Learning Objectives
Chapter 5b: Learning (Operant Conditioning)

1. Describe the Law of Effect in one's own words.

2. Describe instrumental or operant conditioning and explain how it differs from classical conditioning.

3. Define operant and reinforcer and provide an example of each.

4. Explain how positive and negative reinforcement have a common goal and how that goal is accomplished. Distinguish between negative reinforcement and punishment.

5. Define shaping and explain how it is used in operant conditioning.

6. Discuss the difference between primary and secondary reinforcers and provide an example of each.

7. Explain the difference between continuous and partial reinforcement schedules. Compare and contrast fixed-ratio, variable-ratio, fixed-interval, and variable-interval schedules. Describe how these schedules affect response patterns and discuss the partial reinforcement extinction effect.

8. Define punishment and describe its role in operant conditioning. Explain how punishment differs from negative reinforcement. Discuss the disadvantages and guidelines for using punishment.

9. Describe applications of operant conditioning including how it can be used to address problematic behavior.