The Psychology of Learning
E-113-NAMS

Year	1
Semester	Fall
Type of course	Core
Prerequisites	None
Schedule	3 hours per week for 15 weeks; 6 ECTS
Lecturer	Þorlákur Karlsson

Content

This course examines fundamental processes of human and animal learning. Topics include respondent (classical/Pavlovian) conditioning – definitions, processes, and applications; operant (instrumental) conditioning – definitions, processes, and applications; differential reinforcement; stimulus control; schedules of reinforcement; observational learning; the "three-term" contingency; rule-governed behaviour; self-control; cognition and conditioning; and the comparative effects of "positive" and "aversive control". The course considers aspects of the history of behaviour analysis, including its strong experimental tradition which emphasises rigorous measurement, precise specification of methods, and the central role of empirical evidence.

Learning outcome - On completing the course, each student should be able to:

- Describe and understand the main learning theories and processes.
- Know an example of learning or change in behaviour and discuss what learning theory or process can explain it.
- Describe different types of conditioning, compare them, and describe how they are alike and how they are different.
- Understand and explain different theories in psychology of learning.
- Explain various basic phenomena in psychology of learning.
- Predict simple human behaviour or that of other animals under different reinforcement methods and stimulus control.
- Name and explain numerous examples of the use of behaviour analysis for patients, company employees, and in daily life.
- Condition a person or other animal and describe this academically in a report.
- Describe findings which are in the form of a cumulative record.

Course assessment

Four in class exams, assignment, essay and final exam. Grades are given on a 0 – 10 point scale. The minimum grade to pass the course is 5.0. The student needs to get a minimum grade of 5.0 in the final exam and a minimum average grade of 5.0 for all course assessment.

Reading material

Mazur, J. E. (2006). *Learning and Behavior* (6. ed). New Jersey: Pearson – Prentice HalL.
Holt, N., Bremner, A., Sutherland, E., Vliek, M., Passer, M., Smith, R. (2012). *Psychology: The*

Science of Mind and Behavior (2. ed). Berkshire: McGraw-Hill Education.	
Teaching and learning activities	
Lectures, in class exercises, and discussions.	
Language of instruction	Icelandic