Instructors

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Course Overview

This seminar is intended as an opportunity for the instructors and a group of advanced students in social psychology to explore literatures related to human evaluative learning. The aim is to enhance our understanding of the issues that have arisen in research on evaluative conditioning and of the processes that may play a role in such learning.

Course Requirements

Readings assigned for each week will be distributed via e-mail as pdfs. The quantity of reading is intentionally relatively light. What is assigned should be read carefully. Please come to the seminar meeting prepared to raise observations about the readings and, more generally, to contribute to the discussion.

The only additional requirement is a brief research proposal related to evaluative learning. The paper should be written in APA format and should be no more than 3000 words in length (excluding only the list of references). The word count, as indicated by any standard word processor, should be listed on the title page. The papers are due on December 5th. The last one or two meetings of the seminar will be devoted to brief presentations of the research proposals.

Grades will be based on class discussion (67%) and the research proposals (33%).
Tentative List of Topics and Readings

1. Overviews of the evaluative conditioning literature


2. General models of associative learning


Pearce, J. M., & Bouton, E. (2001). Theories of associative learning in animals. *Annual Review of Psychology, 52*, 111-139. [skim with the aim of understanding the questions that are being asked by animal learning researchers]

3. Attention in associative learning


4. Role of awareness in evaluative learning


5. Implicit Learning


6. Recent social psychological articles related to conditioning

Note: Some subset of these may be assigned as readings for one or two seminar meetings. Responsibility for other articles will be distributed among the seminar participants; each student will report briefly on a designated article during the class.


