Psychology of Learning
Exam II: Study Guide

Chapters that you need to know:

**Domjan, Ch. 5 Instrumental Conditioning**
**Domjan, Ch. 6, Schedules of Reinforcement and Choice Behavior.**
**Domjan, Ch. 7, Instrumental Conditioning: Motivational Mechanisms.**
**Domjan, Ch. 10, Punishment & Avoidance Learning.**

One punishment article that is pro-prison, and anti-prison in sentiment.

**Pro-prison:**
- *Imprisonment Is an Effective Deterrent to Crime*, by Morgan Reynolds
- *The Criminal Justice System Should Focus on Punishment*, by Charles H. Logan
- *Prisons Should Punish Inmates*, by Francis T. Murphy

**Anti-prison:**
- *Prisons Should Rehabilitate Inmates*, by Katarina Ivanko

Also, these required readings:


Concepts:

**Reinforcement**
- Thorndike and Skinner: Instrumental and Operant conditioning
- Reinforcement: parameters that effect its effectiveness.
- Reinforcement -- schedule effects.
- Reinforcement -- choice effects. Matching Law.
- Basic Feedback Cues: Reinforcement, Punishment, Negative Reinforcement, Negative Punishment.
- Theories about reinforcement and how it works.

Reinforcement Applications:
- Animal, human applications and successes.
- Analysis of choice in animal terms.
- Special problems with special populations: children, academic settings, mentally retarded adults, brain damaged patients, drug addicts.
Self control and self-imposed schedules

Punishment:
- Definitions of punishment, and negative reinforcement as avoidance.
- Parameters of punishment and the effect they have:
  - contingency,
  - contiguity,
  - magnitude/quality,
  - reinforcement of other behavior concurrent with punishment,
  - discriminative cues paired with punishment,
  - motivational influences (i.e., hunger).

The application of punishment in an applied setting, and its evaluation. (classroom use, prison system use).

Avoidance:
- The means by which avoidance can be trained experimentally
- Two factor theory of avoidance utilizing classical conditioning and operant conditioning.
- Difficulties in explaining the maintenance of the response in avoidance, with regard to extinction effects of classical and operant conditioning.

Sample Questions:

What is reinforcement? Why does it work?

Are animals always impulsive? Under what conditions do they not appear impulsive?

Under what conditions does reinforcement for behavior actually lead to a decrease in later behavior in the classroom?

Can reinforcers be used to increase creativity? How?

Why are fines ineffective in eliminating the occurrence of speeding? Armed with the knowledge of the characteristics of punishment, analyze why the present punitive procedure does not work. Then, tell me what steps you would take to further reduce the occurrence of speeding without increasing the financial cost of enforcement?

Under what circumstances will punishment not suppress behavior? Support your circumstances with experimental examples where possible.

Bob did not complete the paper assignment on time. The instructor warned Bob that a penalty would be applied per day for late submission, but that he would still accept a late paper. On the 2nd day after the due date, Bob is distraught, and seeks and acquires an extension so that his paper is now due at the beginning of the next term. Diagram the punishment and/or avoidance type, and ultimate response and outcome here in learning terms. What effect will this experience have on Bob's future behavior, assuming this experience will influence future behavior?

Examine prison as a punisher from a learning theorist's perspective. Does it work as set up or not? If yes, how does it (using learning theory). If no, why not (using learning theory).

Describe the role of operant and classical conditioning in avoidance learning.