

Behaviorism

About behaviorism

Some of the oldest learning theories belong to the behaviorism as [learning paradigm](#) and date back from the beginning of the 20th century. The key component to this paradigm are **observable behaviors and their measuring**.

Behaviorists view **learning as a visible change in ones behavior**. Behaviorism assumes that the learner starts off as a clear state and simply responds to environmental stimuli. Those responses **can be shaped through positive and negative reinforcement** increasing or decreasing the probability of repeating the same behavior.

Influences

Learning theories:

- [Connectionism](#) (Edward Thorndike)
- [Clasicall conditioning](#) (Ivan Pavlov)
- [Operant conditioning](#) (Burrhus Skinner)

Other important contributors:

- [John Watson](#), [Edward Thorndike](#), [Edward Tolman](#)

Criticisms

Behaviorism today mostly **lost its influence** and let **cognitivism take its place** as the dominant paradigm. Critics of behaviorist learning usually argue that behaviorism **does not explain all kinds o learning** since it ignores inner mind activities. Behaviorism also neglects the fact that behavior also depends on learner's inner subjective representation of environment and learning history.

Bibliography

[Stanford encyclopedia of philosophy: Behaviorism](#)

[Classical Conditioning - Introduction to Classical Conditioning.](#)

Read more

Turner, M. B. Philosophy and the science of behavior. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1967.

Skinner, B. F. About Behaviorism. Paw Prints, 2008.

Baum, William M. Understanding behaviorism: science, behavior, and culture. Wiley-Blackwell, 1994.

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