

**PSY 310  
Behavior Modification  
Spring 2021  
Online**

Instructor Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Amy Campbell, Ph.D.  
Psychology Department  
1309 ASH  
(616) 331-2409  
[campbeam@gvsu.edu](mailto:campbeam@gvsu.edu)

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Information:

**Required Text:**

No required text: all readings placed on Blackboard

**Course Description:**

This course is designed as an overview of Behavior Modification 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.

**Grading:**

Grades will be calculated by dividing the total number of points earned by the total number of possible points (295). A letter grade will be assigned based on the grading scale listed below.

**Course Requirements**

Quizzes (6 @ 15pts)  
Midterm  
Final Exam  
Assignments (3@25pts)  
Discussion Board Activities

90pts  
50pts  
50pts  
75pts  
30pts

**Grading Scale**

93% and above	A
90% - 92%	A-
87% - 89%	B+
83% - 86%	B
80% - 82%	B-
77% - 79%	C+
73% - 76%	C
70% - 72%	C-
67% - 69%	D+
60% - 66%	D
59% and below	F

Total            295pts

## **Online Course Information**

This course is taught under the online designation, meaning that that entire course will be delivered online through Blackboard (mybb.gvsu.edu). To access this site, you will need your GVSU login and password. If you do not have a login, please contact IT ASAP. There will be NO face-to-face class meetings. Although this course is delivered online, it is not self-paced, and students are expected to actively participate in the course throughout the entire semester.

Our course weeks will run from Monday through Sunday.

## **Course Technologies:**

As previously stated, the course will utilize Blackboard extensively. You must have consistent and reliable access to the internet. In addition, you must have speakers (or headphones) for your computer as some content will be delivered with audio. All computers on campus have audio capabilities (with headphones).

All documents must be submitted in Microsoft Word or as a PDF file. I am unable to open up other types of documents.

Please be aware that I do not provide assistance regarding “technical difficulties”. If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard and other programs that will be used for this course, there are multiple resources available on campus and on the course site. Unless the Blackboard site is down campus-wide, technology problems are not valid excuses for late assignments/posting.

## **Course Format and Structure:**

Each week, I will post content by Monday at 5:00pm (at the latest, it will likely be up by Sunday). Each learning unit will focus on a topic area. Each week I will post an outline for the class tasks that need to be completed that week. I will also include reminders for upcoming assignments, feedback, etc. It is important that you check this announcement early in the week. **Any changes that I make to this course schedule or due dates will be contained in this document.**

Each week, I will post brief lecture(s) on course content, online modules from other sources, and readings. I may also provide links to other videos/lectures that you are expected to watch as part of the course content.

The majority of weeks will also have discussion board, assignments, and quizzes. See the schedule for an outline of the assignments and due dates.

## **Course Requirements and Assignments**

### **Discussion Board Participation (5 pts per week, 30 pts total):**

Throughout the term, you will be required to participate in a discussion group on the blackboard site. There will be a total of 6 discussion board assignments for the semester.

I have created discussion groups on blackboard that will have approximately 5 students in each group. Therefore, to access your discussion board DO NOT click on the discussion board tab on the main BB page. Follow these steps:

Click on “Tools”

Click on “Groups”

This will take you to your group page. On this page, you have access to your discussion board, file exchange, and email. Please post all discussion group assignments in this location.

I will provide approximately 1-2 topics for each of the discussion board weeks. The topics will vary, and may include responding to a question, researching a topic and reporting out, responding to a short reading, etc. The purpose of the discussion board is to have you actively engaged in the course on a regular basis. Therefore, the discussion board is not meant to be an activity that you complete in one sitting, but something that you check back with throughout the week.

The following rules apply to posting and grading

- 1) You must post your response to the questions or assignment by the end of the day on **Thursday** (at midnight). Responses should be complete, thorough, and detailed. Although I do not check for grammar/spelling, be sure that your responses are well constructed, and well-written. Points will be based on: the quality and timeliness of your responses.
- 2) You must respond to other group member's posts or assignments **at least twice** during the week for each topics. These must be completed by **Sunday (at midnight)** to receive credit. In addition, please contribute in a meaningful fashion, rather than simply stating "I agree". Again, your points will be based on the quality of the response and the timeliness of the response.
- 3) There are no excused absences from the discussion board. Therefore, if you miss a deadline, you will lose the points, regardless of the reason for the absence.
- 4) You may earn up to 5 points each week for responses. Points will be awarded for following the discussion board directions for posting, the timeliness of responses, and the quality of your responses.

Discussion Board "etiquette"

- 1) As these discussions are held online, we do not have the benefit of non-verbal communication. This can often lead to misunderstandings, and problems with the group. Remember, sarcasm does not translate well on discussion boards! Please always be respectful to your other group members. If I find that there are inappropriate comments made on the discussion boards, I will talk with you and provide a warning. If the comments continue, I may remove you from your discussion board, and you may receive a 0 for the remainder of activities.
- 2) I expect that discussion board responses are well written and thorough. Please type your responses using standard grammar and complete sentences. In other words, treat your response as an assignment that you would turn in for a class.
- 3) Please make every attempt to space your responses to other students across the week, rather than waiting until Sunday evening to post both responses. I would like this to be an ongoing discussion, rather than a bunch of posts on one evening. Although I understand that there may be a week that responses may be posted closer together, I reserve the right to reduce points if it becomes a regular occurrence.

