



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

# PSY 298 Fundamentals of Learning and Behavior

Fall 2023

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course uses examples derived from both animals and humans to vividly illustrate the relevance of behavioral principles in comprehending and impacting human behavior. The course will cover the fundamental concepts, research methods, and applications of learning in psychology. Topics include classical conditioning, operant conditioning, observational learning, cognitive theories of learning, and the application of learning principles to real-world contexts. Students will develop a comprehensive understanding of the processes involved in learning and the factors that influence behavior.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Describe and differentiate between classical conditioning and operant conditioning
2. Understand the principles of observational learning and cognitive theories of learning
3. Analyze research studies and evaluate their contributions to the field of learning
4. Describe and explain the major theories and principles of learning
5. Apply learning principles to real-world situations and contexts

## **PREREQUISITES**

N/A

## **GRADING**



Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
Quizzes	20 Points
Midterm 1	15 Points
Midterm 2	15 Points
Assignments	20 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### Required Texts:

Russell A. Powell; P. Lynne Honey; Diane G. Symbaluk, *Introduction to Learning and Behavior*, 6th Edition, Cengage Learning, 2023.

### Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

## COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: Five Schools of Behaviorism Topic 2: Research Methods Topic 3: Elicited Behaviors and Classical Conditionin Topic 4: Simple Mechanisms of Learning <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz#1



Module 2	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: Classical Conditioning: Basic Phenomena and Various Complexities Topic 6: Three Extensions to Classical Conditioning Topic 7: Classical Conditioning: Underlying Processes and Practical Applications Topic 8: Operant Conditioning: Introduction</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Quiz#2 Assignment#1</p>
Module 3	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: Positive Reinforcement: Further Distinctions Topic 10: Schedules and Theories of Reinforcement Topic 11: Extinction and Stimulus Control Topic 12: Stimulus Control</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Midterm#1 Assignment#2</p>
Module 4	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: Escape, Avoidance, and Punishment Topic 14: Punishment Topic 15: Choice, Matching, and Self-Control Topic 16: Observational Learning and Rule-Governed Behavior</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Midterm#2</p>
Module 5	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 17: Rule-Governed Behavior Topic 18: Biological Dispositions in Learning Topic 19: Behavior Systems Theory Topic 20: Comparative Cognition</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Final Exam</p>

## ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning



and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

### **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

---

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

### **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

---

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

---

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.