

# PSYC\*2330, Course Outline: Fall 2020

## General Information

**\*\*\*DUE to the COVID-19 pandemic, this course is offered in an alternative format. Classes will be held online since almost all face-to-face offerings have been cancelled  
Alternative Delivery Asynchronous – AD-A Remote: no day and time for class\*\*\***

**Course Title: PSYC\*2330 Principles of Learning**

### **Course Description:**

This course provides a detailed description of principles and concepts of learning and motivation, as well as an introduction to their underlying neurobiological mechanisms. Through the examination of empirical evidence in the fields of Psychology and Behavioural Neuroscience, this course offers a comprehensive description of the role of conditioning in normal and abnormal behaviours.

**Credit Weight:** 0.5

**Academic Department (or campus):** Psychology

**Semester Offering:** Fall 2020

**Class Schedule and Location:** A number of PowerPoint lectures will be voice-over recorded for each unit and posted under the Lecture submodule for each unit. They will be posted prior to the beginning of each week and can be viewed at any point during the semester.

## Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Erin Rock

Instructor Email: [erock@uoguelph.ca](mailto:erock@uoguelph.ca)

Office location and office hours: Please contact me by email

### **Course Communication Policy**

Due to the large number of students in this course, my email is for **urgent communications only**. General questions (ie. course material, assignment guidelines, assignment grading inquiries etc.) should be posted to your designated GTA's Discussion Board on CourseLink or emailed directly to your GTA. **Your GTA is your first point of contact** for such questions.

Private questions should be emailed to your instructor. As a general rule, I will do my best to answer emails within 2 business days. The university expects you to check your U of Guelph email account regularly and us to use it to communicate with you.

## **GTA Information**

### **Students with Surnames A-Ci**

GTA Name: Allyson Andrade

GTA Email: aandra02@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: Contact by CourseLink Discussion board or email

### **Students with Surnames Cl-Go**

GTA Name: Nana Baidoo

GTA Email: nbaidoo@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: Contact by CourseLink Discussion board or email

### **Students with Surnames Gr-K**

GTA Name: Travis Francis

GTA Email: tfranc08@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: Contact by CourseLink Discussion board or email

### **Students with Surnames L-M**

GTA Name: Shelby McGraw

GTA Email: smcgraw@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: Contact by CourseLink Discussion board or email

### **Students with Surnames N-Sh**

GTA Name: Caitlin Nolan

GTA Email: cnolan05@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: Contact by CourseLink Discussion board or email

### **Students with Surnames Si-Z**

GTA Name: Christine Sexton

GTA Email: csexton@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: Contact by CourseLink Discussion board or email

## **Course Content**

### **Specific Learning Outcomes:**

1. Outline how the principles of learning fit into the field of Experimental Psychology and how research in the field of learning is conducted.
2. Explain the principles and major theories in Classical conditioning.
3. Outline the principles and major theories in Instrumental conditioning.
4. Assess the basic concepts of stimulus discrimination and generalization as the components contributing to stimulus control.
5. Explain extinction of conditioned behavior with a critical evaluation of the difference between memory elimination and new learning interfering with original learning.
6. Describe avoidance and punishment and how these types of Instrumental conditioning control behaviour.
7. Evaluate comparative cognition in various species of animals.
8. Spark an interest in understanding how we learn about our world.

**Lecture Content:**

A number of PowerPoint lectures are voice-over recorded for each unit and posted on the Lecture submodule for each unit. Each unit also has Knowledge Checks posted on CourseLink.

