



# Introduction to Associative Conditioning and Choice Behavior

## Course Syllabus

### Course Description

This course will introduce students to the principles of associative conditioning and choice behaviors. Basic concepts include classical conditioning and operant conditioning which are introduced before delving into choice behavior. Classical conditioning will include the three learning phases (acquisition, extinction, and spontaneous recovery) while explaining how different stimuli (neutral, unconditioned, conditioned) produce responses (conditioned or unconditioned). Additionally, operant conditioning will include the three learning phases mentioned beforehand; however, this will also introduce reinforcements (reinforcements/punishments) and reinforcer schedules (ratio/interval) and the resulting responses in behavior. Lastly, to extend conditioning, this course will include motivating operations which can change the value of reinforcers which relate to changes in behavior. Educational environments can benefit from behavioral understanding of choice and increase wanted behaviors.

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in understanding and applying classical and operant conditioning principles to influence behavior and promote positive outcomes in educational settings.

### Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Describe the basic concepts of Stimuli (Stimuli + Responses)
2. Describe classical conditioning along with the fundamental concepts involved (Acquisition, Extinction, and Spontaneous Recovery)
3. Extend the fundamental concepts of classical conditioning using stimulus modification (Generalization and Discrimination)
4. Describe the fundamental concepts of operant conditioning (Behaviors and Consequences)
5. Extend the fundamental concepts of operant conditioning (Positive and Negative Reinforcement)
6. Extend the fundamental concepts of operant conditioning (Positive and Negative Punishment)
7. Extend the fundamental concepts of operant conditioning (Reinforcement Schedules: Fixed and Variable Schedules of Reinforcement)
8. Extend the fundamental concepts of operant conditioning (Motivating Operations)



### **Modules**

- Module 1: Associative Conditioning: Pavlovian (Classical) Conditioning, Quiz 1
- Module 2: Extending Classical Conditioning, Quiz 2
- Module 3: Generalization and Discrimination, Quiz 3
- Module 4: Introduction to Operant Conditioning, Quiz 4
- Module 5: Operant Conditioning: Reinforcements, Quiz 5
- Module 6: Operant Conditioning: Punishment, Quiz 6
- Module 7: Operant Conditioning: Ratio Reinforcement, Quiz 7
- Module 8: Operant Conditioning: Motivating Operations, Quiz 8

### **Grading:**

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

### **Format**

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.