EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 2004
CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Douglas College

A:	Division:	**INSTRUCTIONAL**	Effective Date:		**SEPTEMBER 2004**

B: Department / Program Area: **PSYCHOLOGY FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Revision **X**

New Course ☐

If Revision, Section(s) Revised: **C, H**

Date of Previous Revision: **OCTOBER 2001**

Date of Current Revision: **APRIL 2004**

C: **PSYC 3365** **D**: **THE PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING** **E:** **3**

Subject & Course No.　　　　　　Descriptive Title　　　　　　Semester Credits

F: Calendar Description: This course provides an introduction to the psychology of learning and is concerned with the conditions, principles, and theories of learning. Traditional behaviouristic approaches (including Pavlovian and instrumental conditioning) and contemporary learning theories will be covered. The influences of biology and cognitive factors a0.02 495.0701 451.920122.0953 440.4602acto

M: **Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of the course the successful student will be able to:

1.   List the major historical figures in the history of the psychology of learning and describe their contributions.

2.   Define learning and list the various types of learning included in the definition.

3.   List the major traditional and contemporary theoretical approaches in the psychology of learning.

4.   Describe the classical conditioning paradigm and the procedures for acquisition and extinction.

5.   Explain how the principles of Pavlovian Conditioning can be applied in clinical and other settings.

6.   Describe Instrumental Conditioning procedures and the effects of various schedules of reinforcement.

7.   Discuss the effects on behaviour of positive reinforcement, negative reinforcement, positive and negative punishment.

8.   Explain how the principles of instrumental conditioning can be applied to practical settings.

9.   Define generalization and discrimination and describe the major paradigms and phenomena associated with these processes.

10.   Explain the major biological constraints on the generality of the laws of learning.

11.   List and describe the various biological influences on learning such as the Garcia Effect, Seligman's preparedness dimension, animal misbehaviour, sign tracking, imprinting, and species specific defense reactions.

12.   Discuss the cognitive factors involved in learning and list the major contemporary cognitive theoretical approaches.

13.   Compare and contrast the traditional behaviourist approach with expectancy theory, Tolman's purposive behaviourism, attribution theory and social learning theory.

N: **Course Content:**

1.   <u>Historical Factors</u>
      Behaviourist tradition
      Cognitive tradition
      Contemporary learning theory

2.   <u>Theoretical Approaches</u>
      Definition of learning
      Evolutionary perspective
      Habituation and sensitization

3.   <u>Pavlovian Conditioning</u>
      Acquisition
      Extinction
      Applications

Course Content Cont'd.

4.   <u>Instrumental Appetitive Conditioning</u>
        Thorndike's position
        Skinner's behaviourism
        Acquisition
        Positive reinforcement
        Schedules of reinforcement