

PSY 3250
Conditioning & Learning
Summer 2010
T R 10:30 – 1:10
SS 323

Instructor: Dr. Aaron Ashley **Office:** SS 360
E-mail: AaronAshley@weber.edu **Phone:** 626-8743
Office Hours: M-F: 9:30 – 10:30

Please note: This email address is the best way to contact me. You should, however, only your Weber State email account to contact me, because the Weber State mail system is likely to quarantine your email, and I will probably not open email from or respond to non-Weber State email accounts.

I typically respond to email in the morning. This tactic keeps me from responding to email all day. I will certainly respond to your emails during office hours, but outside of those times it will most likely be the following morning.

Text: Domjan, M. (2005). *The essentials of conditioning and learning* (3rd ed.). Belmont, CA: ThomsonWadsworth.

Course Description: This course will involve a survey and analysis of basic processes involved in acquisition and retention of new behaviors, and alterations of existing behaviors in animals and humans. The course will examine the central theoretical concepts and issues in the fields of conditioning and learning.

Course Objectives and Expected Outcomes: The goal of this course is to expose you to a broad overview of (a) the important phenomena and concepts in the areas of conditioning and learning, (b) the types of data that relate to these phenomena and concepts, and (c) important studies in the history of these fields. Both human and animal learning will be considered and it is important to realize that the course will cover an extremely broad subject matter. Specific experiments will be covered as representatives of particular methodologies or approaches, or, in a few cases, simply because they are classics in the field.

Prerequisites: Satisfactory completion of at least one course in introductory psychology is a prerequisite for enrollment in this course. This prerequisite is necessary to ensure that students have some familiarity with the language, basic concepts, and general methodology of psychology.

Evaluation: Your final course grade will be comprised of your performance on four exams and class participation. There are 500 points available for this class. The following letter grade equivalents shall apply:

A... 93-100	A-...90-92	B+... 88-89
B...83-87	B-...80-82	C+... 78-79
C...77-73	C-...70-72	D+...68-69
D...63-67	D-..60-62	E.....00-59

Exams (100 pts each): There will be four exams, including the final. Exams will be multiple choice, short answer, and essay format. Exam questions will come from class readings, lectures, and other class material. All exams will be taken in the Social Science Testing Center, located in the basement of the Social Science Building (SS 036).

Testing Center Hours: All exams will be taken in the Social Science Testing Center, located in the basement of the Social Science Building (SS 036). In order to take an exam, you must show up at the center on the correct day, during testing center hours, and with a picture ID. You will not be allowed to take the exam without a picture ID, or if you come after the hours specified. You will also need a #2 pencil, and 10¢ to purchase a scantron form.

Make-up Exams: Make-up exams will be subject to a penalty of 20 points per day (including weekends and holidays). There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this policy!

Class Participation (100 pts): As a student in this class, it is your responsibility to be an active participant. By active participant, I mean that it is your responsibility to be in class (on-time), prepared (i.e., you have read the assigned materials), ready to participate in class discussion (and to do so), and you behave in a manner representative of an academic environment (see Course Policies and Expectations below). At the end of the course, you will earn a grade for class participation as follows:

(100 pts) Excellent class participation/attendance throughout the course. Participation generally reflected careful reading of the course material. Questions were generally thought-provoking and relevant to the material.

(75 pts) Good participation/attendance throughout the course. Participation questions generally indicated that the material (chapters and articles) had been read and given some thought.

(50 pts) Good participation/attendance some days, weak participation other days. Questions not very thoughtful or thought-provoking.

(25 pts) Very little participation/attendance. Questions asked did not necessarily reflect a careful reading of the course material.

(0 pts) Poor attendance and participation

Course Policies and Expectations:

Attendance: Attendance is not required for this class; it is, however, highly encouraged that you attend all classes. As a student you are responsible for all lecture materials and announcements made in class whether you are present or not. This course covers a broad overview of concepts and theories in psychology; therefore, attendance is very important and may determine final grades in borderline cases. Additionally, you are expected to be present, attentive, and participate during the entire class period. I do not expect you to arrive late, nor do I expect you to leave early. Both of these are disruptive to the class, and will not be tolerated.

At this point, you are to obtain the names, email addresses, and phone numbers of four of your class mates. If you must miss class, these are the people that you should contact to obtain class notes, announcements, and assignments. Only after contacting these individuals are you to contact me. I'm happy to help you learn the material, but only after you have taken the time to prepare and review what you have missed.

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Classroom Courtesy:

Cell phones/ laptops/ etc.: Leave **all** electronic devices turned off during class. I do not want to see any cell phones, laptops, or electronic devices of any type out during the class period. You can text message and email your friends during the other twenty-two hours and forty-five minutes of the day, but not during this class. This behavior is not only rude, but is also extremely disruptive. A first warning is forgetfulness. A second warning (and subsequent warnings) will result in five points off your final total points for each occurrence.

Discriminatory Harassment: Weber State University is committed to providing an environment free from harassment and other forms of discrimination based upon race, color, ethnic background, national origin, religion, creed, age, lack of American citizenship, disability, status of veteran of the Vietnam era, sexual orientation or preference or gender, including sexual/gender harassment. Such an environment is a necessary part of a healthy learning and working atmosphere because such discrimination undermines the sense of human dignity and sense of belonging of all people in the environment. Thus, students in this class should practice professional deportment, and avoid treating others in a manner that is demeaning or derisive in any respect.

While diverse viewpoints and opinions are welcome in this class, in expressing them, we will practice mutual deference so important in the world of work. Thus, while I

encourage you to share your opinions, when appropriate, you will be expected to do so in a manner that is respectful towards others, even when you disagree with them.

If you have questions regarding the university's policy against discrimination and harassment you may contact the university's AA/EO office (626-6239) or visit its website: <http://departments.weber.edu/aaeeo/> .

Academic dishonesty policy: Weber State University imposes specific disciplinary actions in response to incidents of academic misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, etc.). These actions may include admonition, failing grade, failure of course, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal. The specified policies can be found in the WSU Student Code at <http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm> . Cheating will not be tolerated in this or any class at WSU. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment will result in a grade of E. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism, if you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism please contact me.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary. Weber State University policies regarding Services for Students with Disabilities are available on the <http://weber.edu/ssd> website.

Tentative Class Schedule:

This schedule may change as announced in class.

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
1		Chapter 1	Chapter 1-2	
2		Chapter 2-3	Chapter 3	
3	Exam #1	Chapter 4	Chapter 4-5	
4		Chapter 5-6	Chapter 6	
5	Exam #2	Chapter 7	Chapter 8	
6		Chapter 9	Chapter 10	
7	Exam #3	Chapter 11	Chapter 12-13	Exam #4
