Course Name: Theories and Principles of Learning

Course Number: PSY* E213

Credits: 3

Catalog description: This course examines basic learning and motivation processes that allow organisms to acquire new knowledge and adapt to their environments. These learning processes include classical and operant conditioning, observational learning, generalization and discrimination, and schedules of reinforcement. Students will also become acquainted with research methods used to study these processes.

Prerequisite, Corequisite, or Parallel: PSY 111

General Education Competencies Satisfied:

HCC General Education Requirement Designated Competency Attribute Code(s):

None

Additional CSCU General Education Requirements for CSCU Transfer Degree Programs:

None

Embedded Competency(ies):

None

Discipline-Specific Attribute Code(s):

☒ **BHEL** **Behavioral Science elective**

Course objectives:

General Education Goals and Outcomes:

None

Course Specific Objectives:

1. Demonstrate that they have become familiar with major theorists in the field of learning.
2. Demonstrate that they have become familiar with each theorist's contribution to the field of learning and its importance.

3. Demonstrate that they have an understanding of the prominent trends in learning theories.
4. Demonstrate that they understand how these theories are applied to learning situations.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of sociocultural context and diversity.
6. Demonstrate a knowledge of the behavioral and social sciences and their methods used to study learning principles
7. Describe various research strategies and the advantages and disadvantages of the uses of each of these as they apply to the principles of learning
8. Identify psychological principles that have been influential in your own life and how one has learned.

Course Content:

1. The Psychology of Learning and Behavior
    a. Nature of Scientific Theories
    b. Behavioral and Cognitive Approaches to Learning
    c. Free Will, Determinism, and Chaos Theory
2. Simple Ideas, simple associations, and Simple Cells
    a. Early Theories about the Association of Ideas
    b. Physiological Facts
3. Innate Behavior Patterns and Habituation
    a. Characteristics of Goal-Directed Systems
    b. Reflexes
    c. Sequences of Behavior
    d. Innate Human Abilities and Predispositions
    e. Habituation
4. Basic Principles of Classical Conditioning
    a. Pavlov's Discovery and Its Impact
    b. Basic Conditioning Phenomena
    c. The Importance of Timing in Classical Conditioning
    d. Higher Order Conditioning
    e. Classical Conditioning
5. Theories and Research on Classical Conditioning
    a. Theories of Associative Learning
    b. Types of Associations
    c. Biological Constraints on Classical Conditioning
    d. The Form of the Conditioned Response
    e. Physiological Research on Classical Conditioning
6. Basic Principles of Operant Conditioning
    a. The Law of Effect
    b. The Procedure of Shaping
    c. The Research of B.F. Skinner
    d. Biological Constraints on Operant Conditioning
7. Reinforcement Schedules

   a. Plotting Moment-to-Moment Behavior: The Cumulative Recorder
   b. The Four Simple Reinforcement Schedules
   c. Factors Affecting Performance on Reinforcement Schedules
   d. Applications of Operant Conditioning
8. Avoidance and Punishment
   a. Learned Helplessness
   b. Punishment
   c. Behavior Decelerators in Behavior Therapy
9. Theories and Research on Operant Conditioning
   a. The Role of the Response
   b. The Role of the Reinforcer
   c. Behavioral Economics
10. Stimulus Control
   a. Generalization Gradients
   b. Behavioral Contrast
   c. Discrimination Learning
   d. Concept Formation
   e. Stimulus Control in Behavioral Modification
11. Learning by Observation
   a. Theories of Imitation
   b. Factors that Affect the Likelihood of Imitation
   c. Interactions Between Observational Learning and Operant Conditioning
   d. Media Violence and Aggression Behavior
   e. Modeling in Behavioral Therapy
12. Learning Motor Skills
   a. Motor Skills
   b. Variables Affecting Motor Learning and Performance
   c. Theories of Motor-Skill Learning
   d. Learning Movement Sequence

Date Course Created:

Date of Last Revision: 03/2017