

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3649**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**  
**479-788-7000**

## **General Syllabus**

### **PSYC 4153 Conditioning and Learning**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: junior standing, three hours of upper level psychology courses, PSYC 2613 Research Methods in Psychology, BIOL 1153/1151 Biological Science/Laboratory, and one of the following: ENGL 1213 Composition II, ENGL 1233 Honors Composition or RHET 2863 Advanced Composition

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

#### **I. Course Information**

##### **A. Catalog Description**

Traditional and modern approaches to reinforcement, punishment, generalization, discrimination, and constraints on learning are examined and evaluated.

##### **B. Additional Information**

Course includes a requirement to assess and review literature outside of the textbook for reporting and submitting. Course requirements also include an exercise in assessing the conditioning of a specific behavior. Classical and operant theories are reviewed extensively as are modern theories of human and animal learning and information processing.

#### **II. Student Learning Outcomes**

##### **A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and evaluate the classic theories in psychology of conditioning and learning as well as apply them to both human and animal behaviors.
2. Examine theories of learning and make application of the theories observed examples.
3. Analyze research specific to conditioning and learning theories and reports.

4. Apply theoretical perspective to self-evaluation of personal behavior experienced or observed.

## **B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

### **Global and Cultural Perspectives**

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

### **Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will communicate effectively with a variety of audiences in any setting.

### **Analytical Skills**

#### **Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will draw conclusions and solve problems.

## **III. Major Course Topics**

- A. Theories of Skinner
- B. Pavlov
- C. Watson
- D. Hull
- E. Thorndike
- F. Others modern theories of information processing
- G. Evolutionary Psychology perspectives
- H. Review of classic literature in the field
- I. Creativity
- J. Habituation
- K. Punishment
- L. Learned helplessness