SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

CHILD CARE AND ADOLESCENT WORKER PROGRAMME

CCW 218-6 - Principles and Application of Learning Theory

Outline of Course

INSTRUCTOR:  Jeffrey Arbus
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             Phone:  949-2050, Ext. 293

MEETING TIMES:  Tuesday, 2 - 5 p.m.
                Sept. 7 - April 19, 1983

NATURE OF COURSE:  This course is designed to introduce the student to the overall nature of learning. Emphasis will be on specific principles of the learning of behaviour, and on the modification of behaviour. Material will be drawn from recent literature derived from human and animal experimentation. The ability to apply the principles of learning will be a primary goal in this course.

Specific Objectives:

1. Familiarity with basic principles of the learning of behaviour, in its broadest sense (i.e. interpersonally, intrapersonally, emotionally, etc.)

2. Familiarity with recent literature in learning theory.

3. Ability to apply the principles of learning in practical situations, especially with regard to Child Care Work.

4. Ability to view behaviour learning and change from a scientific and humanistic perspective.

5. To develop an awareness of how an experimental analysis of behaviour is contributing to the analysis and amelioration of a broad range of problems.

6. Finally, this course will attempt to satisfy those competencies in section 5 "Child Care Work Methodology" of the CCW Provincial Program Guidelines which are relevant to this area of study. For example, a.) reward appropriate behaviour, b.) outline and follow through on consequences, c.) identify influences of other people on the individual, d.) discourage inappropriate behaviour, e.) identify influence of day - to - day events on the individual, f.) work out contracts with clients, g.) use reinforces, h.) recognize, clarify and support areas of positive development, i.) physically guide to shape behaviour. j.) teach recognition of strengths and weaknesses, k.) encourage clients to set own goals and limitations.

Specific Objectives cont'd

These competencies will either be satisfied directly in this course, or students will learn ways of satisying them in their work with clients.

Learning Resources:

1. All students are expected to acquire a copy of the following text (in other words, required reading).

   Martin, G. and Pear, J. Behaviour modification: What it is and how to do it. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1978.

2. All students are expected to become familiar with the resource material pertaining to this area of study. This includes, especially, the journals. The L.R.C. is the main resource area in the College. You may wish to persue the Algoma University College Library as well. The instructor has material, but to not assume accessibility since it is a personal collection.

3. Handouts, films, etc. will be provided where the instructor believes them to be appropriate. These will be part of the student assignment schedule if they are used.

Requirements of the Course:

a.) Quizzes - 3 X 10% each = 30% of final grade.

   - a one-week notification will be given in each case.
   - cumulative content in each successive test.

b.) Final exam - in April, 1983 - 20% of final grade

   - a 2-week notice will be given here.
   - content covered will be announced at that time.

c.) Case analysis and program writing - to be handed in for grading - will involve an analysis of a case and a proposed programme outline incorporating the learning principles studied to that point - legibility of hand-in is included, along with accuracy and completeness of content, in the grading - 3 X 10% each = 30% of final grade.

d.) Journal article presentation - an oral (only) presentation summarizing a recent development in this field of behaviour learning and modification - the article must be from a recognized research journal (not a magazine like Macleans or even Psychology Today, for example) - the presentation should be a summary of the article - the presentor must be prepared to lead a class discussion based on the main points of the article - minimum of 20 minutes, including discussion. - grading, with class input, will be based on accuracy and clarity (5%) and presentation style including discussion (5%) for 10% of the final grade.

   - Dates to be announced, with a 2 - week notice before the first one.

e.) Class participation, including completion of all assigned readings and assignments (on time, naturally); in class participation both in discussion, exercises and projects; attendance and punctuality; and overall commitment. Students will have input into the grading for this section - <u>10%</u> of final grade.

\* NOTES (so that you know where I stand - also called, in some circles, warnings!):

a) <u>Plagiarism</u> (your responsibility to know what is is, so find out for sure!) is absolutely forbidden. Confirmed plagiarism in any assignment will result in an automatic rewrite for one-half of the original grade. A second offence will result in a grade of zero for the particular assignment, and a recommendation by the instructor to the Chairman of the Department that the student be withdrawn from the course.

b) Late assignments may not get a second chance, <u>especially</u> if the instructor was not notified in advance. This includes the quizzes, exams, oral and written assignments. Notification in advance is not a guarantee of approval, but will weigh in your favour.

c) Attendance is extremely important, and will be recorded. 80% of the total number of classes must be attended fully, as a minimum. This is 80% of the total, not 80% of each class!

It is expected that, as responsible second-year Child Care Worker students, you will call or leave a phone message for the instructor if you are to be late or absent.

Punctuality is a virtue in this field. The instructor expects that all students will be virtuous in this respect.

d) The College Grading System:

80% - 100% = A
70% - 79% = B
60% - 69% = C
Less than 60% = R (repeat the course)

e) As a last note, always remember that this course is intended to be an enjoyable, stimulating learning experience for all (including the instructor). Only the efforts of the entire group will make this happen!