Psychology 400: Survey of Learning and Memory  
Prof. J. Cooper Cutting  
Syllabus  
Spring 1997

Lecture: MWF 8-8:50; Coker Life Sciences rm. 211

Office: Barnwell 532 Phone: 777-4294 e-mail: cuttingc@garnet.cla.sc.edu
Office hours: Wed 9:15-10, Thurs 1-1:45, & by appointment

TA: Kim Cronise
Office: Barnwell 456 Phone: 777-6611 e-mail: cronise@black.cla.sc.edu
Office hours: Tu 10-11, & by appointment


Course Prerequisites: Psych 101 or SCCC 130

Course Description & Objective. The purpose of the class is to explore various issues involving how people learn information and behaviors, and their ability to remember that information. The bulk of the class (approximately 2/3) will focus on learning. Clearly, this covers a lot of ground, so it is important that you keep up with the readings and attend the lectures. By the end of the course, we will have covered factual and theoretical explanations about classical conditioning, instrumental conditioning, and information processing.

Course Requirements (grading). Your grade will be based on your performance on three exams and quizzes. While the exams are not technically cumulative, a competent understanding of previous material will be helpful in your performance on later tests. This is because material later in the course builds upon the earlier work. Each exam will count for 1/4 of your overall grade (for a total of 3/4). The format of the exams will be primarily multiple choice, however there may also be some short answer questions. Exam make-ups for excused absences will be during the time scheduled for the final exam. This is the only chance for a makeup. The makeup will consist of a longer more comprehensive version of the final exam.

The remaining 1/4 of your grade will come from quizzes. There will be approximately 13 quizzes, roughly corresponding to 1 per chapter. The quizzes will be administered at the end of classes (typically on the first class beginning the next chapter). They'll consist of a few short answers or definition types of questions. The main purpose of the quizzes is to help you keep up with the readings and lectures. The average of your top 10 quiz scores (we'll drop your lowest 3 scores) will make up the final quarter of your grade. Quizzes cannot me made up.

Some form of extra credit may be available. The details of this are still being worked out.
Tentative topic calendar

Why and How Learning is Studied
Lieberman, 1 & 2

Classical Conditioning: The Basics
Lieberman, 3 & 4

Classical Conditioning: Theories
Lieberman, 5

Exam 1: around Feb 17

Instrumental Conditioning: The Basics
Lieberman, 6 & 7

Instrumental Conditioning: Some Applications
Lieberman, 8

Spring Break March 10 - 14 No Classes

Theories of Reinforcement
Lieberman, 9

Exam 2: around March 26

Easter Break March 31 No Class

Associative Learning: Theoretical Issues
Lieberman, 10 & 11

Information Processing
Lieberman, 12

Associative Learning And Cognition
Lieberman, 13

Final Exam: May 2 (Friday) at 9 AM

The Final Exam will be administered only on the assigned date and time. DO NOT MAKE TRAVEL PLANS (OR HAVE ANYONE ELSE MAKE TRAVEL PLANS FOR YOU) THAT INCLUDE ABSENCE FROM THIS EXAM.
Psychology 400: Survey of Learning and Memory
Prof. J. Cooper Cutting
Syllabus
Spring 1997

Lecture: TuTh, 2-3:15; Business Admin. rm. 002
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Exam 1: around Feb 18

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Exam 2: around March 27

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Final Exam: May 1 (Thursday) at 2PM

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