email: jlivings@uoregon.edu |
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****Please put L&M in the subject line of all class related emails****

Just as you have other courses, so do we. This will help avoid confusion. Thanks!

We will be using Blackboard in this course. To access our course page visit:

<https://blackboard.uoregon.edu/>

Once you “Login” you should be able to locate our course page. Materials such as the syllabus, readings, grades and announcements will be posted here throughout the course.

Overview

Learning & Memory is an introduction to the scientific study of learning, behavior and memory- and perhaps most importantly, the intersection where all three meet. Throughout the semester we will address basic assumptions, principles, methods, and research that have defined these fields both historically and in recent times. We will discuss theoretical and practical questions related to learning and memory, and students will have the opportunity to talk about and apply basic principles directly through hands-on activities and assignments. There will be a fair amount of reading assigned in this course (both book chapters and scientific articles); students should expect to read between 50-100 pages a week in preparation for class. Regular attendance will also be important, as a portion of this course centers on class participation.

Course Requirements

In this class you will be required to:

- 1). Attend every class prepared to discuss the reading. Reading assignments should be completed **before** the class period they appear next to on the course schedule, you will be asked to participate in discussions and answer questions based on this material in class. Occasional quizzes may be given. Regular attendance is mandatory.
- 2). Take 2 in-class exams + 1 cumulative final
- 3). Complete assignments, mini-labs, and fulfill participation requirements (see 'Assessment')

Texts

The following texts are required for the course:

Introduction to Learning and Behavior
(4th Edition)

ISBN: 9781111834302

Authors: Powell, Honey, Symbaluk

Edition: Fourth

Publisher: Wadsworth

Don't Shoot the Dog

ISBN: 9780553380392

Author: Pryor

Edition: Revised (1999)

Publisher: Bantam Books

(used copies can be found for just a few dollars online)

In addition to the UO bookstore, new and used copies of these books are also sold through online stores (e.g. Amazon.com) often at a discount. If you order books online, be sure to do so well in advance, reading begins during week 1.

Other required materials:

1. A training notebook (an inexpensive spiral notebook will do)
2. A animal training clicker (you can obtain one for about \$1 at petsmart, petco, ect.)

Examinable material

In addition to **both** the assigned textbook chapters and lecture material, assigned articles and key aspects of class discussions could appear on an exam. It is your responsibility to attend class to make sure you have the relevant material and are up to date on any changes made to the course schedule.

Assessment

- 1). **2 In-class Exams** worth 20% each (60% total final grade)
- 2). **Cumulative Final Exam** worth 20%
- 3). **Conditioning Assignment** (20% final grade)- Details will be discussed in class & posted on blackboard
- 4). **Class Participation:** attendance, discussions, quizzes & other assignments (20% final grade)
Attending lectures will improve your understanding of course material and help prepare you for exams, however this class will also included a graded participation component. Scheduled participation days are designated with a (P) on your course schedule. On these days attendance will be taken and in-class assignments, labs, or other graded activities are likely (however assessments or activities may occur on other days as well). Your presence and participation on these days will contribute to your final grade. Participation days/activities cannot be made up.

Instructions for completing assignments and essays will be discussed in class. For out-of-class assignments basic instructions will also be posted on Blackboard. Due dates are listed on the syllabus. Late assignments will not be accepted.

If you are unable to attend an Exam for a reason beyond your control¹ you will need to make contact with me **before or within 24 hours** of the missed exam by emailing me at mudell@uoregon.edu so we can make an appointment to see the documentary evidence for your incapacity (this is usually a note from your physician or the dean of your college). If appropriate, we will then arrange a makeup exam. You do not need to contact me for a missed lecture, but it is your responsibility to obtain the notes or material from classes you miss. This is true even if your absence is excused. If you know or have reason to believe that you will miss more than 2 participation (P) class days (even for excusable reasons) during the semester please see me during the first week of class, as it may be difficult for you to meet the participation requirements for this course.

Graduate Students

While the basic course requirements will be much the same for all students in the course, some assignments or exam components might be adjusted to assess graduate level understanding of the concepts covered in this course. I will inform you when different instructions apply. However, all work and participation by graduate students is expected to reflect the additional experience and knowledge acquired during the course of your education, and should serve to enrich the classroom environment. You are not only welcome, but encouraged, to bring your unique perspectives and relevant research experiences to the table in class discussions and activities.

Grading

Your grade is determined by your total percentage score.

| <u>Percentiles</u> | <u>Grade</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 90 or above | A |
| 87-89 | A- |
| 84-86 | B+ |
| 80-83 | B |
| 77-79 | B- |
| 74-76 | C+ |
| 70-73 | C |
| 67-69 | C- |
| 64-66 | D+ |
| 60-63 | D |
| 56-59 | D- |
| 55 or below | F |

The good news is – these grades are firm – everybody in the class can get an A grade (and I hope you do). The bad news is – these grades are firm – if you score just one point below the cutoff then you will get the lower grade.

