

PSYC*2230, Course Outline: Fall 2023

General Information

DUE to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic some courses are being offered virtually and some face to face. This course is offered using the Face-to-Face format. The course has set day, time, and location of class.

Course Title: 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: 0.50

Academic Department (or campus): Psychology

Semester Offering: Fall 2023

Class Schedule and Location: M/W/F 4:30 PM - 5:20 PM, ROZH 101 LEC

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Francesco Leri

Instructor Email: fleri@uoguelph.ca

Office location and office hours: MINS 105, 10:30 every Thursday

GTA Information

GTA Name: Briana Renda

GTA Email: rendab@uoguelph.ca

GTA Name: Andrew Huff

GTA Email: ehuff@uoguelph.ca

GTA Name: Rita El Azali

GTA Email: relazali@uoguelph.ca

GTA Name: Brooke Ginson

GTA Email: bginson@uoguelph.ca

Course Content

Specific Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

1. Describe key principles of conditioning, motivation, memory and associated neurobiological mechanisms
2. Identify and remember appropriate terminology
3. Understand how these principles have been revealed by key experimental studies
4. Apply these principles to understand animal behaviour
5. Apply these principles to understand normal and abnormal human behaviour

Lecture Content:

Lecture Unit Title & Dates	Lecture Unit Number	Textbook chapter & pages
Introduction - Sept 8	Intro	
Learning & Motivation - Sept 11, 13 & 15	1	1 & 2
Classical Conditioning I - Sept 18 & 20 <i>Sept 22 – No class</i>	2	3 & 4
Classical Conditioning II - Sept 25, 27 & 29	3	3 & 4 9 (245-255)
Classical Conditioning III - Oct 2, 4 & 6	4	3 & 4
Review - Oct 11		
Midterm I - Oct 13 Lecture Units 1 to 4 & corresponding textbook chapters		
Operant Conditioning I - Oct 16, 18 & 20	5	5 7 (185-188)

Operant Conditioning II - Oct 23, 25 & 27	6	6 (155-165) 8 (211-216) 9 (255-272)
Operant conditioning III - Oct 30, Nov 1 & 3	7	10
Review - Nov 6 & 8		
Midterm II - Nov 10 Lecture Units 5 to 7 & corresponding textbook chapters		
Memory systems - Nov 13, 15 & 17	8	11
Synaptic plasticity - Nov 20, 22 & 24	9	11
Review - Nov 27, 29, Dec 1		
Final Exam - Dec 11 Lecture Units 1 to 9 & corresponding textbook chapters		

Course Assignments and Tests:

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Midterm I	In class on Oct 13	25%	1-5
Midterm II	In class on Nov 10	35%	1-5

Additional Notes:

Midterm I

- 30 multiple-choice questions
- Based on material from Lectures Units 1 to 4 included & corresponding textbook chapters.

Midterm II

- 30 multiple-choice questions
- Based on material from Lectures Units 5 to 7 included & corresponding textbook chapters.

Final examination date and time: Dec 11, begins at 8:30 AM, 120-min long.

Final exam weighting: 40% of final grade.

Additional Notes:

- 100-120 multiple-choice questions.
- Based on material from Lectures Units 1 to 9 & corresponding book readings.

Course Resources

Required Texts:

The Principles of Learning and Behavior (7th edition; 2021), Michael Domjan, Cengage Learning. This textbook is available on reserve at the McLaughlin Library.

Other Resources:

CourseLink will be employed to distribute Lecture notes and post grades.

Course Policies

Grading Policies:

If a Midterm exam is missed, review the [Process for Academic Consideration and Appeals](#) chart in the Academic Consideration Policy regarding requesting a deferred exam based on medical, psychological or compassionate grounds. After reviewing the policy, contact your instructor. Deferred Midterm exams are scheduled within a week of the missed exam and include only 20 short-answers questions.

If the Final Exam is missed, review the [Process for Academic Consideration and Appeals](#) chart in the Academic Consideration Policy regarding requesting a deferred exam based on medical, psychological or compassionate grounds. After reviewing the policy, see your Program Counsellor right away. Refer to the [list of Program Counsellors](#) for contact information.

For information about grades, review [Undergraduate Grading Procedures](#) policy.

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.

University Policies

Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

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](#)

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

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 or the [Student Accessibility Services Website](#)

Student Feedback Questionnaire

These questionnaires (formerly course evaluations) will be available to students during the last 2 weeks of the semester: March 30th – April 10th. Students will receive an email directly from the Student Feedback Administration system which will include a direct link to the questionnaire for this course. During this time, when a student goes to login to Courselink, a reminder will pop-up when a task is available to complete.

[Student Feedback Questionnaire](#)

Drop date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Friday December 1, 2023. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the [Schedule of Dates in the Academic Calendar](#).

Instructors must provide [meaningful and constructive feedback, at minimum 20% of the final course grade, prior to the 40th class day](#). For courses which are of shorter duration, 20% of the final grade must be provided two-thirds of the way through the course.

[Current Undergraduate Calendar](#)

Additional Course Information

Attendance in person to class is a requirement. A student who for any reason does not attend classes regularly, runs the risk of being unable to complete the work of the semester and is advised to report to the program counsellor for academic counselling upon return to classes.