

Behavioral Theory (Learning)

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Learning

- Overt behavior + internal state of knowledge
- Animals learn about stimuli in their environment
- Animals learn about their own behavior
- Learning is an inferred change in an individual's mental state or potential behavior
- Always observed through behavior
- Stems from experience

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Reflexes

- Simplest form of behavior
- Stimulus + Response
 - Knee jerk
 - Startle
 - Rooting
 - Gagging
 - Blink
 - Sneeze
 - Imprinting

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Behavioral Change

- Sensitization – increase in response
 - Usually temporary
- Habituation – loss of response
 - Can be temporary or long term
- Fatigue
 - Response to a different stimulus rules out fatigue

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Conditioning Theory

- Learning is accomplished through experience
- Anticipate the events that follow a stimulus
- Can result in an autonomic response or adjustment in behavior

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Classical Conditioning

- Pavlov's dogs
- Pavlovian conditioning

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Operant Conditioning

- Use of Consequences to shape behavior

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Key Concepts

- Habituation
- Sensitization

- Dishabituation
- Desensitization

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Habituation

- Loss of response (becoming acclimated) to a stimuli through repeated exposure

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Sensitization

- Becoming more responsive to a stimuli as a result of repeated exposure

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Dishabituation

- Re-gaining a previously habituated response
- Accomplished by removing or interrupting the presence of a stimuli

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Desensitization

- Subsiding or reduction of a previously sensitized response
- Accomplished through removal of the stimuli or some form of therapy (stress inoculation)

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Reinforcement Theory

- A process of shaping behavior by controlling the consequences experienced as a result of the behavior
 - Primary reinforcement
 - Food,
 - Affection (sex)
 - Survival needs
 - Secondary reinforcement
 - Economic gain
 - Social status
 - Power
 - Self-concept

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Extinction

- Loss or reduction of a learned response through non-reinforcement
- “If you ignore it, he'll stop”
- Extinction burst
 - It gets worse before it gets better

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Reinstatement

- Refers to regaining a response that was previously extinguished

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Reward and Punishment

- Positive – something is given
- Negative – something is taken away
- Positive punishment: something undesirable is given
- Positive reward: something desirable is given
- Negative punishment: something desirable is taken away
- Negative reward: something undesirable is taken away

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Defensive and Orienting Responses

- Sokolov (1963)
- Pavlov (1927)
- “what is it?”

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Defensive Response

- Habituates slowly
- Ensure survival in the presence of a threatening stimuli

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Reinforcement Schedule

- Timed / periodic
- Intermittent / Variable / random

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Non-contingent Reinforcement

- Reward is provided on a timed or variable schedule without regard for a behavioral precipitant
- Eliminates the need for a behavior

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Orienting Response

- Habituates quickly
- Prevents distraction resulting from neutral stimuli

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DRs and ORs in Polygraph Testing

- Defensive Resonance is assumed to occur in response to RQs and CQ
 - Deceptive subject: greatest DR to RQs
 - Truthful subject: greatest DR to CQs
- Orienting response occurs to Ns and other Qs

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The End.

Thank You.

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