

Course: PSYC 308
PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING (An Introduction to Learning Theory)

Prerequisite: PSYC110

Instructor: James E. Horton
Office: 216 Smiddy Hall
Phone: 328-0136
Email: jhorton@uvawise.edu
Webpage: <http://people.uvawise.edu/jeh2b>
Office Hours: Posted on Web Page

Textbooks: (Required) Hergenhahn, B. R. & Olson, M. H., (1993).
An Introduction to Theories of Learning.
(4th edition). Prentice Hall, New Jersey.

Course Objectives:

The course will cover a variety of topics pertaining to the psychology of learning and introduce the student to various theories of learning. Hergenhahn's text will be used to study the various learning theories and for specific discussions in class. Your participation in these class discussions is expected. There will also be a research paper and oral presentation required. The research paper will require the student to select four theorists that have been studied in class and apply their theories to an educational setting. The oral presentation will require the student to select one theorist that has been studied in class and explain how that theorist would most likely teach a class based on their theory of learning. The student may also be given assignments requiring research on specific topics. Each student will be required to have an e-mail address and to communicate to the instructor via e-mail. All written assignments are required to be completed with the use of a word processing program and submitted on electronic media. All documents completed with a word processing program are required to be compatible with "Microsoft Word 2000" (the word processing program available for student use on computers in our computer labs). Any word processing completed on student's home computers must be converted to a compatible document before turning in the assignment. At the completion of the course, the student should possess an elementary knowledge of learning theory in the following areas.

- 1) The student should have an elementary working knowledge of the different theories of learning.
- 2) The student should be able to compare and contrast similarities and differences of theories of learning.
- 3) The student should understand molecular and molar approaches to learning theory.
- 4) The student should be able to practically apply the different theories of learning to an educational setting
- 5) The student will demonstrate their ability to communicate their knowledge about learning theory in oral and written media.
- 6) The student will also demonstrate their ability to communicate using basic computer technology.

Exams:

Section Exams:

Four section exams will be given throughout the semester.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be comprehensive.

Grading:

Your grade will be determined by your participation in class, the section exams, the research paper and oral presentation, and any out of class assignments that may be given. Students must complete and turn in all work by the last day of class without exception.

Class participation		10%
Section exams	4 @ 17.5%ea	70%
Research Paper (written portion)		10%
Research Paper (oral presentation)		<u>10%</u>
		100%

Computer Skills:

All students graduating from UVa-Wise must be able to demonstrate computer proficiency. Please refer to p.79-80 of the 2004-2005 College Catalog. If you do not believe that you can meet this requirement, additional instruction will be provided. See your advisor.

Honor Code:

The Honor Code of The University of Virginia's College at Wise is fully supported and each student in this class will be treated as a responsible and honest adult. Violations of the Honor Code will be prosecuted through the Honor Court.

Special Accommodations:

If you have any type of learning disability or problem that might require special accommodations, please inform me at the beginning of the term to enable appropriate arrangements to be made.

Class Attendance:

Each student is expected to attend class regularly. Attendance will be taken regularly. It is very important for you to attend every class. If extreme circumstances cause you to miss more than one class, you should contact me immediately.

Tentative Schedule:

Date	Reading Schedule	Assignment
1/15	Syllabus & Introduction	
1/17	Chapters 1 – 3	Introduction to Learning
1/22	Chapter 4	Thorndike
1/24	Chapter 4	Thorndike
1/29	Chapter 5	Skinner
1/31	Chapter 5	Skinner
2/5	Chapter 6	Hull
2/7	Chapter 6	Hull
2/12	Chapter 6	Mowrer
2/14	Chapter 6	Spence
2/19	Chapter 6	Amsel
2/21	Exam 1	
2/26	Chapter 7	Pavlov
2/28	Chapter 7	Pavlov
3/4	Chapter 8	Guthrie
3/6	Chapter 8	Guthrie
3/11	Semester Break	
3/13	Semester Break	
3/18	Chapter 9	Estes
3/20	Chapter 9	Estes
3/25	Exam 2	
3/27	Chapter 10	Gestalt
4/1	Chapter 10	Gestalt
4/3	Chapter 11	Piaget
4/8	Chapter 12	Tolman
4/10	Chapter 12	Tolman
4/15	Exam 3	
4/17	Chapter 13	Bandura
4/22	Chapter 13	Bandura
4/24	Exam 4	
4/29	Oral Reports	Papers Due
5/1	Oral Reports	All work including make-up work due
5/6	Reading Day	