It is *your* responsibility to check your grades on Blackboard often (**logging in once or twice a week will allow you to keep up with your grades and class announcements/ updates and is strongly recommended**).

If you believe an error has been made or if you are missing a score for an assignment, test, or participation day once grades have been posted, let me know of the situation by email as soon as possible (ideally within a week, but no later than the day of the next scheduled exam).

¹ It is 'beyond your control' if you are sick, have an accident, or a member of your family is taken seriously ill and you have to rush home. It is not 'beyond your control' if you oversleep, forget, or just have something more attractive to do. Students representing the university in sporting or cultural events may also request permission to makeup an exam if the event clashes with a regularly assigned date (requires week advanced notice and documentation from event's coach or director on appropriate letterhead).

University Policy Regarding Students with Special Needs

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please arrange to meet with me soon. Please also request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send me a letter verifying the appropriate accommodations.

Honor Code

I have rarely encountered cheating in my courses, however it is important that you understand that I am not willing to give a passing grade to those do not abide by the UOregon honor code. Any student who cheats, or helps another student cheat, risks receiving an **F** in the course.

This includes plagiarism. You cannot use another's material word-for-word or reuse another's ideas in any written assignment without specifically acknowledging that you are quoting or referencing the work of a specific author. Excessive quotes are typically considered inappropriate and could result in point loss (so put the knowledge you gain into your own words when possible). An important rule of thumb: If you got an idea from a source, even if you use your own wording, you still need to reference the source.

| TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE ** | | |
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| Date | Topic | Reading |
| Tues 9-25 | Welcome & Introduction | Syllabus (Read carefully) Powell Ch 1&2 Optional (but helpful) |
| Thurs 9-27 | Three levels of selection: Biology, Behavior, and Culture | DSTD (Don't Shoot the Dog)- Read Forward |
| Tues 10-2 | Classical Conditioning | Powell Ch 3 & 4 |
| Thurs 10-4 | (P) Levels of analysis & interpretation- activity & discussion | Assigned Articles: Darwin & Skinner Selection by consequences (Read carefully & take notes before class) |
| Tues 10-9 | Operant Conditioning & Schedules | Powell Ch 6 & DSTD Ch. 1 (Powell Pages 270-292 Schedules- optional) |
| Thurs 10-11 | (P) Operant Conditioning Lab | DSTD Ch. 2 **Bring Training Clicker to Class** |
| Tues 10-16 | Operant Extinction | Powell Ch. 8 (Pages 309-320 only) |
| Thurs 10-18 | EXAM 1 | <i>Covers all material from September 25th - October 16th</i> |

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| Tues 10-23 | (P) Training in practice | DSTD Ch 3 |
| Thurs 10-25 | (P) Stimulus Control | Powell (Ch. 8, Pages 321-343 only) *Shaping Plans Due In Class- bring two identical printed copies* |
| Tues 10-30 | Aversive Control | Powell Ch. 9 |
| Thurs 11-1 | Aversive Control & Alternatives | DSTD Ch. 4 |
| Tues 11-6 | Biological Dispositions in Learning | Powell Ch.12 & Assigned Articles** (see: Blackboard – ‘Course Documents’): 1. Breland-Misbehavior 2. Peterson-Imprinting |
| Thurs 11-8 | EXAM 2 | <i>Covers all material from October 23rd - November 6th</i> |
| Tues 11-13 | Complex & Rule Governed Behavior | Powell Ch. 11 |
| <i>"Whenever the behaviour of an animal in the present shows the influence of events in the past, memory of some kind must be implicated" -Wynne, 'Animal Cognition', 2001</i> | | |
| Thurs 11-15 | (P) Memory- an overview | Conditioning Assignment: Essay & Revised Shaping Plan Due (see instructions) |
| Tues 11-20 | (P) Memory | See Blackboard for assigned reading (TBA) |
| Thurs 11-22 | Thanksgiving Break | No Class |
| Tues 11-27 | (P) Memory | See Blackboard for assigned reading (TBA) |
| Thurs 11-29 | Learning & Memory: Wrap-up | See Blackboard for assigned reading (TBA) |
| Thurs 12-6 | Cumulative Final Exam, Noon-2:00pm (normal classroom) | |

****Important notes:** This is a working syllabus, dates & topics may change at the discretion of the instructor; any changes will be announced in class. **Non-textbook readings can be found on Blackboard unless otherwise specified in class.**