



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

# PSY 318 Learning & Behavior

Winter 2024

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course delves into the fundamental principles of learning and behavior, exploring their application in both human and animal contexts. Students will investigate classical and operant conditioning theories, examining how reinforcement schedules, extinction, and stimulus control shape behavior. Additionally, the course explores observational learning and its real-world applications. Throughout, students will gain insights into the practical implications of learning theories in various scenarios, fostering a comprehensive understanding of behavior dynamics.

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

1. Critically analyse major theories and debates within classic and modern learning theories;
2. Learn to identify the adaptive mechanisms produced by natural selection that govern individual and social behavior;
3. Apply knowledge of learning principles to processes such as memory, attention, extinction, habituation, delayed gratification, punishment and avoidance;
4. Evaluate theories of learning and relate these theories to everyday life and society.

## **PREREQUISITES**

PSY 100 Introduction to Psychology

## **GRADING**

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the



maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
2 Assignments	20 Points
2 Quizzes	20 Points
Term Paper	20 Points
Midterm Exam	15 Points
Final Exam	25 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:**

*The Principles of Learning and Behavior*, 6th edition, M. Domjan.

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

Supplemental readings might be included to illustrate or expand on textbook readings.

## COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	Topics: Topic 1: Background and Rationale for the Study of Learning and Behavior Topic 2: The Nature of Elicited Behavior Topic 3: The Dual-Process Theory of Habituation and Sensitization Topic 4: Habituation and Sensitization of Emotions and Motivated Behavior Assessments: Assignment #1



Module 2	Topics: Topic 5: Basic Principles of Classical Conditioning Topic 6: Theories and Research on Classical Conditioning Topic 7: Fundamental Elements of Instrumental Conditioning Topic 8: Modern Approaches to the Study of Instrumental Conditioning Assessments: Quiz #1
Module 3	Topics: Topic 9: Basic Principles of Operant Conditioning Topic 10: Reinforcement Schedules: Experimental Analyses and Applications Topic 11: Avoidance and Punishment Topic 12: Theories and Research on Operant Conditioning Assessments: Assignment #2 Midterm Exam
Module 4	Topics: Topic 13: Simple Schedules of Intermittent Reinforcement Topic 14: Complex Choice and Self-Control Topic 15: Instrumental Conditioning: Motivational Mechanisms Topic 16: Stimulus Control of Behavior Assessments: Quiz #2
Module 5	Topics: Topic 17: Extinction of Conditioned Behavior Topic 18: Aversive Control: Avoidance and Punishment Topic 19: Memory Mechanisms Topic 20: Comparative Cognition Assessments: Term Paper Final Exam

## **ATTENDANCE**

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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.

### **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**



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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.