



GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

PSY 310-01:

Behavior Modification

Hybrid Course Syllabus

Winter Semester 2021

Face coverings, such as masks, **are required** to be worn in the classroom by students and the instructor for the entire duration of the class. Students who have forgotten their face coverings may get a disposable mask at a campus office and are **NOT permitted** to enter the classroom until they are wearing a mask. [GVSU's policy on face coverings](#) is posted on the Lakers Together web site. Students who are not able to wear a face covering due to a medical condition should [contact Disability Support Services \(DSR\)](#) to discuss their individual situation. Students and Faculty must also maintain 6 feet of distance from others even during collaborative and active learning activities.

This is a paperless course. Students are required to either bring their own printed materials to class or to have access to materials electronically during class. All class materials will be available on Blackboard.

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Office Consultation: 2110 Au Sable Hall
Office hours (Virtual - Blackboard Collaborate Course Room):
Tuesdays, 1-2 pm
Thursdays, 1-2 pm
Other times available by appointment

Course Prerequisite: PSY 101

Classroom: Lake Ontario Hall 174

Class Time for Group A: Tuesdays, 11:30-12:45 pm
First class: 1.19.20
Last class: 4.20.20
Last exam: 4.27.20, 9:00 am to 11:59 pm (Tuesday)

Class Time for Group B: Thursdays, 11:30-12:45 pm
First class: 1.21.20
Last class: 4.22.20
Last exam: 4.27.20, 9:00 am to 11:59 pm (Tuesday)

Virtual Class time for Quarantined Students: Thursdays, 10:00-11:15 am

In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for GVSU to suspend normal operations. During this time, GVSU may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Blackboard, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor Blackboard site for each class for course specific communication, and the main GVSU, College, and department websites, emails for important general information.

Course Objectives

This introductory 45-hour undergraduate course provides the student with information in the form of lectures, demonstrations, and practical exercises on the basic principles and procedures of the field of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Students will be introduced to the field of ABA and will receive training on how to become

fluent in applying basic principles and procedures of ABA to their career. In addition, this course will prepare students for advanced undergraduate coursework in ABA. Lastly, this course is designed to prepare students to sit for the Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst Certification exam. More information on this exam can be found at the Behavior Analyst Certification Board website (www.bacb.com).

Student Learning Objectives

After the course, students will be able to:

- Describe basic behavior analysis principles (reinforcement, punishment, extinction, stimulus control, stimulus discrimination training, discriminative stimulus, sdelta, motivating operants, and respondent conditioning)
- Provide novel examples of basic behavior analysis principles
- Describe assessment and intervention procedures in ABA (operational definitions, data collection, graphing, and analysis, functional assessment process (indirect, direct, and experimental methods), antecedent control procedures, shaping, differential reinforcement, behavioral skills training, prompting, fading, chaining, generalization, applications of punishment, and ethics)
- Describe and provide examples on how to apply the science of ABA to their future career
- Differentiate between various principles of operant conditioning, including but not limited to reinforcement, punishment, extinction, shaping, chaining, and verbal and rule-governed behavior.
- 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.
- Describe behavioral problems and the underlying principles used to explain such aberrant behavior, as well as possible consequences of maladaptive behavior.

Required Text

Miltenberger, R.G. (2016). *Behavior Modification: Principles and Procedures, Sixth Edition*. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. (Book is available through the GVSU bookstore and online). Book rental, e-book version, and purchasing e-chapters are also available at Cengage:

<http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/isbn/9781111306113>

Class Materials (needed for every class)

- Dry erase board, dry erase marker, and eraser (iPad will work)
- Corresponding lecture assignments and handouts (posted on Blackboard before each class)

Flipped Classroom Format

A flipped classroom format is where students listen, read, and/or watch the lecture on-line and then come to class prepared to answer questions, ask questions, and complete activities based on the on-line lecture. **Students will not receive a live lecture during this course.**

- Every Thursday, an on-line lecture and corresponding lecture assignment will be posted in Blackboard to cover the material for the following class. Students will have from Thursday until Tuesday at 11:30 am to complete the on-line lecture and assignment. The lecture assignment will close at 11:30 am. After the lecture assignment closes, the answers will be posted on Blackboard under the corresponding lecture assignment. Lectures will be available in recorded and written versions.
- Every Thursday, a reading quiz will open on Blackboard to cover the assigned reading for the following class. The reading quiz will close on Tuesday at 11:30 am. Students will take the online reading quiz during this time frame to prepare for the week's class.
- Every Tuesday (Group A) or Thursday (Group B) from 11:30 am – 12:45 pm, the class will meet. The class will begin with the instructor answering questions over the on-line lecture assignment. Next, the instructor will go over the White Board Activities (WBA). Students will respond with their answers from the assignment by writing them down on their whiteboards. The instructor will also clarify concepts and answer questions during this time. Students are expected to bring questions regarding the lecture to class. Following the assignment review, if time permits, the instructor will expand upon the on-line lecture with video examples and class activities.
- On Tuesdays at 12:30 pm, the lecture quiz and evaluation will open on blackboard and will close on Friday at 11:59 pm. Students will take the online lecture quiz during this time frame to demonstrate comprehension of the past week's material. **It is highly recommended that students complete the lecture quiz and evaluation immediately following class.**

