



PSY 310
Behavior Modification
Spring 2018

Instructor Information:

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Office hours: M, W 11-12, or by appointment

Couse Information:

Monday and Wednesday, 12:00 – 3:20
1310 ASH

Required Text:

A selection of required and optional readings will be placed Blackboard

Course Description:

From catalog: Study of the application of learning principles, techniques, and procedures to the understanding and treatment of human psychological problems in a wide range of settings.

Additional information: This course is designed as an overview of Applied Behavior Analysis for advanced undergraduate students. This course takes an empirical approach to behavioral psychology, and will examine the relevant theoretical underpinnings of behavioral techniques, strategies to design effective interventions, and various applications. Please note that you will be asked to critically examine empirical data and the rationale for behavioral interventions. This course will expose students to the study and the application of learning principles, techniques and procedures to the understanding and treatment of human behavioral and psychological problems in a wide range of settings. Some areas of application include developmental disabilities, special education, clinical psychology, business and industry, self-management, child management, and preventative behaviors.

Course Objectives:

1. Differentiate between various principles of operant conditioning, including but not limited to reinforcement, punishment, extinction, shaping, chaining, and verbal and rule-governed behavior.
2. Evaluate a behavior modification program and use the theoretical principles to understand, modify, and shape programs to modify behavior in a variety of settings and service organizations.
3. Describe behavioral problems and the underlying principles used to explain such aberrant behavior, as well as possible consequences of maladaptive behavior.

Grading:

Grades are calculated by dividing the total number of points earned by the total number of possible points (270). A letter grade will be assigned based on the grading scale listed below.

		Grading Scale	
Course Requirements		93% and above	A
	Quizzes	90% - 92%	A-
	Exams	87% - 89%	B+
	Group Project	83% - 86%	B
	In-class activities	80% - 82%	B-
		77% - 79%	C+
		73% - 76%	C
		70% - 72%	C-
		67% - 69%	D+
		60% - 66%	D
		59% and below	F
Total	270 pts		

Midterm and Final Examination: 100pts

There will be a midterm and a final examination in this class. The dates for each examination are listed on the course schedule. Each examination will be worth 50 points and will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and/or short answer/essay questions. The final examination in this course is cumulative. The content on the exams will be drawn from the textbook, assigned readings, and lecture. Please note that not all content from the text will be covered in lecture, and not all content in lecture is in the textbook. For the exams, students are responsible for all content in assigned readings and lecture.

Make-up exams: Make up exams are only permitted for documented extenuating circumstances. If you must miss an exam due to an extenuating circumstance, you must contact me at least 24hrs prior to the exam. If I determine that you may make-up the exam, you must make-up the exam within 24hrs of the scheduled exam period. In addition, I may require documentation (doctor note, car repair bill, etc.). If you know that you will be absent for an exam at the beginning of the semester, you may arrange to take the exam at an earlier date. Not all early exams will be approved, only ones that have a compelling reason and that arranged at the beginning of the semester will be considered.

Quizzes: 90pts

There will be 10 quizzes (10pts each) in this class. Quizzes will be taken online on Blackboard. The quiz will be available after the class lecture, and must be completed before the beginning of the next class. I will post the specific due dates for each quiz on blackboard. I will drop the lowest quiz score, and take the highest 9 for your final points.

ABA Intervention group project: 50pts

This semester, you will work with a group of other students to use an ABA strategy to try and change a behavior. For this project, you will select a behavior, develop and implement a strategy, and evaluate your progress. The final product for this project is a class presentation that will be delivered at the end of the semester. More detailed information is available on the assignment description.

In-class activities: 30pts

There will be regular in-class activities and assignments. You must be present in class to receive the credit for the assignment. Most of the assignments will be discussed and completed in small groups in class.

University Policies

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of a learning, physical, or other disability, please contact me or Disability Support Services (DSS) at 331-2490. Although students with disabilities are held to the same academic standards as all other students, accommodations will be provided for you, as appropriate. Where warranted, accommodations will also be provided to students without a diagnosed disability if that student discusses the specific need with me and the accommodation appears to be justified. Furthermore, if you have a disability and think you will need assistance evacuating this classroom and/or building in an emergency situation, please make me aware so I can develop a plan to assist you.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to adhere to the university's policies on Academic Honesty. These policies are described in the catalog and in the Student Code. Cheating and plagiarism will be dealt with as per the procedures described in the Student Code.

Plagiarism: As described in Section 223.01 of the Student Code, "any ideas or material taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged. Offering the work of someone else as one's own is plagiarism. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs to entire articles copied from books, periodicals, speeches or the writings of other students ... Any student who fails to give credit in written or oral work for the ideas or materials that have been taken from another is guilty of plagiarism." In sum, copying the work of any other individual, whether that of another student, researcher, author or editor is considered plagiarism. This is not acceptable and will be dealt with according to the policies set forth in the Student Code, which may include receiving a 0 on the assignment, failing the course, and/or other university consequences.

If you have questions regarding the appropriate use of citations and plagiarism, please contact the instructor BEFORE turning the assignment in. Please note that taking extensive content word-for-word from a journal, book or website is considered plagiarism.

Date	Topics	In-class activities	Assignments
5/7/18	Review syllabus Introduction to ABA		
5/9/18	Observing and Recording Behavior Graphing and Measuring Behavior change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graphing activity (helpful to bring laptop with excel) • Form groups for project 	Quiz 1
5/14/18	Reinforcement		Quiz 2
5/16/18	Reinforcement cont. Extinction Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group project work time 	Quiz 3
5/21/18	Extinction Punishment Exam Review		Quiz 4
5/23/18	Midterm Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group project work time 	Midterm Exam
5/28/18	No Class: Memorial Day Break		
5/30/18	Online Module: Stimulus Control		Quiz 5
6/4/18	Shaping, Prompting, Chaining		Quiz 6
6/6/18	TAG teach Behavior Skills Training		Quiz 7
6/11/18	ABA in sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group project work time 	Quiz 8
6/13/18	ABA in education		Quiz 9 Group Presentations
6/18/18	ABA in clinical psychology		Quiz 10 Group Presentations
6/20/18	Final Exam: 12:00 – 2:00		