

***AP Psychology – Learning Goals
Myers’ Psychology for AP: Unit VI
Learning***

Define learning, and identify some basic forms of learning.
Describe the basic components of classical conditioning, and explain behaviorism’s view of learning.
Summarize the processes of acquisition , extinction , spontaneous recovery , generalization , and discrimination .
Explain why Pavlov’s work remains so important, and describe some applications of his work to human health and well-being.
Describe operant conditioning, and explain how operant behavior is reinforced and shaped.
Discuss the differences between positive and negative reinforcement , and identify the basic types of reinforcers.
Explain how the different reinforcement schedules affect behavior.
Discuss how punishment and negative reinforcement differ, and explain how punishment affects behavior.
Describe the controversy over Skinner’s views of human behavior.
Identify some ways to apply operant conditioning principles at school, in sports, at work, at home, and for self-improvement.
Identify the characteristics that distinguish operant conditioning from classical conditioning.
Explain how biological constraints affect classical conditioning and operant conditioning.
Explain how cognitive processes affect classical and operant conditioning.
Identify the two ways that people learn to cope with personal problems.
Describe how a perceived lack of control can affect people’s behavior and health.
Describe the process of observational learning , and explain how some scientists believe it is enabled by mirror neurons .
Discuss the impact of prosocial modeling and of antisocial modeling .

Key People (be able to describe their contributions):

- John Watson
- B.F. Skinner
- Ivan Pavlov

- Edward Thorndike
- Robert Rescorla
- Edward Tolman
- John Garcia
- Martin Seligman