

PSY 337: Learning

Course Syllabus

Lecture	MWF 1:20-2:30pm	SC 127
Lab	Tu 10:00-11:45am	SC 127

COURSE INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Mary Saczawa

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Office Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays 12:00-2:00pm or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an in-depth review of the principles of learning and behavior. You will learn the fundamental theories of learning as well as their application to human and non-human behavior. Throughout the course is an emphasis on the scientific process by which these theories are developed, tested, and modified. This course is designed to be complementary to Cognitive Psychology (PSY333), and as such we will not go in-depth into memory processes.

COURSE MATERIALS

Introduction to Learning and Behavior (6th ed.) by Powell, Honey, & Symbaluk

COURSE WEBPAGE

This course will rely heavily on material posted in Moodle (<https://moodle.hanover.edu>) including written assignments, readings, exams, and lecture slides. There is also a Q&A board where you can ask questions about concepts, assignments, or the course in general. You are also expected to check your **Hanover email account** regularly. Regardless of whether or not you read the emails, you are responsible for their content.

GRADING

EXAMS (20%)

There will be two exams, each worth 10% of your final grade. Exams will be primarily short answer/essay but may include some multiple choice or fill-in-the-blank and will cover content from both the text and lectures. The exams are open-book and open-notes and will take place in-person.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS (10%)

You will have several written assignments that will get you thinking about how learning and behavior are applied in real life. You will review the portrayal of behavior modification on television, evaluate a documentary about social learning in non-human primates, and even design your own behavior modification protocol. Details for each of these assignments will be posted in Moodle.

IN-CLASS DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIVITIES (20%)

Behaviorism is one of the most applied areas of psychology. As such, you will periodically read articles about how conditioning concepts are used in the real world. We will discuss these articles in class, including evaluating the theoretical backing and the methods used as well as how they might be applied more broadly. We will also have regular in-class activities meant to help you apply the theories presented in the readings.

LABS (40%)

This course includes a live rat laboratory that is designed to solidify your understanding of the concepts we cover in the lectures and to introduce you to the scientific methods of behaviorism. Each of these labs will include a written assignment, though not all will be a full research report. As with all 300-level Psychology courses at Hanover, you will also design, conduct, and report on an experiment of your own. For this project, you will apply conditioning techniques to teach your rat to do a complex trick. This can be completing a maze, discriminating between various stimuli, standing up and spinning in a circle, etc. You will present the results of your experiment to the class during the last lab session, and a final APA-style paper detailing your experiment will be due on the last day of the semester.

GRADING SCALE

A = 100 – 94%; A- = 90 – 93.9%; B+ = 87 – 89.9%; B = 83 – 86.9%; B- = 80 – 82.9%; C+ = 77 – 79.9%; C = 73– 76.9%; C- = 70 – 72.9%; D+ = 67 – 69.9%; D = 63 – 66.9%; D- = 60 – 62.9%; F = <60.0%

COURSE POLICIES

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Written assignments are due by 11:59pm the date listed. Extensions may be granted for College-approved reasons that include proper documentation. Extension requests should be made before the deadline or within 24 hours (for unexpected emergencies). Late assignments without an approved extension will be penalized 10% for each day late. Assignments submitted more than one week after the deadline but before the last day of class will receive a 75% penalty.

RESUBMISSION AND GRADE DISPUTES

I have found that the best way to get students to read the feedback I give them on assignments is to give them the chance to get some of the points back. For that reason, all written assignments can be resubmitted for a higher grade. They must be resubmitted within one week of the grade being posted, but they can be resubmitted an unlimited number of times until you get a perfect score (as long as it is returned within one week of each updated grade being posted). All resubmissions must be received before 5pm on April 14. This means that if you want a chance to resubmit your final paper, you will need to submit it at least four days (to give me time to grade it) before the actual deadline.

If you want to dispute an exam question, you should write a short paragraph explaining the dispute and why your answer was correct, including page numbers and/or lecture slides that support your answer.

REFERENCE FORMAT

Since this is a psychology class, you will be required to use APA format for all of your papers. APA format is frequently used outside of psychology, so even if you are not going to be a psychology major, this is unlikely to be the last time you will use it. The APA format assignment will provide an introduction to the style, and you should continue to use it in all of the other papers for this course. For tips on APA format, please see <https://tinyurl.com/saczawa>. You can always get help with your research at the library. Reference librarians will help you find information on a topic, develop search strategies for papers and projects, search library catalogs and databases, and provide assistance at every step. Drop-ins and appointments are both welcome. Visit <http://libguides.hanover.edu/psychology> for information specific to psychology.

STUDENTS IN DISTRESS

Your success in this course and throughout your college career depends heavily on your personal health and wellbeing. Stress is a common part of the college experience, and it often can be compounded by unexpected life changes outside the classroom. Your other professors and I strongly encourage you to take care of yourself throughout the term before the demands of midterms and finals reach their peak. Before circumstances and conditions become overwhelming, please don't hesitate to speak with me about any difficulty you may be having that may affect your academic performance. Please know as well that there are several support services on campus available to assist you, as needed. You can make appointments with Health Services by calling x-6102. Appointments for Counseling Services can be made online at any time through MyHanover.

