GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 04/20/2021

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 05/18/2021

PSYCHOLOGY 220 - LEARNING

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

PSY 220 Learning 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture: 48-54 hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours 144-162 total hours

1. Course Prerequisites

A “C” grade or higher or “Pass” in Psychology 120 or equivalent.

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

1. Catalog Description

An examination of the basic principles and research in animal and human learning.

1. Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Identify and explain the principles that underlie learning and memory formation.
2. Identify and explain the general principles of how animals learn about their environment and then modify their behavior in response.
3. Describe and compare research methods in behavioral psychology.
4. Contrast habituation and sensitization.
5. Compare and provide examples of reflex and fixed action patterns.
6. Define and contrast different classical conditioning paradigms.
7. Identify and describe the variables that affect the rate and strength of classical conditioning.
8. Identify examples of contingency and contiguity in classical conditioning and operant conditioning. procedures.
9. Compare and contrast stimulus substitution theory and compensatory conditioned response theory.
10. Apply the principles of classical conditioning to aversion therapy, flooding and systematic. desensitization.
11. Describe, compare and give examples of operant procedures including positive and negative reinforcement, positive and negative punishment.
12. Analyze real life situations and identify operant procedures in effect.
13. Explain methods of shaping behavior using successive approximation.
14. Analyze real life situations and explain how observational learning is involved.
15. Identify and predict graphical patterns of behavior based on simple and complex schedules of reinforcement.
16. Compare characteristics of generalization and discrimination processes.
17. Plan applications of behavioral techniques to the modification of behavior problems.
18. Instructional Facilities

Standard Classroom

1. Special Materials Required of Student

None

1. Course Content
2. Scientific approach to the study of behavior.
3. Graphical presentation of data.
4. Classical and operant conditioning paradigms.
5. Classical conditioning principles including acquisition, extinction, spontaneous recovery, generalization, discrimination, higher order, sensory pre-conditioning, overshadowing, and blocking.
6. Operant conditioning principles including positive and negative reinforcement, positive and negative extinction, discrimination and stimulus control, generalization, shaping, secondary or conditioned reinforcers and punishers, and schedules of reinforcement.
7. Observational learning.
8. Applications of the psychology of learning to improve human behavior.
9. Application of principles of operant and classical conditioning in therapy.
10. Method of Instruction
    1. Lecture
    2. Group discussion
    3. Demonstrations
    4. Structured cooperative learning activities
11. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on student proficiency in the subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, at least one of which must be a written essay or written research report. Evaluation methods may include:

* 1. Three or more exams which will include both objective and essay questions.
  2. A comprehensive final examination including objective and essay questions.
  3. Essay questions will include prompts requiring demonstration of conceptual understanding, critical thought, and/or theoretical application.
  4. Research paper requiring the review of library, internet, and empirical research-based sources. The students must find three to five peer-reviewed research articles that discuss an aspect of human or animal learning covered in the textbook. In a five-page typed essay, the student must discuss the implications of the results of these peer-reviewed research studies and how the results make an impact on current knowledge within the field of psychology.
  5. Students are expected to write a minimum of 2,500 words as part of the writing requirement in the course.

1. Outside Class Assignments
2. Reading assignments from the text and journal articles.
3. Written assignments (essays, journals, or reports), which may include replies to discussion prompts, evaluations of supplementary material, and/or behavior modification reports. Students will be asked to write a short essay answering the following questions: If you were to design your own organism, which of its behaviors would you have be innate, and which learned? Why? Consider the environment(s) in which your organism would live.
4. Written assignment: Select a behavior to modify within yourself or another organism (within reasonable ethical considerations and with consent, where applicable). Specify the behavioral procedures you will employ in your efforts (e.g. operant shaping; contingent positive reinforcement delivered on an FR3 schedule), log your progress, and submit a written report with your results.
5. The student chooses a behavior of interest and find a scholarly article on the role of learning in that behavior. Write a two- to three-page paper that includes a discussion of the following: goal of study, summary of the procedure the researcher used to gather the data, discussion of the significant findings, and implications of the study.
6. Representative Texts

a. Representative Text(s):

* + - 1. Powell, R. P. Honey, D. Symbaluk. Introduction to *Learning and Behavior*. 5th Edition Cengage. 2018. ISBN 10:1305652940

2) Chance, P. *Learning and Behavior: Active Learning Edition*. 7th Edition (revised) Cengage, 2020.

3) Domjam, M. *The Principles of Learning and Behavior*. 7th Edition Thompson Wadsworth. 2014

* 1. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

Selected peer-reviewed journal articles

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to:

* 1. Discuss the theoretical framework of the behavioral mode**l**.
  2. Identify, explain and apply the major behavioral principles.
  3. Explain the general principles that underlie learning and memory formation.