### Midterm and Final Examination

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 assigned readings and lectures/modules. Please note that not all content from the reading will be covered in lecture, and not all content in lecture is in the readings. For the exams, students are responsible for all content in assigned readings and lecture.

You will take each exam on the Blackboard site. The exam will be made available for 1 day. I will not be using a proctoring system for the exams. You may use your readings/notes for the exam, but you may not work together. In addition, do not share exam content with your classmates. You will have 2 hours to

complete the exams. Once you press begin, the timer starts, and it cannot be stopped for any reason. Therefore, may sure you are in a quiet place that has a reliable internet connection.

### Quizzes

There will be a total of 6 quizzes (15pts each) in this class. The quizzes will be taken on Blackboard. The purpose of the quizzes is provide you with immediate feedback on mastery of critical concepts in this class. Each quiz is worth 15pts, and will cover the content covered in the assigned readings and lectures from that weeks content. The quiz must be completed by Sunday evening at midnight. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice, true/false or matching questions. You will be given 30 minutes to complete the quiz in Blackboard.

### Assignments

There will be a total of 3 assignments that require you to demonstrate and apply different concepts of Applied Behavior Analysis. Each assignment is worth 25pts. All of the assignments will require you to apply course concepts, and cannot be completed in a single day. Please check the assignments directions early in the week. Specific directions will be presented later in the term.

### **Course Policies**

1) Participation: I expect that you will be engaged in this class on a regular basis throughout the entire semester. This means: logging into the site several times per week, completing all assignments, and regularly posting to the discussion board. Do not allow yourself to “disappear” for a couple of weeks, as this will adversely impact your grade. Although you may have the impression that on-line courses are easier and less work than traditional courses, I have found that on-line courses require more work and time.

2) Communication: Our main form of communication will be via email. However, be aware that I am not available to answer emails 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. During the workweek (Monday through Friday from 9 to 5) I check my email several times per day. In general, you can expect a response from me within 24 hours, often sooner. Although I may check my email on the weekends, I reserve the right to limit my email access. Therefore, do not expect a quick response if you send an email after 5:00pm or on the weekend. Please plan accordingly. As the volume of emails can become somewhat difficult to manage, I ask that you follow the “Three before me me” rule. Prior to sending me an email with a question regarding class logistics, assignment directions, or technology issues, please do the following:

Check the syllabus, assignment description, or course calendar for the answer to your question.

- Click on the “help” button on blackboard and utilize the resources available to answer your question.

- Email another student in the class with your question.

If after completing all three steps, you are unable to find the answer to your question, send me an email.

You are also welcome to stop by my on-campus office hours or schedule a phone conversation. I utilize Blackboard for sending emails, so be sure that you regularly check your GVSU email account.

### **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.

## Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Reading	Topic	Assignments
1	5/10 – 5/16	Friman 2021 Biglan, Ch. 1 Baer, Wolf, Risley, 1968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is applied behavior analysis?</li> <li>• Applications of ABA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optional Course Meeting: Monday at 10:00</li> <li>• Quiz 1</li> <li>• Discussion Board 1</li> </ul>
2	5/17 – 5/23	Miltenberger Ch. 2 LeBlanc et al 2016 Price et al, Ch. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do we collect data on behaviors?</li> <li>• Measuring Behaviors</li> <li>• Graphing Behaviors</li> <li>• Evaluating Interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz 2</li> <li>• Discussion Board 2</li> <li>• Assignment 1</li> </ul>
3	5/24 – 5/30	Miltenberger Ch. 4 Biglan Ch. 2, 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do you increase behaviors?</li> <li>• What is reinforcement?</li> <li>• Positive and negative reinforcement</li> <li>• Schedules of reinforcement</li> <li>• What impacts reinforcement?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Board 3</li> <li>• Quiz 3</li> <li>• Assignment 2</li> </ul>
4	5/31 – 6/6	Martin & Pear Ch 5, 12 Biglan Ch. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do you decrease behaviors?</li> <li>• What is Extinction?</li> <li>• What is Punishment?</li> <li>• Ethics of Punishment</li> <li>• Distinguishing reinforcement and punishment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Board 4</li> <li>• Midterm: 5/28</li> <li>• Quiz 4</li> <li>• Assignment 3</li> </ul>
5	6/7 – 6/13	Miltenberger Ch. 9-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do you teach new behaviors?</li> <li>• Shaping</li> <li>• Chaining</li> <li>• Prompting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Board 5</li> <li>• Quiz 5</li> <li>• Assignment 4</li> </ul>
6	6/14 – 6/20	Biglan Ch. 5, 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can you use applied behavior analysis in different settings?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Board 6</li> <li>• Quiz 6</li> </ul>
Finals	6/22			Final Exam: 6/22