

**Course Syllabus
Principles of Learning
Psychology 304 (001)**

Summer, 1996

Instructor: Levi Taylor, Ph.D.

Text: Taylor, *Basic Principles of Learning: A Concise Introduction*

Office Hours: Wednesday, 6:00-7:00, or by appointment

Course Overview

This course is designed to introduce basic processes in learning and motivation. Readings will correspond *very* closely to the text topics (see the table of contents).

Course Plan

- Session 1: Course Overview; Theory and evidence in psychology
- Session 2: Operant and Respondent Conditioning; Positive and Negative Reinforcers
- Session 3: Extinction; Identifying Effective Reinforcers
- Session 4. Intermittent Reinforcement; Superstitious Behavior; Extinction and Punishment
- Session 5: MIDTERM
- Session 6: Generalization; Discrimination; Differentiation
- Session 7: Basic Principles of Experimentation
- Session 8-9 Essential Theoretical Considerations
- Session 10: FINAL

Grading

Course grades will be based on a midterm worth 50 points, and a final exam worth 80 points. 10 points will be reserved for class participation. Students may also write an optional paper (as discussed in class) which will be worth a maximum of 15 points.