Course syllabus: Animal Learning and Behavior
Course information: Graduate level=PSYC 6371; Undergraduate level=PSYC 4345

Semester: Spring 2016	**Professor**: Dr. Laura E. O'Dell (lodell@utep.edu)
Class time: Wednesday 4:30-7:20 pm	**Location**: LARTS 205
Office hours: Wednesday 2-4 pm	**Location**: PSYC 211

Learning objectives: This course will examine current theories and recent developments in our application of animal models to improve our understanding of the various factors that modulate psychiatric disorders. A broad range of animal models will be covered with an emphasis on the role of learning and memory processes in these models.

Course requirements and major assignments: You will be graded in 4 areas each worth 25% of your grade. All grades will be administered out of 100 points.

- 25% In class learning assessment
- 25% Weekly reaction papers
- 25% Individual presentations
- 25% Final paper

1. In-class learning assessment: Each class will focus on a particular psychiatric disorder. The graduate students will be responsible for leading one lecture during the semester. One week prior to class, they will give all of the students a review paper to read prior to class. After their lecture, they will administer a learning assessment to evaluate our understanding of the lecture materials. This will involve a short answer quiz that will be evaluated in collaboration with Dr. O'Dell. *You will receive a grade on a scale of 100, and all of the class assessments will be averaged for the 25% of your In class learning assessments.*
2. Weekly reaction papers: After each lecture, you will turn in a 1-2 page reaction paper to the material that was covered in class. The following questions should be addressed in your reaction paper. 1) Which are the animal models used to study the psychological disorder being discussed? 2) What are the strengths of the model? 3) What are the limitations of the model? 4) How does each model perform with regard to face, predictive, and construct validity? 5) Were there other forms of validity that the model assessed? *Your reaction papers will be graded individually and the composite mean of these scores will make up 25% of your grade. The papers are due on Wednesday during class and late papers will be reduced 20 points.*
3. Individual presentations: The graduate students will be graded on their lecture that will be given during the semester. The grade will reflect their presentation materials as well as the in class assessment materials. The undergraduates will present a paper at the end of the semester on an animal model that they want to share with the class. The paper needs to be from a scientific journal and it should be provided to the class. The topic needs to be discussed with Dr. O'Dell in order to guide their presentation. They will be graded on their ability to present new material and also integrate what they have learned during the semester. The topic will be on something that has not been covered in class. For example, if you study language and cognition you may want to cover animal models of language, such as bird song. *Your grade will be given based on your depth of knowledge, organization, and ability to answer questions about the article.*
4. Final Paper: The students will all be required to write a paper integrating information that has been learned from the class. The undergraduates can write their paper on the paper that they present. The graduate students have greater flexibility, but need to write on the topic of animal models as it relates to their research interests.

Absences: *Absences will only be excused for medical reasons with documentation.*

Required reading assignments: There is not a book assignment for this class. Our class will rely on reviews and research papers that will be handed out in class.

General description of the subject matter for each lecture:

1	January 20, 2016	Introductory lecture; Pharmacology	O'Dell
2	January 27, 2016	Film: A case of the frozen addict	Carcoba
3	February 3, 2016	Introductory lecture; Validity	O'Dell
4	February 10, 2016	Introductory lecture; Animal Models	O'Dell
5	February 17, 2016	Addiction	Flores
6	February 24, 2016	Movement Disorders	Ramos
7	March 2, 2016	Schizophrenia and Bipolar disorder	Cardoso
8	March 9, 2016	Spring Break	no class
9	March 16, 2016	Stress and Depression	Hughes
10	March 23, 2016	Learning and Memory	Hutchins
11	March 30, 2016	Exercize and Overeating	Kang
12	April 6, 2016	Metabolic Disorders; Diabetes	Cruz
13	April 13, 2016	Sex and Age Differences	Uribe
14	April 20, 2016	In class presentations	Undergrads
15	April 27, 2016	In class presentations	Undergrads
16	May 4, 2016	Final Papers Due	-