

31207 - Learning Psychology

Syllabus Information

Academic Year: 2020/21

Subject: 31207 - Learning Psychology

Faculty / School: 301 - Facultad de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas

Degree: 613 -

ECTS: 6.0

Year: 1

Semester: Second semester

Subject Type: Basic Education

Module: ---

1.General information

1.1.Aims of the course

The Psychology of Learning subject is included in the English-Language Friendly programme of the University of Zaragoza.

The following objectives outline the content of the subject and its learning outcomes. The official guidelines of the University of Zaragoza state a primary objective of psychology degree to be that the psychology student acquires the necessary scientific knowledge to be able to understand, interpret, analyse and explain human behaviour. Learning processes have historically formed one of the pillars of the psychological discipline and have served as the experimental and theoretical basis for many fields of psychological study: Learning psychology, clinical psychology, etc. By taking an initial experimental approach the student will have the chance to discover the underlying processes of both associative and non-associative learning, as well as the underlying theory which explains them.

1.2.Context and importance of this course in the degree

The learning psychology subject takes place for the duration of the first semester of the first year of study in the psychology degree. The fundamental knowledge which is taught in the subject will be expanded upon in other subjects of the degree.

1.3.Recommendations to take this course

Given the amount of theoretical content in the subject the student is advised to partake in individual study from the outset. Some basic knowledge of common computer programs (word processors, Power Point, web browser), and the English language will be of great use to the student throughout the subject. The student should also be familiar with the Moodle platform and access it frequently. All theoretic and practical content will be posted there as well as any news or updates concerning the subject.

2.Learning goals

2.1.Competences

Passing this subject will make the student more competent in the following:

1. Be familiar with various theoretic frameworks in the field of psychology and be able to evaluate their advantages and disadvantages.
2. Know and understand the laws and principles which underlying psychological processes.

2.2.Learning goals

In order to pass the subject the student must be able to demonstrate familiar with and understanding of:

1. The historical roots of Learning Psychology.
2. What learning is and how it can be studied from a psychological perspective.
3. Habituation and Sensitization processes and the underlying models which they are based on.
4. What classical conditioning is and the main experimental processes and theoretical models which are employed in its study.

5. Operant conditioning and its associated experimental procedures, theoretical models and reinforcement.
6. How stimulus exert control over our behaviour.
7. What extinction is and the main phenomena associated with it as well as the main hypotheses which explain it.

2.3.Importance of learning goals

The knowledge which the student acquired in this subject will not only offer him or her a vision of how basic learning processes come about, but it will also provide the groundwork for many intervention methods both in clinical and educational settings.

3.Assessment (1st and 2nd call)

3.1.Assessment tasks (description of tasks, marking system and assessment criteria)

The student's acquired knowledge in the subject will be evaluated in the following ways:

Final exam on the theoretic and practical aspects of the subject.

This final exam will be made up of multiple choice questions with three possible answers, one of which is correct. Every two incorrect answers will negate one correct answer.

In case of a health alarm, teaching and evaluation of the subject would be done online, not in person.

Marking system:

Marks are on a scale of 0 to 10, with one decimal place. 0-4.9 Fail (SS). 5-6.9 Pass (AP), 7-8.9 Notable (NT), 9-10 Exceptional (SB).

The final mark will be calculated from the weighted addition of the theoretic exam (70%) and the practical exam (30%).

In order to pass the subject the student must obtain a mark of at least a 5 in each of the two final exams. If either one of the two marks is less than 5 the results will not be added and the student will fail the subject.

4.Methodology, learning tasks, syllabus and resources

4.1.Methodological overview

The learning process has been designed with the following components:

1. Theory lectures in large groups.
2. Practical sessions in smaller groups.
3. Group assignments.
4. Special emphasis on individual study.

4.2.Learning tasks

This is a **6 ECTS course** (30 hours, theory lectures; 30 hours practical sessions). The program developed to help the student achieve the anticipated results comprises the following:

Theory lectures in large groups (30 hours):

Explanations and orientation of individual study of the different units that make up the subject. Students will be guided toward the acquisition of competencies and learning results. A range of mediums will be used to convey the necessary ideas (Powerpoint presentations, video clips, documentaries, illustrative animations, etc.).

Practical sessions in smaller groups (Problem solving and cases, 20 hours; Work taste, 30 hours):

Problem solving and questions in reduced groups (2-3 people per group). The laptop computers available to the Psychology Degree program will be used to simulate experiments in Learning Psychology. The program Sniffy Pro for Windows will be used as well as web pages whose contents, images and animations are relevant and related to the theory outlines. The Moodle learning platform will be used to download the problems and questions to resolve and answer, upload work for correction by the lecturer and carry out unit texts and practical exercises.

Autonomous Study (60 hours):

In addition to the activities already mentioned the student is expected to create structured work programs and unit outlines while bearing in mind the time required by other subjects. Motivation must be shown in the student's autonomous work.

Assessment (10 hours)

4.3.Syllabus

The contents of the subject are the following:

1. Introduction.
2. Elicited behavior. Habituation and Sensitization.
3. Classic Conditioning: Foundations.

4. Classic Conditioning: Mechanisms.
5. Instrumental conditioning: Foundations.
6. Schedules of Reinforcement and Choice Behavior.
7. Stimulus Control of Behavior.
8. Extinction of Conditioned Behavior.
9. Aversive control. Avoidance and Punishment.

4.4. Course planning and calendar

Planning and Calendar

Theory lectures in large groups: 2 hours per week.

Practical sessions in smaller groups: 2 hours per week.

Final exam to be held at the end of the second semester (June).

4.5. Bibliography and recommended resources

Bibliography and recommended resources

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