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Teaching Assistant:
Text/Materials: The Society of Mind by Minsky
Sniffy software

The purpose of this course is to learn and appreciate some of the concepts and principles of animal behavior and learning and conditioning in animals. We will also apply our knowledge of these topics through laboratory and naturalistic experimentation.

There are five components of the course grading: quizzes (200 points possible), reaction labs (50 points each for a total of 200 points maximum, that is, you can't do more than 4 reaction labs), an exam (200 points possible) based on the reading on reserve in Ellis library (Domjan book), reaction papers and attendance on discussion days (50 points each for 300 points total), and lab reports (200 points each; for one's first lab report, the initial draft is worth 50 points and the remainder is worth 150 points). All of these components (except the one exam) are achieved by the mastery system; that is, either you earn all of the points for an attempt or you earn zero points. Everyone in the class must master at least one lab report and do either two reaction papers or one reaction lab to complete the course, but the rest is up to you!

This system may seem peculiar, but it gives students control over what they learn as well as control over when they learn since a student can skip a certain project during a particular week if they have a lot of exams in other classes at that time or have some other conflict. By allowing students to decide how they wish to earn their points, it gives students control over how they are graded (how you earn points).

If you earn 900 points, you receive an A for the course
If you earn 800 points, you receive a B for the course
If you earn 700 points, you receive a C for the course
If you earn 600 points, you receive a D for the course

If you earn at least 30 and less than 50 additional points above a certain letter grade, then you can earn a plus for that grade. If you earn within 30 points of the next highest grade, then you can receive a minus for that higher grade. For example, if you earn 826 points, you will earn a B. If you earn 833 points, then you will earn a B+. And you can earn a B+ for all point values above and including 830 until you earn 870 and that person would earn an A-.

Quizzes. There will be four quizzes in the course. Each quiz is worth 50 points if you master the quiz. Mastering the quiz means that you accomplish A or B work (for an approximate idea as to what would serve as B work—B work is at least an 80% on a quiz). If you do not get at least a B, then you earn zero points for the quiz. Quizzes will occur on 1/23, 1/25, 1/27, and 1/30. They will cover material presented during the class meetings 1/18 & 20, 1/23, 1/25, and

1/27, respectively. The quizzes will not be cumulative and will consist of somewhere in the range of 3-7 questions—made up primarily definitions and short answer questions. Anyone caught cheating on a quiz will receive zero points for that quiz and may be given a failing grade for the class. All students must be on time on the day of a scheduled quiz (or the instructor can deny the student's opportunity to take the quiz). There will be no make-up quizzes without a written excuse from a physician. You must make up any exam or quiz (potentially an oral exam) within 7 days of the scheduled quiz or exam. After you have completed a quiz in class on a given day, bring something to read while you wait for other students to finish their quizzes, but please be quiet so that these students can concentrate.

Reaction Labs. Reaction Labs should be about 2-3 pages in length and should include a 2-3 sentence abstract, a 4-5 sentence procedure description, a few sentences describing what was found, and a 2-3 sentence conclusion. They must be double-spaced. It is important to convey an accurate description of what the purpose of the project was to obtain credit. It is strongly recommended that students turn in Reaction Labs by the next class meeting or two following the in-class lab exercise just so the material is fresh in the students' minds. Students will decide which of the Lab Projects they wish to use for their Reaction Labs. Reaction labs must have a date on them (for example, "March 7, 2014") and must state that it is a Reaction Lab (rather than a lab report). You must attend all parts of a lab project to be able to hand in a Reaction Lab for credit. All students must revise either one reaction lab or two reaction papers and so whichever of these are turned in first will be marked up by the TA or instructor and must be revised to receive credit. You must write "revision" on the revised copy and turn in the original at the same time. The TA or instructor may require that a student revise more than one reaction lab if the writing needs work in order for the student to receive credit for it.

Lab Reports. Students are required to complete at least one full Lab Report. Lab Reports are about 8 pages in length. There will be sessions during the semester devoted to writing these Lab Reports (for example, 1/30, 2/3, and 2/6). Students will decide which of the Lab Projects they wish to use for their Lab Reports. The first couple of projects are not really conducive to be used for a full length lab report. Lab reports must have a date on them (for example, "March 7, 2016") and must state that it is a lab report (rather than a reaction lab). You must attend all parts of a lab project to be able to hand in a Lab Report for credit. Lab Reports must be double-spaced.

Examination. You must earn at least 50 points on the exam in order to earn any points at all. There will be an examination on April 15 for those wishing to take the exam. The exam will be on material from Chapters 3 and 4 (Two classical conditioning chapters) from Domjan and Burkhard's Principles of Learning and Behavior text. If you wish to take the exam, you must notify the instructor by April 10 so he knows how many exams to create. There will be no make up for this optional examination.

Reaction Papers and Discussion Days. Students must read the assigned reading in the text (Minsky) before the class meeting when discussion will occur. Students must also hand in a reaction paper about the assigned reading at the beginning of that class meeting. Class participation in the discussion is also recommended but not necessary to obtain the 50 points credit. Attendance might be taken at these sessions since attendance (as well as the reaction

paper) is mandatory for obtaining credit. Reaction papers should be about 1.5-2 pages long.