HANOVER COLLEGE POLICIES

HONOR CODE

As stated in the Hanover College Principles, students, faculty, staff, and trustees of Hanover College seek to promote academic, personal, and moral growth within a safe, challenging, and responsive community. This includes a commitment to academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity have a broad impact on the College and will result in College review and action.

Academic dishonesty includes any action with the intent to deceive in order to obtain an unfair advantage, as well as any act of aiding and abetting academic dishonesty. The Hanover College statement on academic dishonesty may be found in the Catalog and in the Student Handbook. Any given instance of academic dishonesty is dealt with by the instructor of the course in which it occurs. All instances of academic dishonesty are reported to the chair of the Student Academic Assistance Committee, and repeated instances of academic dishonesty will subject a student to additional penalties up to and including dismissal from the College as outlined in the College Catalog.

NONDISCRIMINATION

Hanover College is committed to providing equal access to its educational programs, activities, and facilities to all otherwise qualified students without discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other category protected by applicable state or federal law. An Equal Opportunity employer, the College also affirms its commitment to nondiscrimination in its employment policies and practices. In compliance with Title IX (20 U.S.C Sec. 1681 et seq.) Hanover College prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. For student related disability discrimination concerns, contact the Gladish Center for Teaching and Learning at 812-866-6840. For other discrimination complaints, including any arising under Title IX, contact the Title IX Coordinator at 812-866-6740 or the Deputy Title IX Coordinator at 812-866-7097.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

All students, faculty and staff must adhere to current safety protocols established by the College. These are subject to change depending on present conditions and guidance from local and national health officials. In classrooms and offices, these requirements may include and are not limited to face coverings and social distancing. Frequent hand washing and general good hygiene should be observed at all times.

If you develop COVID-19 symptoms and/or if you have been exposed to illness by contact with someone who has tested positive or been presumed positive, do not come to class. Contact Health Services (812-866-7082) or PantherHealth via phone or email. As in any situation that keeps you from attending class, contact your instructor as soon as possible about your absence.

For complete and updated information about all health and safety requirements, consult the College's COVID-19 Information website.

DISABILITIES

Hanover College offers accessibility services to students with documented physical, visual, hearing, learning, or psychiatric disabilities. Any Hanover student is eligible for special services or accommodations if: 1) The student self-identifies that he or she has a disability and needs accommodation; 2) The student provides appropriate and verifiable documentation of the disability; and 3) The student provides notification in a timely fashion. For accessibility services, Email Accessibility Services or call 812-866-6844. The Accessibility Services (AS) office is in the Gladish Center for Teaching and Learning on the first floor of Duggan Library.

Date	Lecture	Reading(s)
8-Jan	Introduction & Course Overview	
10-Jan	Behaviorism	Ch. 1
12-Jan	Research methods	2.1, 2.3
15-Jan	MLK Day—No Classes	
17-Jan	Small- <i>n</i> designs	Supplement
19-Jan	Quantifying data	2.2
22-Jan	Research practice	----
24-Jan	Human ethics	Supplement
26-Jan	Non-human ethics	2.4
29-Jan	Instinctual behavior	3.1, 3.2
31-Jan	Classical conditioning – basic concepts	3.3, 4.1
2-Feb	More classical conditioning	4.2, 4.3
5-Feb	Theories	5.1
7-Feb	Applied classical conditioning	5.2, supplement
9-Feb	Catchup/neuroscience of classical conditioning	Supplement
12-Feb	Operant conditioning – basic concepts	6.1 – 6.3
14-Feb	Reinforcers and shaping	6.4
Midterm Exam: Feb 14-16		
16-Feb	Reinforcement schedules	7.1
19-Feb	Theories of reinforcement	7.2
21-Feb	Extinction	8.1
23-Feb	Stimulus control	8.2
26-Feb	Winter Break – No Class	
28-Feb	Winter Break – No Class	
1-Mar	Winter Break – No Class	
4-Mar	Stimulus control	8.2, 12.1
6-Mar	Escape & avoidance learning	9.1, 9.3
8-Mar	Punishment	9.2
11-Mar	Behavior modification	Appendix A
13-Mar	Ethics of ABA therapy	Articles
15-Mar	Choice behavior	10.1
Operant Conditioning in the Media Paper Due (3/17)		
18-Mar	Self-control	10.2
20-Mar	Motivation	Supplement
22-Mar	Rule-governed behavior	11.2
25-Mar	Executive dysfunction	Supplement
27-Mar	Executive dysfunction	Supplement
29-Mar	Social learning	11.1
Behavior Modification Protocol Presentation Due (3/31)		
1-Apr	Learning styles	TBD
3-Apr	TBD	TBD
5-Apr	Applied Behaviorism	TBD
8-Apr	Imitation	11.1
10-Apr	Non-human learning	Ch. 13
12-Apr	Non-human learning	Ch. 13
Ape Genius Reflection Due (4/14)		
Final Exam: Finals Week (TBD)		