

General psychology chapter 6 key terms



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

LearningA systematic relatively permanent change in behavior that occurs through experience. **Behaviorism**A theory of learning that focuses solely on observable behaviors, discounting the importance of mental activity such as thinking, wishing, and hoping. **ASSOCIATIVE LEARNING** Learning that occurs when an organism makes a connection or an association, between two events. **Observational Learning** Learning that occurs through observing and imitating another's behavior. **Classical Conditioning** Learning process in which a neutral stimulus becomes associated with an innately meaningful stimulus and acquires the capacity to elicit a similar response. **Unconditioned Stimulus (US)** A stimulus that produces a response without prior learning. **Unconditioned Response (UR)** An unlearned reaction that is automatically elicited by the unconditioned stimulus. **Conditioned Stimulus (CS)** A previously neutral stimulus that eventually elicits a conditioned response after being paired with the unconditioned stimulus. **Conditioned Response (CR)** The learned response to the conditioned stimulus that occurs after conditioned stimulus unconditioned stimulus pairing. **Acquisition** The initial learning of the connection between the unconditioned stimulus and the conditioned stimulus when these two stimuli are paired. **Generalization (in classical conditioning)** The tendency of a new stimulus that is similar to the original conditioned stimulus to elicit a response that is similar to the conditioned response. **Discrimination (in classical conditioning)** The process of learning to respond to certain stimuli and not others. **Extinction (in classical conditioning)** The weakening of the conditioned response when the unconditioned stimulus is absent. **Spontaneous Recovery** The process in

classical conditioning by which a conditioned response can recur after a time delay, without further conditioning. **Renewal**The recovery of the conditioned response when the organism is placed in a novel context.

CounterconditioningA classical conditioning procedure for changing the relationship between a conditioned stimulus and its conditioned response.

Aversive ConditioningA form of treatment that consists of repeated pairings of a stimulus with a very unpleasant stimulus. **Habituation**Decreased

responsiveness to the stimulus after repeated presentations. **Operant**

ConditioningA form of associative learning in which the consequences of a behavior change the probability of the behavior's occurrences. **Law of**

EffectThorndike's law stating that behaviors followed by positive outcomes are strengthened and the behaviors followed by negative outcomes are

weakened. **Shaping**Rewarding successive approximations of a desired

behavior **Reinforcement**the process by which in a stimulus or event following a particular behavior increases the probability that the behavior will happen

again. **Positive Reinforcement**the presentation of a stimulus following a given behavior in order to increase the frequency of that behavior. **Negative**

ReinforcementThe removal of a stimulus following a given behavior in order to increase the frequency of that behavior. **Avoidance Behavior**An organism's

learning that it can altogether avoid a negative stimulus by making a

particular response. **Learned Helplessness**An organism's learning through experience with negative stimuli that it has no control over negative

outcomes. **Primary Reinforcer**A reinforcer that is innately satisfying one that does not take any learning on the organism's part to make it pleasurable.

Secondary ReinforcerA reinforcer that acquires its positive value through an organism's experience a secondary reinforcer is a learned or conditioned

reinforcer. Generalization (OC) Performing a reinforced behavior in a different situation. Discrimination (OC) Responding appropriately to stimuli that signal that a behavior will or will not be reinforced. Extinction (OC) Decreases in the frequency of a behavior when the behavior is no longer reinforced.

Schedules of Reinforcement Specific patterns that determine when a behavior will be reinforced. Punishment A consequence that decreases the likelihood that a behavior will occur. Positive Punishment The presentation of a stimulus following a given behavior in order to decrease the frequency of that behavior. Negative Punishment The removal of a stimulus following a given behavior in order to decrease the frequency of that behavior. Applied Behavior Modification The use of operant conditioning principals to change human behavior. Latent Learning Unenforced learning that is not immediately reflected in behaviors. Insight Learning A form of problem solving in which the organism develops a sudden insight into or understanding of a problems's solution. Instinctive Drift The tendency of animals to revert to instinctive behavior that interferes with learning. Preparedness The species-specific biological predisposition to learn in a certain ways but not others.