This paper should be based on the material in the readings, but the paper should also extend beyond the material in the readings. You will receive a mastery grade to the extent that you make it clear that you understood the readings, and then—more importantly—to go beyond the readings by putting thought into your own ideas. You must attend the discussion to be able to hand in a Reaction Paper for credit. All students must revise either one reaction lab or two reaction papers and so whichever of these are turned in first will be marked up by the TA or instructor and must be revised to receive credit. (Note: if you turn in a reaction paper and get it marked up for regarding and then you do not do a second reaction paper, then a reaction lab will be marked up and require regarding). You must write “revision” on the revised copy and turn in the original at the same time. The TA or instructor may require that a student revise more than one reaction paper if the writing needs work in order for the student to receive credit for it.

Anyone believed to plagiarize someone else's writings can receive an F in the course and be sent forward for disciplinary action by the college and university. A student must have at least 350 points to be eligible for a withdrawal passing grade if they withdraw from the course.

WARNING: the instructor is **REQUIRED** to report plagiarism to university authorities.

Discrimination Statement: UMC does not tolerate discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, disability or status as a veteran. In addition, equal treatment and opportunity will be provided regardless of sexual orientation or cultural issues. Exposure to discrimination impairs the University's goals of facilitating the transmission of knowledge, pursuit of truth, and the development of students. If you have been exposed to discriminatory practices or insensitivity, you can address your concern by speaking to the Vice Provost for Minority Affairs and Faculty Development (882-9061) or you may speak with me privately after class.

Disability Statement

If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately. Please see me privately after class, or at my office.

To request academic accommodations (for example, a note taker), students must also register with Disability Services, AO38 Brady Commons, 882-4696. It is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting academic accommodations, and for accommodations planning in cooperation with students and instructors, as needed and consistent with course requirements. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on Disability Resources on the MU homepage.

Eight Lab Projects:

- Computer Simulation of Rat Conditioning Lab Project (#1; RR)
- Computer Simulation of Rat Conditioning Lab Project (#2; RR)
- Game Theory Lab Project (#3; TS)
- Human Behavior Modification Lab Project (#4; TS)
- Dilution, Confusion, and Odd Prey Effects Project (#5; RR)
- Avian or Squirrel Foraging Lab Project (#6; RR)
- Ant Foraging Lab Project (#7; RR)
- Rat Laboratory Project (#8) (tentative and dates are tentative) (TS & RR)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event (tentative)</u>
1	1/18	Introduction and Lecture on Principles of Animal Learning (TS)
	1/20	Lecture on Principles of Animal Learning (TS)
2	1/23	Quiz 1; Lecture on Principles of Animal Learning (TS)
	1/25	Quiz 2; Lecture on Principles of Animal Learning (TS)
	1/27	Quiz 3; Lecture on Principles of Animal Learning (TS)
3	1/30	Quiz 4; How to Write a Reaction Lab and Lab Report (RR)
	2/1	Discussion-Chapter 1 (TS)
	2/3	Statistics for Lab Reports (TS)
4	2/6	Statistics for Lab Reports (TS); Discussion-Chapter 2 (TS)
	2/8	Orientation to Project #1 & #2 (RR)
	2/10	Discussion-Chapter 3 (TS)
5	2/13	Project #3 (TS)
	2/15	Discussion-Chapter 4 (TS)
	2/17	Orientation to Project #4; Discussion-Chapter 5 (TS)
6	2/20	Discussion-Chapter 6 (RR)
	2/22	Discussion-Chapter 7 (TS)
	2/24	Discussion-Chapter 8 (TS)
7	2/27	Orientation to Project 6 (RR); Discussion-Chapter 9 (TS)
	3/1	Project 6 (RR)
	3/3	Project 6 (continued, if needed, RR)
8	3/6	Discussion-Chapter 10 (RR)
	3/8	Reaction Paper and Lab Report Feedback Session (TS)
	3/10	Discussion-Chapter 11 (TS)

9	3/13 3/15 3/17	Discussion: Chapter 12 (RR) Project #5 (RR) Project #5 Completion and Discussion (RR)
10	3/20 3/22 3/24	Discussion-Chapter 13 (RR) Discussion-Chapter 16 (TS) Orientation to Project #8 (TS)
11	4/3 4/5 4/7	Project #8 (TS, RR) Project #8 (TS, RR) Project #8 (TS, RR)
12	4/10 4/12 4/14	Discussion-Chapter 18 (TS) Discussion-Chapter 20 (TS) Orientation to Project #7 (RR)
13	4/17 4/19 4/21	Project #7 (RR) Project #7 (RR) Project #7 (RR)
14	4/24 4/26 4/28	Exam (TS) Discussion-Ch. 29 (TS) Discussion-Ch. 30 (RR)
15	5/1 5/3	Paper Writing Feedback Session All additional papers due in classroom during the class period-no late papers accepted