

**FUNDAMENTALS OF ANIMAL LEARNING  
2011**

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**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Week I**

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

Learning vs performance

II. Some basic types of learning

Habituation and Sensitization

Classical conditioning

Operant conditioning

III. Defining operant conditioning

IV. The Four Quadrants of Operant Conditioning based on consequences

Positive reinforcement

Negative punishment

Positive punishment

Negative reinforcement

V. Why know the difference?

Practice categorizing events

**Week II**

I. Using Positive Reinforcement

II. What to use for reinforcement

Primary reinforcers

Secondary reinforcers

Premack Principle

III. When to deliver reinforcement

Schedules of reinforcement

Interval schedules

Ratio schedules

Duration schedules

IV. Techniques using positive reinforcement

- Prompting and fading
  - Lure reward
  - Target training
- Catching
- Shaping

### **Week III**

- I. Using negative punishment
- II. Types of negative punishment and relations to other techniques
  - Time out
  - Extinction
  - DRO differential reinforcement of other behavior
  - DRI – differential reinforcement of incompatible behavior
  - Counter commanding
  - Operant counter conditioning

### **Week IV**

- I. Negative reinforcement and positive punishment
- II. Using positive punishment
- III. Criteria for effective use
- IV. What to use for punishment
  - Conditioned punishers
  - Social punishers vs. remote punishers
- V. The ethics of using punishment
  - A decision tree
  - Is aversive-free training possible?
  - The negative effects of positive reinforcement

### **Week V**

- I. Catch-up from previous lectures
- II. Questions and answers