Date	Topic	Related Readings
Week 1 (Sept 10-20)	<b>Unit 1:</b> Background and Rationale for the Study of Learning and Behavior	Chapter 1
Week 2 (Sept 21-27)	<b>Unit 2:</b> Elicited Behavior, Habituation and Sensitization	Chapter 2
Week 2 (Sept 21-27)	<b>Online Quiz 1</b> (Units 1 & 2) Opens: Sept 21 Closes: 11:59 PM <b>Sept 27</b>	Chapters 1, 2
Week 2 (Sept 21-27)	<b>Written Assignment 1</b> Due by 11:59 PM <b>Sept 27</b>	
Week 3, 4 (Sept 28- Oct 09)	<b>Unit 3:</b> Classical Conditioning	Chapters 3, 4
Week 4 (Oct 05-Oct 09)	<b>Online Quiz 2</b> (Unit 3) Opens: Oct 05 Closes: 11:59 PM <b>Oct 09</b>	Chapters 3, 4
Week 5 <b>Oct 14</b>	<b>Midterm 1</b> (Units 1-3) Opens: 8 AM <b>Oct 14</b> Closes: 11:59 PM <b>Oct 14</b>	Chapters 1-4
Weeks 5, 6, 7 (Oct 14-Nov 01)	<b>Unit 4:</b> Instrumental Conditioning	Chapters 5, 6, 7
Week 7 (Oct 26-Nov 01)	<b>Online Quiz 3</b> (Unit 4) Opens: Oct 26 Closes: 11:59 PM <b>Nov 01</b>	Chapters 5, 6, 7
Week 7	<b>Written Assignment 2</b> Due by 11:59 PM <b>Nov 01</b>	
Week 8 (Nov 02-Nov 08)	<b>Unit 5:</b> Stimulus Control of Behavior	Chapter 8
Week 8 (Nov 02-Nov 08)	<b>Online Quiz 4</b> (Unit 5) Opens: Nov 02 Closes: 11:59 PM <b>Nov 08</b>	Chapter 8
Week 9 <b>Nov 09</b>	<b>Midterm 2</b> (Units 4, 5) Opens: 8 AM <b>Nov 09</b> Closes: 11:59 PM <b>Nov 09</b>	Chapters 5-8
Week 9 (Nov 09- Nov 15)	<b>Unit 6:</b> Extinction of Conditioned Behavior	Chapter 9
Week 10 (Nov 16- Nov 22)	<b>Unit 7:</b> Aversive Control: Avoidance and Punishment	Chapters 10
Week 11, 12 (Nov 23-Dec 04)	<b>Unit 8:</b> Comparative Cognition	Chapter 11
Week 12 (Nov 30-Dec 04)	<b>Online Quiz 5</b> (Unit 6, 7, 8) Opens: Nov 30 Closes: 11:59 PM <b>Dec 04</b>	Chapters 9, 10, 11
Week 12	<b>Opinion Poll Written Assignment</b> Due by 11:59 PM <b>Dec 04</b>	

## Course Assignments and Tests:

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Midterm 1	October 14, 2020 by 11:59 PM	20%	1-2
Midterm 2	Nov 09, 2020 by 11:59 PM	20%	3-4
Online Quizzes	Weeks 2, 4, 7, 8, 12 (see above or weekly schedule for opening and closing dates/times for quizzes)	10% (each quiz 2%)	1-8
Opinion Poll	Opinion voting poll for each unit; Opinion Poll Paper due Dec 04 11:59 PM	5%	1-8
Written Assignment	Weeks 2 or 6 (choice of completing Written Assignment 1 OR 2) Due: Sept 27 OR Nov 01 by 11:59 PM	15%	1-3, 8
Final Exam (cumulative)	Dec 15 8:30AM - 10:30AM Online	30%	1-8

### Additional Notes:

#### *Written Assignment*

Students must complete **one** written assignment during the semester. There is a **choice** of completing **Written Assignment 1**, due date: **Sept 27, 2020 by 11:59 PM OR Written Assignment 2**, due date: **Nov 01, 2020 by 11:59 PM**. The first (and only) submission will be graded.

Late submission of the written assignment will result in a 10% deduction per day late to a limit of six days after the deadline, at which time access to the Dropbox folder will be closed.  
Weight: 15%

Submit: via the Dropbox tool in CourseLink

Length: 2-3 pages double spaced with standard margins and standard font.

This paper will require good grammar and spelling, logical development of argument(s), clear, concise writing, and conclusions using APA format. Where appropriate you must provide references at the end of your paper (when you use the idea/scholarly work of another individual/group in your paper) and if they are left out you will lose 1 point. **See the handouts on CourseLink regarding written assignment guidelines and topics.**

To submit your paper, please use your full name as a header on the paper and provide page numbers at the bottom. A title page/cover page is not required. When you save your paper, please save it in .rtf or .pdf format to ensure readability and use a filename that identifies what it is and who you are. (For example, PSYC2410-JanetJones-Assignment1.rtf )

Click here for resources on: [Plagiarism, academic Integrity, and paraphrasing](#) or [APA formatting](#)

### *Online Quizzes*

There will be five online quizzes that will assess your mastery of material from those units. The quizzes will be on material from Units 1 & 2 (Quiz 1); Unit 3 (Quiz 2); Unit 4 (Quiz 3); Unit 5 (Quiz 4); Units 6, 7, 8 (Quiz 5). The quizzes test material relevant to the lectures and assigned textbook readings. Please refer to the schedule above for dates/times quizzes will be available.

