

COURSE OUTLINE FOR FUNDAMENTALS OF ANIMAL LEARNING

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COURSE OUTLINE

Week I

What is learning and how do we know it's happened?

Defining operant conditioning

Contrast briefly to other types of learning such as habituation, sensitization and classical conditioning

The Four Quadrants

Positive reinforcement

Negative punishment

Positive punishment

Negative reinforcement

Practice categorizing events

Week II

Using Positive Reinforcement

What to use for reinforcement

Primary reinforcers

Secondary reinforcers

Premack Principle

When to deliver reinforcement

Schedules of reinforcement

Interval schedules

Ratio schedules

Duration schedules

Techniques using positive reinforcement

Prompting and fading

Lure reward

Target training

Catching

Shaping

Week III

Using negative punishment

Types of negative punishment

- Time out

- Extinction

- DRO differential reinforcement of other behavior

- DRI – differential reinforcement of incompatible behavior

- Counter commanding

- Operant counter conditioning

Week IV

Using positive punishment

Criteria for effective use

What to use for punishment

- Conditioned punishers

- Social punishers vs. remote punishers

The ethics of using punishment

- A decision tree

Summary and Wrap up