

PSYCHOLOGY 2810

PRINCIPLES OF BEHAVIOR

1996-97

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

INSTRUCTOR: L. R. ANDREOTTI
OFFICE NUMBER: C403
PHONE NUMBER: 539-2994
OFFICE HOURS: M-W-F 10:00 - 11:00, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is intended to introduce the student to the basic principles of conditioning and learning. Specific topics to be examined involve principles of operant and classical conditioning, along with the origin of these principles in animal experimentation and learning theory. Special attention will be paid to behavior analysis (operant conditioning) and social learning theory.

In addition, the course is intended to introduce the student to behavior change techniques as they are currently employed in dealing with specific behavior problems. This will involve an examination of the application of these principles to specific behavioral problems (along with an evaluation of the effectiveness of these techniques).

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The successful student should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the relevant concepts, terminology, theoretical principles, and techniques that will be examined. S/he should also be able to describe and illustrate how these might be applied to change or "treat" various behavioral problems.

PREREQUISITES: PY1040 and PY1050

TEXT: Pierce, W.D. and Epling, F.W. (1995). Behavior analysis and learning. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.

A tentative timetable for the course is presented on the next page. Various changes in the timetable may be announced in class.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Pierce & Epling</u>
September 5 - 10	Chapter 1
September 12	Chapter 2
September 17 - 19	Chapter 3
September 24 - 26	Chapters 4 & 5
<u>OCTOBER 1</u>	<u>EXAM I</u>
October 3 - 8	Chapters 6 & 7
October 10 - 15	Chapter 8
October 17	Chapter 9
October 19	Chapter 11
<u>OCTOBER 24</u>	<u>EXAM II</u>
October 29 - 31	Introduction to behavior therapy
November 5	Papers by Eysenck, Bergin, & Smith and Glass
November 7 - 12	Anxiety Disorders
November 14	Depression
November 19	Eating Disorders
November 21	Alcoholism & cigarette smoking
November 26 - December 3	Developmental disorders (Autism & Mental retardation)
<u>DECEMBER 5</u>	<u>EXAM III</u> ¹

Marks in the course will be weighted as follows:

October 1st Exam	30%
October 24th Exam	30%
December 5th Exam	30%
Subjective Evaluation ²	<u>10%</u>
	100%

¹This third exam is not a final exam.

²As explained in class, no student will receive a mark for subjective evaluation that is lower than the student's exam average.

GRADING SYSTEM:

SCALE	TRANSLATION	APPROXIMATE % EQUIVALENT
9		90 - 100
8	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>80 - 89</u>
7		72 - 79
6	<u>Good</u>	<u>65 - 71</u>
5		57 - 64
4	<u>Pass</u>	<u>50 - 56</u>
3	<u>Failure</u>	<u>45 - 49</u>
2	<u>Failure</u>	<u>26 - 44</u>
1		0 - 25

It should be noted that students will be held accountable for lectures delivered in addition to any announcements that will be made in class. If any student is unable to attend a particular class, it will be his/her responsibility to find out what was missed.

Special note should be made of the fact that the material covered after the second exam will be based entirely upon lectures (with the exception of the papers to be discussed on November 5th). Since there is no textual reference for this material, students who are unable to attend the lectures to take notes will find the last third of the course to be a serious challenge.

If it becomes apparent to a student that s/he will be unable to write an exam at a scheduled time, the student should notify the instructor immediately. In the event that the student cannot reach the instructor in person, s/he should leave a message for the instructor on the answering machine (539-2994).

The exam dates listed on this handout are tentative. Due to unforeseen circumstances, it may become necessary to administer one or more of the exams on different dates. Students should not make plans for travel, holidays, employment, etc, which would interfere with their writing exams during **any** scheduled class time. As a general rule, there will be no opportunities to re-write missed exams. It should be noted again that there is no **final exam** for this course.

Since the information recorded on this outline will be required by the student throughout the semester, I recommend that precautions be taken to insure that it is not lost.