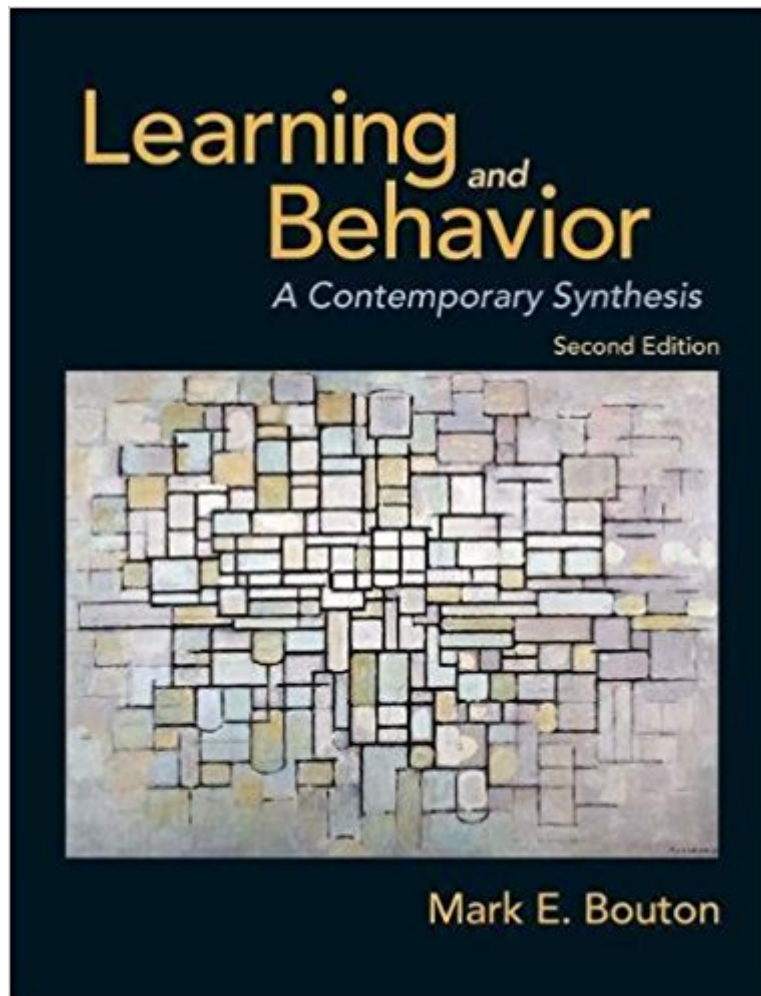




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# Learning And Behavior: A Contemporary Synthesis



## Synopsis

Research on fundamental learning processes continues to tell an important and interesting story. In the second edition of *Learning and Behavior: A Contemporary Synthesis*, Mark Bouton recounts that story, providing an in-depth but highly readable review of modern learning and behavior theory that is informed by the history of the field. The text reflects the author's conviction that the study of animal learning has a central place in psychology, and that understanding its principles and theories is important for students, psychologists, and scientists in related disciplines (e.g., behavioral neuroscience and clinical psychology). Almost all of the chapters are organized to illustrate how knowledge is accumulated through the systematic development of theory and research. The book opens with a brief history that connects the modern issues with their philosophical and biological roots. Chapter 2 addresses the idea that basic learning processes are designed to help an organism adapt to a changing world; in the process, it introduces the reader to a wide range of interesting examples of learning. After analyzing some fundamental phenomena in Pavlovian learning, the book then provides a very clear and readable review of modern conditioning theories since the Rescorla-Wagner model, discusses memory retrieval and behavior-system processes that govern performance, and addresses the question of whether the laws of learning and behavior uncovered in the laboratory maze and Skinner box have generality-by studying learning in honey bees and categorization and causal judgments and proposition learning in humans. Instrumental learning is then discussed from various perspectives in chapters on behavior and its consequences (research in behavior analysis and behavioral economics), how stimuli guide instrumental action (a survey of the field of animal cognition), and how motivation influences instrumental action. The final chapter reviews and integrates the major themes of the book, describing avoidance learning, learned helplessness, and related examples of learning before reviewing the modern cognitive and synthetic perspective on instrumental action. Lively and current, *Learning and Behavior: A Contemporary Synthesis*, Second Edition, engages students while illustrating the interconnectedness of topics within the field and the excitement of modern research.

**For Students** Companion Website The *Learning and Behavior*, Second Edition, Companion Website includes resources to help students learn and review the content of each chapter and test their understanding of the concepts presented in the textbook. The site includes the following resources:- Chapter Outlines- Chapter Summaries- Flashcards- Glossary- Online quizzes

**For Instructors** Instructor's Resource Library (available to qualified adopters) The *Learning and Behavior*, Second Edition, Instructor's Resource Library includes the following resources:\*

- \* Textbook Figures & Tables: All of the textbook's figures (including photos) and tables are provided in both JPEG (high- and low-resolution) and PowerPoint formats.