For each quiz, you will have 30 minutes to answer 25 multiple choice questions. These questions will be randomized, which means that not everyone in the course will have the same questions. The computer will automatically log you out if you do not finish in time, so you are cautioned to watch the clock carefully.

Weight: 10%

Submit: via the Quizzes tool in CourseLink

### *Opinion Poll*

With every unit we will have an opinion poll. Participation is required. These questions do not have right or wrong answers. The opinion polls are confidential and should provide a general statement of the class opinions about certain topics related to course material. You will want to record the class statistics when you vote, as this is information that you will need when you choose a topic for your paper (see below for details).

You might also be interested to compare your own votes with those of your classmate and to engage in discussion. To support this process, an optional (ungraded) discussion board is provided which you are free to use anytime during the semester.

### Paper on Opinion Polls

As you participate in the opinion polls, you will select **one** of the topics that interests you and write a short paper about this poll topic. In your Paper on Opinion Polls assignment, at the top of the paper write out the opinion poll question, the answer choices and the class statistics for each of the answers that you have recorded when you voted. Next, you will provide a one-page double spaced answer about why you agree or disagree with the class results of the vote on the polling topic. Late submission of the paper on opinion polls will result in a 10% deduction per day late to a limit of two days at which time access to the Dropbox folder will be closed. **See the handout on CourseLink regarding guidelines.**

Weight: 5%

Submit: via the Dropbox tool on CourseLink by Dec 04 by 11:59 PM

### **Midterms**

You will have 2 midterms to complete during this course. Questions will be derived from lecture slides and assigned readings.

For each midterm, you will have 90 minutes to answer 150 multiple-choice questions. Once you begin, the clock has started, so be sure to plan your time accordingly.

Midterm 1 will cover material from Units 1-3 (Chapters 1-4) on Oct 14, 2020 8 AM-11:59 PM

Midterm 2 and will cover material from Units 4-5 (Chapters 5-8) on Nov 09, 2020 8 AM-11:59 PM

Weight: 40% (2 × 20% each)

Submit: via the Quizzes tool on CourseLink

## **Final Exam**

Weight: 30%

The final exam will be cumulative.

**Final examination date and time: Dec 15 8:30AM - 10:30AM, Online**

See course policies for further details regarding the midterms and final exam.

[Examination Regulations](#)

## **Course Resources**

### **Required Texts:**

The Principles of Learning and Behavior (7th edition; 2015), Michael Domjan, Stamford: Cengage Learning. This textbook is available on reserve at the McLaughlin Library.

### **Other Resources:**

CourseLink will be used to provide additional readings for each unit.

This course requires the use of Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor (webcam) to proctor your online final exam within CourseLink. Use of Lockdown Browser with a webcam has been implemented to maintain the academic integrity of the exam. You must [download and install LockDown Browser and Monitor](#) to complete the practice test and final exam. While writing the practice test and final exam, you must show your university issued identification card during the Respondus Startup Sequence.

Similar to a sit-down exam where you must arrive prior to the start of the exam, it is highly recommended that you enter the online exam environment in Respondus at least 20-30 minutes before the end of the available window to allow enough time for you to complete the Respondus Startup Sequence and ensure that you have the full two hours for the exam.

Please be sure to review the Using Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor instructions by selecting **Content** on the navbar to locate **Assessments** in the table of contents panel.

**Important Note:** There is a mandatory practice test that you are required to take before the online exam. The purpose of the practice test is to ensure that Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor is set up properly and that you are comfortable using the software.

If you have any questions regarding the use of [Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor](#) or if you encounter any technical issues during the practice test or final exam, please contact CourseLink Support at [courselink@uoguelph.ca](mailto:courselink@uoguelph.ca) or 519-824-4120 ext. 56939. University of Guelph degree and associate diploma students must check [WebAdvisor](#) for their examination schedule.

<http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=273932365>

<https://webadvisor.uoguelph.ca>

<http://opened.uoguelph.ca/student-resources/Open-Learning-Program-Final-Exam-Schedule>

<http://opened.uoguelph.ca/student-resources/final-exams>

## **Course Policies**

### **Grading Policies**

#### *Written Assignment*

Students must complete **one** written assignment during the semester. There is a **choice** of completing Written Assignment 1, due date: Sept 27, 2020 by 11:59 PM **OR** Written Assignment 2, due date: Nov 01, 2020 by 11:59 PM. The first (and only) submission will be graded. Late submission of the written assignment will result in a 10% deduction per day late to a limit of six days following the deadline, at which time access to the Dropbox folder will be closed.

