



PSY 1405

Division: Social and Behavioral Science

Department: Social Sciences

Course: PSY 1405

Title: Analysis of Behavior Lab

Catalog Description:

In this lab, students apply the fundamental principles of learning and behavior as learned in the lecture section. The lab applies topics such as classical and operant conditioning and their ability to change human and animal behavior. Students will spend time training a virtual rat using the principles they study. The course is required for psychology majors and minors.

General Education Requirements: Science Inquiry

Semesters Offered: Spring

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 1; Lecture: 0; Lab: 2

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Prerequisites: PSY 1010

Corequisites: PSY 1400

Justification:

This course is designed to give students a basic application of concepts learned in the lecture section of the psychology of learning and behaviorism.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- gain proficiency in reading and writing psychological research
- prepare for further study in the experimental and applied analysis of behavior or psychology
- become familiar with the basic principles, procedures, terms, and concepts of applied behavior analysis and behavior modification
- prepare to correctly use the principles of behavior analysis in everyday situations with humans and non humans
- demonstrate skill in the successful application of basic behavior principles in the laboratory with (virtual) animal subjects.

Content:

Course objectives will be accomplished by providing students with learning experiences in the following subject areas:

- The Study of Learning and Behavior
- Pavlovian Procedures
- Operant Procedures: Reinforcement
- Operant Procedures: Punishment
- Vicarious Learning
- Generalization, Discrimination, and Stimulus Control
- Schedules of Reinforcement
- Forgetting.

General Education Outcomes:

- 4) Retrieve, evaluate, interpret, and deliver information through a variety of traditional and electronic media.

Students will be required to make a presentation via presentation software. They will also need to use library resources to obtain and respond to current articles in the discipline. Each student will also be involved in training a VIRTUAL rat. *Sniffy the Virtual Rat* Software will be used. Students will generate lab reports by which they will be evaluated for their grades.

- 5) Apply a cultural and historical awareness to a variety of phenomena.

Students will learn how behavioral principles have been used throughout the history of humans to shape behaviors and attitudes. They will also experience first-hand how their historical behaviors were shaped by their environment, circumstances, and culture. Through additional readings, writing assignments, and experimentation, students will see how a person's culture and history influence his individual choices. This level of insight will be evaluated in particular in writing assignments.

- 8) Apply ethical reasoning to a variety of contexts.

As part of reading classic studies and experiments, students will discuss the ethics of such. They will evaluate what makes research ethical and some of the implications of current ethical standards imposed by research bodies today. Students will include these judgments in: papers, presentations, and discussions.

Key Performance Indicators:

In Lab:

The lab section of the course will have assessment based on "Sniffy the Virtual Rat" program which will record their progress and success. (50%) The other means of assessment will be lab reports where they will report on their progress and make applications to material learned in class and outside experiences. (50%) LAB GRADE WILL BE INDEPENDENT OF CLASS GRADE.

Percentages are approximate.

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

- Chance, P., *Learning and Behavior*, current edition, Wadsworth/Thomas Learning, Belmont, California.
- *Sniffy the Virtual Rat*, current edition.

Optimum Class Size: 30

Maximum Class Size: 40

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

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I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Social Sciences Department:

Kerry Hansen, D.A., Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Social and Behavioral Science Division:

Sue Dalley, M.S., Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)