

Psychology 202, Section 10298

Fall 2012: W 6:30 p.m. – 9:40 p.m. Room: 411

Instructor: Mike Cushner, MS

Communication:

- 1) Email: michael.cushner@imperial.edu
- 2) Text Message: 760-550-9480
- 3) In person office hours: Office location – 807E
M: 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
T: 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
W: 4:45 – 5:45 p.m.
R: 8:00 – 8:30 a.m.
OR by appointment
- 4) Telephone: 760-355-6142
- 5) Student Email Accounts: Each student at IVC has been issued an email account. Please go to the College website in order to access your account. If I need to communicate with you as a group, I will send email to these accounts. You should check your official email account frequently. In addition to messages from your instructors, the College also uses these email accounts for all official correspondence so it would behoove you to embrace this account and use it! **Warning:** email sent from personal accounts often is flagged as spam by the email filtering software used at IVC. If you do not receive a response to an email, it could be that your message was identified as spam and I have not received it. Email sent from IVC student accounts always gets past the spam filter.

NOTE: In any communication that you initiate with me you must include the following information:

- Your full name
- The course that you are enrolled in

If you do not provide this information, your message will be returned

Website: <http://imperial.blackboard.com>

Required Text:

Chance P. (2009). *Learning & Behavior Active Learning Edition, 6th ed.* Belmont, CA: Thomson Higher Education.

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce you to the main concepts and theories of learning. Topics to be covered include theories of learning, behaviorist and cognitive perspectives, research methodology, the relationship of genetics and the environment to behavior, Pavlovian theory, operant conditioning theory, observational learning, generalization, extinction and forgetting, cognitive processes and the limits of learning.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. To think critically about, discuss, and gain knowledge of the main theories and concepts of the psychology of learning.
 2. To leave this course with a basic understanding of learning not only in the academic sense, but also how learning is applied and used in all aspects of everyday real-world settings..
- The exams and other assignments that are required for this course are designed to help that students to achieve these outcomes.

Assignments and Grading:

3 Exams, 300 points (3 x 100 points each)

12 Quizzes, 100 points (10 x 10 points each; lowest 2 grades dropped)

4 Written Homework Assignments, 100 points (4 x 25 points each)

1 Self-Evaluation, 50 points

Total for class = 550 points

Please Note: The instructor does not provide opportunities for extra credit.

Grades will be assigned based on the percentage of total points earned as follows:

A = .90 – 1.00 C = .70 – .79 F = .59 or less

B = .80 – .89 D = .60 – .69

Exams:

- * The three exams will consist of multiple-choice questions covering material from the lectures and assigned readings. Each exam consists of 100 questions worth 1 point each. The third exam is comprehensive.
- * All exams are closed book and closed notes; no outside resources – including dictionaries – can be used while taking an exam. Also, students must never touch a mobile phone during an exam for any reason.
- * For each exam, you must bring a green Scantron form (form number 822-E) and a #2 pencil. Scantrons are available for purchase at the campus bookstore. Scantrons need to be kept in good condition or they will not feed through the scantron machine. **If you do not have a scantron and a pencil to record your answers, you will receive a zero for the exam.**
- * On the days that exams are scheduled, exams will begin promptly at **10:15 a.m.** **Anyone who arrives more than 5 minutes late for an exam will have 20 points deducted from their test score.**
- * Study Guides – I **do not** provide study guides for exams. Anything covered in lecture or contained in the assigned reading is considered to be “fair game” for inclusion on an exam.

*****Make-up exams: In order to be eligible for a makeup exam you must meet the following conditions:**

- Your absence must be due to an extreme emergency (such as medical emergency, death in the family, automobile accident, etc.).
- You must provide proof that the emergency occurred.
- You must notify me within 48 hours of the time of the exam either in person or via text/email/voicemail.
- You must report to the makeup exam at the time that I specify.
- Once a makeup exam is scheduled, it will not be rescheduled for any reason; if you fail to show up, you will receive a zero for the exam.
- Under no circumstances will more than one make-up exam be given to a student in a given semester.