#### *Online Quizzes*

There will be five online quizzes that will assess your mastery of material from those units. The quizzes will be on material from Units 1 & 2 (Quiz 1); Unit 3 (Quiz 2); Unit 4 (Quiz 3); Unit 5 (Quiz 4); Units 6, 7, 8 (Quiz 5). The quizzes test material relevant to the lectures and assigned textbook readings. Please refer to the schedule above for dates/times quizzes will be available.

#### *Paper on Opinion Poll*

As you participate in the opinion polls, you will select **one** of the topics that interests you and write a short paper about this poll topic due Dec 04 by 11:59 PM. Late submission of the paper on opinion polls will result in a 10% deduction per day late to a limit of two days following the deadline, at which time access to the Dropbox folder will be closed.

#### *Midterms*

This course involves 2 midterms and 1 final exam. The final exam is cumulative.

Dates/deadlines and method of evaluation are not negotiable.

If a student is unable to complete the online midterms due to acute medical, academic, or personal reasons, its % value will be **automatically added** to the % value of the Final Exam. No Instructor consent is required for this re-distribution of grading. No make-up midterm exams will be available, and students who do not write a midterm will not be permitted to view the missed midterm. Requests of changes to the above policy will be considered only in exceptional circumstances

The rules and regulations for writing/grading midterms described above **do not apply to the Final Exam**. If the Final Exam is not written for any reason, the BA/BSc counselling office should be contacted directly. At the University of Guelph, Instructors cannot change dates or times of final examinations.

[Undergraduate Grading Procedures](#)

### **Re-Grading of Assignments Policy**

Where a student is of the belief that a written assignment has not been accurately graded, they are to pursue a 2-step course policy: 1) as soon as possible, contact the original TA that graded the assignment, and if a student remains dissatisfied, 2) they can request that the instructor re-grade the assignment. Note that the student will be required to accept the re-grade, whether it be higher or lower.

### **Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:**

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted, they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor. Similarly, any material created by the course instructor is intended for those enrolled in this course solely. Under no circumstances are you allowed to disseminate course materials to external parties.

### **Student Rights and Responsibilities when Learning Online**

#### *Online behaviour*

According to the University Secretariat, students have a responsibility to help support community members' access to the tools they need to engage in their learning and development, both in and outside of the classroom. An example of this type of responsibility is the requirement to abide by the following:

Section 4.3.3. Disruption - to not interfere with the normal functioning of the University, nor to intimidate, interfere with, threaten or otherwise obstruct any activity organized by the University, including classes, or to hinder other members of the University community from being able to carry on their legitimate activities, including their ability to speak or associate with others.

As such, appropriate online behaviour will not be tolerated. Examples of inappropriate online behaviour include

- Posting inflammatory messages about your instructor or fellow students
- Using obscene or offensive language online
- Copying or presenting someone else's work as your own
- Adapting information from the Internet without using proper citations or references
- Buying or selling term papers or assignments
- Posting or selling course materials to course notes websites
- Having someone else complete your quiz or completing a quiz for/with another student
- Stating false claims about lost quiz answers or other assignment submissions
- Threatening or harassing a student or instructor online
- Discriminating against fellow students, instructors and/or TAs
- Using the course website to promote profit-driven products or services
- Attempting to compromise the security or functionality of the learning management system
- Sharing your username and password



## **University Policies**

### **Disclaimer**

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the [COVID-19 website](#) and circulated by email.

### **Illness**

The University will not normally require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for fall 2020 or winter 2021 semester courses. However, requests for Academic Consideration may still require medical documentation as appropriate.

### **Academic Consideration**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration:

[Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions](#)

### **Academic Misconduct**

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

[Academic Misconduct Policy](#)

### **Accessibility**

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 54335 or email [accessibility@uoguelph.ca](mailto:accessibility@uoguelph.ca) or the [Student Accessibility Services Website](#)

### **Course Evaluation Information**

Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](#) .

### **Drop date**

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Dec. 04, 2020 . For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the [Schedule of Dates in the Academic Calendar](#). Instructors must still [provide meaningful and constructive feedback to students prior to the 40<sup>th</sup> class](#) day. [Current Undergraduate Calendar](#)

### **Additional Course Information**

Course instructors are allowed to use software to help in detecting plagiarism or unauthorized copying of student assignments. Plagiarism is one of the most common types of academic misconduct on our campus. Plagiarism involves students using the work, ideas and/or the exact wording of other people or sources without giving proper credit to others for the work, ideas and/or words in their papers. Students can unintentionally commit misconduct because they do not know how to reference outside sources properly or because they don't check their work carefully enough before handing it in. Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin.com to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to prevent plagiarism in the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.