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.