Unit 4: Learning

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **AP Psychology**
Time Period: **November**
Length: **10 Blocks**
Status: **Published**

Learning and Conditioning

Students will learn about the field of psychology that studies how humans and other animals learn as well as how learning changes over a lifetime.

Enduring Understandings

- Learning is an innate part of human existence and is accomplished in a variety of ways.
- There are a range of concepts and components utilized in classical and operant conditioning.
- Observational learning can readily be applied to real world examples.

Essential Questions

1. How do psychologists define learning?
2. How do principles of classical conditioning work to create learning?
3. In what ways does classical conditioning work in human contexts?
4. How do principles of operant conditioning work to create learning?
5. In what ways does operant conditioning work in human contexts?
6. How do principles of observational learning work to create learning?
7. In what ways does observational learning work in human contexts?
8. How are the various principles discussed different and similar

Content

Topics will include:

- Influential researchers and theories of learning
- Results of famous learning experiments
- Types of learning
- Types of conditioning and their effects
- Social and cognitive factors in learning

Vocabulary

Classical conditioning, operant, operant conditioning, stimulus, response, conditioned, unconditioned, reinforcement, punishment, aversive conditioning, variable ratio, variable interval, fixed ratio, fixed interval, Social Learning Theory, observational learning, latent learning, insight learning, Law of Effect, acquisition, extinction, spontaneous recovery, generalization, discrimination, shaping

Important People

Ivan Pavlov, B.F. Skinner, John B. Watson, Little Albert, Edward Thorndike, Edward Tolman, Wolfgang Kohler

Student Expectations

I. Learning

AP students in psychology will be able to:

- Describe the process of classical conditioning
- Explain the processes of acquisition, extinction, spontaneous recovery, generalization, and discrimination.
- Describe the process of operant conditioning, including the procedure of shaping, as demonstrated by Skinner's experiments.
- Identify the different types of reinforcers and describe the schedules of reinforcement
- Discuss the importance of cognitive processes and biological predispositions in conditioning.
- Discuss the effects of punishment on behavior.
- Describe the process of observational learning (Bandura's experiments).

Standards

LA.RI.9-10.2	Determine a central idea of a text and analyze how it is developed and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.RI.9-10.8	Describe and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and reasoning.

LA.W.9-10.9	Draw evidence from literary or nonfiction informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
LA.W.9-10.9.B	Apply grades 9–10 Reading standards to nonfiction informational (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning”).
SCI.9-12.DL.2	Learning
SCI.9-12.DL.2.1	Classical conditioning
SCI.9-12.DL.2.1.1	Describe the principles of classical conditioning
SCI.9-12.DL.2.1.2	Describe clinical and experimental examples of classical conditioning
SCI.9-12.DL.2.1.3	Apply classical conditioning to everyday life
SCI.9-12.DL.2.2	Operant conditioning
SCI.9-12.DL.2.2.1	Describe the Law of Effect
SCI.9-12.DL.2.2.2	Describe the principles of operant conditioning
SCI.9-12.DL.2.2.3	Describe clinical and experimental examples of operant conditioning
SCI.9-12.DL.2.2.4	Apply operant conditioning to everyday life
SCI.9-12.DL.2.3	Observational and cognitive learning
SCI.9-12.DL.2.3.1	Describe the principles of observational and cognitive learning
SCI.9-12.DL.2.3.2	Apply observational and cognitive learning to everyday life