

PSY 402

Theories of Learning

Chapter 3 – Nuts and Bolts of Conditioning
(Mechanisms of Classical Conditioning)

Flavor Aversion Learning

- Garcia – rats will not drink water with saccharin if they get ill after drinking.
 - Significant avoidance occurs after just one trial.
- Human food aversions are related to illness (89%).
 - Even if illness occurs hours later it is linked to the previous meal.
 - Not cognitive – you can know the food is not to blame and still feel an aversion to it.

Factors Affecting Conditioning

- **Timing** – how closely in time are the CS and UCS, and which occurs first.
- **Novelty** of the CS and UCS.
- **Intensity** (strength) of the CS and UCS.
- **Consistency** of the pairing between the CS and UCS.
 - If one or the other appears alone then conditioning is weakened.