Quizzes:

- * There will be a ten-question quiz at the start of each **Tuesday** class (except during weeks on which exams will be held). Each quiz will address the material covered in the previous week's lectures. You will enter your answers directly on the quiz.
- * Given that there will be 12 quizzes, I will drop the two lowest scores so that a maximum of 100 points can be earned.
- * **I will not give make-up quizzes under any circumstances.** If you miss a quiz, you will receive a grade of zero.

Written Homework Assignments:

- * You will be required to complete four written assignments; complete details for each assignment will be distributed in class.
- * The delivery mechanism for each assignment may vary – in some cases, you will hand in the assignment in class, but in other cases submission through blackboard will be required.
- * Homework assignments are due on the date indicated; **I will not accept late homework assignments under any circumstances.**

Self-Evaluation:

- * At the end of the semester, you must submit an evaluation of your performance in the class. Specifically, you need to state the things that you did in order to improve the quality of the class; this includes things like class participation (questions, comments, discussions), prompt and consistent class attendance, paying attention and being focused on the material and discussions, and any other ways that you contributed to making this a better experience for yourself and the other students in the class.
- * In order to get full credit for this assignment, you need to have consistently done the things mentioned in the last paragraph. Points will be deducted if you cannot demonstrate that you have not engaged in these activities.
- * It would be a good idea for you to keep track of your class activities so that you have some good data to work with when you submit your self-evaluation.

Attendance:

- * Students who are not present for the first day of class will be dropped.
- * I will track attendance every class for the first two weeks of the semester. Students who stop attending after the first class session will be dropped on [09/04/2012](#).
- * After the first two weeks of class, **I will not drop students from the course for non-attendance or non-participation. If you are unable to complete the course, it is your responsibility to use the processes that exist to drop yourself from the course.** I am obligated to give a final grade to every student who is still registered in the course at the end of the semester. If you do not complete the course and do not drop yourself from the course, your grade will be based on whatever work you have completed in the course.
- * After the first two weeks of class, I will track participation based on return of quizzes and assignments.
- * **Students are expected to attend all class sessions.** If you do not attend class and take notes, you will not have any idea as to what to study for a given exam. I highly recommend that you make a friend in the class so that you can get notes from your friend if the need should arise to miss a class. **In addition**, you are required to write a graded self-evaluation at the end of the semester and, if you do not attend class, you will have nothing to report in that self-evaluation – and your grade will be correspondingly low.
- * Attendance and punctuality are important. I will be in class on time and I expect you to do the same. Tardiness is disrespectful and disruptive to the entire class; while it may be “nothing personal”, you distract the entire class when you enter late. If you are late, please enter the classroom and be seated as quickly and unobtrusively as possible. Material (including announcements) that is covered in the beginning of class will not be repeated for latecomers; it is your responsibility to get any missed information.
- * **PLEASE NOTE: I do not make any lecture presentations available to students for any reason.** In order to have an idea of what will be addressed on exams, it will be necessary for you to attend class and take notes.
- * **PLEASE NOTE:** You may **not** record lectures without receiving my permission to do so beforehand.

Classroom Etiquette:

- * Most of you are here to learn the material, but some students are ambivalent or downright disinterested in this course and/or school. To preserve a productive learning environment, students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be told to leave the classroom and to meet with Sergio Lopez, campus disciplinary officer before returning to the class. Mr. Lopez will follow disciplinary procedures as outlined in the General Catalog.
- * Students are expected to behave in a manner that is consistent with the Imperial Valley College "Standards of Student Conduct". If you do not conduct yourself in a manner that is consistent with these standards as well as with the instructor's standards of conduct, this could result in the disciplinary measures just described.
- * Openness to ideas is a key factor in becoming an educated person. During class discussions, all ideas should be submitted and received in this spirit. No abusive, intolerant, or offensive language will be tolerated.
- * By college policy, students are not allowed to have food or drinks in the classroom with the exception of bottled water.
- * At the beginning of each class session, I will remind everyone to turn off or silence mobile phones, smart phones and other electronic communication devices. You may not use any of these devices for any reason during class. In addition, the use of laptop computers is also not permitted unless you have a documented physical disability that requires their use.
- * I expect that your purpose in registering for this class is to learn the subject matter. Any behaviors that do not involve paying active attention to the class are not permitted. This includes:

• Any use of electronic devices	• Listening to music
• Private conversations	• Reading newspapers
• Writing notes	• Reading/studying for another course
• Sleeping	• Wearing sunglasses (unless you have a documented medical condition)
• Any other behavior that does not involve paying active attention	

Academic Dishonesty:

Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated at the College. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will be given a zero for the assignment and sent to Disciplinary Officer Sergio Lopez. A second occurrence of cheating or plagiarism may result in dismissal from class and expulsion from IVC as outline in the General Catalog.

Students With Disabilities:

If you have a disability that has been registered with Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) and you have been granted an accommodation relative to that disability in order to participate in this class, **please let me know immediately following the first class session.** If you believe that you have a disability that qualifies for accommodation, please notify DSPS as soon as possible – contact the Mel Wendrick Access Center, Room 2117, 760-355-6312.

About Blackboard:

Blackboard is a course management system that has been implemented at IVC. The system is a web-based software package that most users find very simple to master because it looks like many other web pages that users are already familiar with. Blackboard has many capabilities that instructors and students find helpful: the ability to send messages, submit documents, send email, post announcements, set up chat rooms, track grades, administer tests and more are all part of this software package.

For this course, Blackboard will be used as the mechanism to track grades, to submit assignments, and as a means of communication. I will also post relevant documents on

Blackboard such as this syllabus, course assignment descriptions, and the documents that I have developed to help students to master the fundamentals required to succeed in college.

You can access the Blackboard system by entering the following web address into your web browser: <http://imperial.blackboard.com>. This web address will take you to the IVC Blackboard login page. Your username for Blackboard is the same as the first part of your IVC email address (for example, juan.rodriguez). Your password is your WEBSTAR/Student Portal PIN. Enter your username and password and click the "Login" button.

Once you enter Blackboard, you should see a list of the courses in which you are currently enrolled on the right side of the page. To get to the course website, click on the link for "PSY 202: Learning". This will take you to the course homepage and there is a graphic that indicates this. At this point, you might want to just explore around in Blackboard to see what is available. Feel free to click on the buttons as there is very little that you can harm. While every effort has been made to make the buttons in Blackboard obvious as to their purpose, a bit of exploration will help you to learn where everything is.

If you need some additional information about Blackboard, there is a link to the On Demand Learning Center on the first page after you login to Blackboard. To access this help directly, go to the following website: <http://ondemand.blackboard.com/students.htm>.

This syllabus describes the course that the instructor intends to deliver to the students. This intended plan is subject to change as the instructor deems necessary as the semester progresses.

Course Outline

WEEK	DATES	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READINGS (Chapters)
1	08/22	Syllabus Review Introduction – Learning to Change	1
2	08/29	The Study of Learning and Behavior	2
	09/01	Last Day to Drop With Refund of Fees	
	09/03	Last Day to Drop with No Grade	
	09/04	Census	
3	09/05	Pavlovian Conditioning	3
4	09/12	Pavlovian Conditioning (cont) Assignment 1 Due	3
5	09/19	Pavlovian Applications	4
6	09/26	Exam 1	
7	10/03	Reinforcement Assignment 2 Due	5
8	10/10	Schedules of Reinforcement	6
9	10/17	Punishment	7
10	10/24	Operant Applications/Interpretations Assignment 3 Due	8
11	10/31	Exam 2	
12	11/07	Observational Learning	9
	11/10	Last Day to Drop With Grade "W"	
13	11/14	Generalization, Discrimination, Stimulus Control Assignment 4 Due	10
14	11/21	Generalization, Discrimination, Stimulus Control (cont) Memory and Forgetting	10 11
15	11/28	Memory and Forgetting (cont) The Limits of Learning	11 12
16	12/05	Final Exam – Cumulative	12