

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
PSY 2120: PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING
CREDIT: 4 UNITS
COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Survey of historical and contemporary theories, systems and research in learning. Includes the study of programmed learning and the use of the principles of learning to explain animal and human behavior.

Prerequisite: PSY 1101

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course the student will be able to: -

- Trace the historical development of the theories of learning
- Explain and apply the principles of learning
- Evaluate the research procedures and findings in the research studies in animal and human learning
- Appreciate the role played by the scientific method in research in human and animal learning.

COURSE CONTENT

Week 1

Definition of Learning

Types of learning

Importance of learning theories

Week 2

Classical conditioning

General paradigm

Practical uses in clinical settings

Week 3

Instrumental conditioning

General paradigm: Types of Examples

Characteristics and Principles of Learning

Week 4

Instrumental conditioning

Clinical setting

Animal Training

Practical uses in Programmed Instruction

Week 5

Classical Theories

Learning by Contiguity
Cognitive Learning
Reinforcement Theory

Week 6

Distinction between Learning and Performance

Week 7

Effect of Motivating on Learning
Punishment

Week 8

Transfer of Training

Week 9

Retention & Forgetting

Week 10

End of Term Examination

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Class discussions, group work and presentation, class experiments and lecturer approaches will be used.

COURSE TEXT

Houston, J.P. (1991) *Fundamentals of Learning and Memory*, 4th Ed. Fort worth TX: Harcourt Brace College Publishers.

COURSE EVALUATION

Attendance and participation	10%
Project work	30%
Mid-term test (Objective test)	30%
Final Examination (Essay Exam)	30%

GRADING

90	-	100	A	74	-	77	C+
87	-	89	A-	71	-	73	C
84	-	86	B+	68	-	70	C-
81	-	83	B	64	-	67	D+
78	-	80	B-	61	-	63	D
				59	-	60	D-
				Below		59	F