All images have been formatted and optimized for excellent legibility when projected.\* Instructor's Manual: The Instructor's Manual includes the following sections for each chapter of the textbook:- Chapter Outline- Learning Objectives- Class Discussion and Critical Thinking Exercises- Suggested Additional Resources- Key Terms\* Lecture Presentations: New for the Second Edition, these ready-to-use PowerPoint presentations cover all the key material in each chapter, and include selected figures and tables.\* Test Bank: A comprehensive set of exam questions is provided for each chapter of the textbook, in both multiple-choice and short-answer formats (Companion Website online quiz questions also included). New for the Second Edition, each question is referenced to Bloom's Taxonomy and to textbook sections. The Test Bank is provided in several formats:- Word files, by chapter- Diploma test creation program (software included). Diploma makes it easy to create quizzes and exams using any combination of publisher-provided questions and your own questions. Diploma also exports to a wide range of formats for import into learning management systems such as Blackboard, Moodle, and Desire2Learn.- Blackboard files, for easy import into your Blackboard courseOnline QuizzingThe online quizzes that are part of the Learning and Behavior, Second Edition, Companion Website include an instructor administration interface that allows the quizzes to be used as assignments. Instructors also have the ability to create their own quizzes and add their own questions.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Mark E. Bouton, one of the most influential figures in modern learning research, has written a book

that aims to convey to students the complex reality of his field. It is far more ambitious than the typical textbook because it tries not only to cover the basic facts found in all such works but also to show the reader the theoretical and methodological sophistication found in the contemporary world of learning theory. This book has to be considered a smashing success in both respects. --Robert L. Greene, PsycCRITIQUES  
In Learning and Behavior: A Contemporary Synthesis, Mark Bouton has created a student-friendly textbook for an undergraduate course in animal learning that is both comprehensive and current. --Darlene Skinner, Canadian Psychology/Psychologie canadienne  
In Learning and Behavior: A Contemporary Synthesis, Mark Bouton has created a student-friendly textbook for an undergraduate course in animal learning that is both comprehensive and current. --Darlene Skinner, Canadian Psychology/Psychologie canadienne

Mark E. Bouton is the Robert B. Lawson Green & Gold Professor of Psychology at the University of Vermont. He is a leading researcher in the field of animal learning, cognition, and behavior. He received his B.A. from Williams College and his Ph.D. from the University of Washington. For many years, his research has investigated the relationships between context, conditioning, memory, and motivation, with a special emphasis on inhibitory processes like extinction. Some of his scientific writing has focused on the connections between modern learning theory, neuroscience, and issues in cognitive behavioral therapy (e.g., panic disorder, fear and anxiety, relapse after therapy). He has been a Fulbright Scholar, a James McKeen Cattell Scholar, a University Scholar at the University of Vermont, and a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (Stanford), and he is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science, and the Society of Experimental Psychologists. He was Editor of the Journal of Experimental Psychology: Animal Behavior Processes, the field's most prestigious journal, from 1998 until 2003. He has taught an up-to-date course in Learning, which is given away in his book, for over three decades.

Comprehensive text, good price, as advertised

I used this textbook for my Psychology of Learning course. Didn't find it particularly helpful, due to it being very dense and word-heavy. I felt like the author should have stated theories in more simple terms. However, diagrams and figures were the most helpful; they were fairly easy to understand and were beneficial when used with classroom lectures.

This book helped me a lot in my studies, however you have to be very patient to get throughHelped a lot

Perfect book for what I needed during class.

Excellent book by Dr. Bouton.

Thank you!

My review is similar to a literature review that I came across, the book does not lend itself so easily to undergraduate studies. Chapters are very dense and the author seems to really enjoy using his acronyms and terminology for sentence structure. "For example, conditioned inhibition produced in classic conditioned inhibition or feature-negative..." is just one example. Bouton also likes to reference previous experiments using the "A+/AX- or BX/BX-" vernacular assuming the reader remembers those experiments, even though they were several chapters back. Mark does a pretty good job utilizing the experiments when describing certain terms to help convey the idea, but it is not universal within the book. In some case a reader may need to do their own web searches to find out a better explanation to the concept, IF one is available. If this is a required text for university, start reading early with scheduled breaks. I've thoroughly enjoyed discovering the underlying reasons for behavior, learning, cognitive processing, and other general human studies throughout my academic career, but this book has been my most difficult to maintain a steady pace of reading and comprehension. It's one of the few I find myself reading multiple times, which isn't a good thing in my opinion.

Bouton's "Learning and Behavior" provides one of the best current introductions to the science of animal learning. This book might feel "hard to digest" at first due to the great amount of literature reviewed in it, as well as because of the many connections the author makes among different findings and theories (in my opinion, these are feats, rather than flaws). Don't desist... keep reading it! The beauty of this journey lies in its many different paths. If you view psychology as a scientific endeavor, you will enjoy the openness of this book to different interpretations, rebuttals, refutations, and alternative accounts. A patient, persistent reader won't be disappointed with this book, and will reach the end of the last chapter with the irreplaceable satisfaction of realizing that much has already been done in the science of associative learning, but there's still plenty of room for further

research too.

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