Class Schedule

This is a weekly checklist for this course. Use this to stay organized.

| Topic | Complete Before Class | Class Meeting | Complete After Class |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1/19 & 1/21: Introduction of Course & Syllabus | <input type="checkbox"/> Read Syllabus | Group A: 1/19 Group B: 1/21 | Nothing |
| 1/26 & 1/28: Introduction to Behavior Modification (Lecture posted on 1/21) | <input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Tuesday at 11:30 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture and complete lecture handout | Group A: 1/26 Group B: 1/28 | <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Lecture quiz (closes Friday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Evaluation |
| 2/2 & 2/4: Observing and Measuring Behavior & Graphing and Measuring Change (Lecture posted on 1/28) | <input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 2 & 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Tuesday at 11:30 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture and complete lecture handout | Group A: 2/2 Group B: 2/4 <input type="checkbox"/> Bring a device with stopwatch | <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Lecture quiz (closes Friday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Evaluation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2/4- 2/7 EXAM 1 (Ch. 1-3) Opens Thursday at 3 pm closes Monday at 11:59 pm | | | |
| 2/9 & 2/11: Reinforcement (Lecture posted on 2/4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Tuesday at 11:30 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture and complete lecture handout | Group A: 2/9 Group B: 2/11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Evaluation |
| 2/16 & 2/18: Extinction, Apply Extinction, & Punishment Part One (Lecture posted on 2/11) | <input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 5 & 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Tuesday at 11:30 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture and complete lecture handout | Group A: 2/16 Group B: 2/18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Lecture quiz (closes Friday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> First Extra Credit Opportunity (1%) Due Monday, 2/22, by 5:00 pm |
| 2/23 & 2/25: Punishment Part Two, Applications of Positive & Negative Punishment, and Ethics (Lecture posted on 2/18) | <input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 6, 17, & 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Tuesday at 11:30 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture and complete lecture handout | Group A: 2/23 Group B: 2/25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Lecture quiz (closes Friday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Second Extra Credit Opportunity (1%) Due Monday, 3/1, by 5:00 pm |
| 3/2 & 3/4: Stimulus Control (Lecture posted on 2/25) | <input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Tuesday at 11:30 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture and complete lecture handout | Group A: 3/2 Group B: 3/4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Lecture quiz (closes Friday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Third Extra Credit Opportunity (1%) Due Monday, 3/8, by 5:00 pm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3/4-3/8: EXAM 2 (Ch. 4-7, 14, 17, 18) Opens Thursday at 3 pm closes Monday at 11:59 pm | | | |
| 3/9 & 3/11: Respondent Conditioning (Lecture posted on 3/4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Tuesday at 11:30 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture and complete lecture handout | Group A: 3/9 Group B: 3/11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Evaluation |
| 3/16 & 3/18: Functional Assessment (Lecture posted on 3/11) | <input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Tuesday at 11:30 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture and complete lecture handout | Group A: 3/16 Group B: 3/18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Lecture quiz (closes Friday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Evaluation |
| 3/23 & 3/25: Shaping & Behavioral Skills Training (Lecture posted on 3/18) | <input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 9 & 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Tuesday at 11:30 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture and complete lecture handout | Group A: 3/23 Group B: 3/25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Lecture quiz (closes Friday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Evaluation |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 3/30 & 4/1: Prompting & Chaining (Lecture posted on 3/25) | <input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 10 & 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Tuesday at 11:30 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture and complete lecture handout | Group A: 3/30 Group B: 4/1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Lecture quiz (closes Friday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Fourth Extra Credit Opportunity (3%) Due Monday, 4/5, by 5:00 pm |
| 4/6 & 4/8: Differential Reinforcement (Lecture posted on 4/1) | <input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Tuesday at 11:30 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture and complete lecture handout | *Class will not meet this week. Office hours by appointment only. | <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Lecture quiz (closes Friday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Evaluation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4/8- 4/12: EXAM 3 (Ch. 8-15, except 14) Opens Thursday at 3 pm closes Monday at 11:59 pm | | | |
| 4/13 & 4/15: Antecedent Control Procedures & Self-Management (Lecture posted on 4/8) | <input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 16 & 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Tuesday at 11:30 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture and complete lecture handout | Group A: 4/13 Group B: 4/15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Lecture quiz (closes Friday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Fifth Extra Credit Opportunity (3%) Due Monday, 4/19, by 5:00 pm Self-Analysis Activity |
| 4/20 & 4/22: Advanced Applications of ABA (Lecture posted on 4/15) | <input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 21, 24, & 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Tuesday at 11:30 am) Quiz 1 from 21, 24, or 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture and complete lecture handout | Group A: 4/20 Group B: 4/22 | <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Lecture quiz (closes Friday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Evaluation GVSU On-line Evaluation – 1% Extra Credit if 90% of the class completes. |
| 4/27: EXAM 4 (Ch. 16, 20, 21, 24, & 25) Opens Tuesday at 6 am and closes at 11:59 pm | | | |

Course Grade

It is the **student's responsibility to monitor his or her grade** and to seek help from the instructor should his or her overall grade fall below a B at any point during the semester. Grades will be updated in Blackboard every week. The column named "Current Grade" in the Blackboard gradebook tells the student what his or her current grade is always in the course. Following the second exam, if a student's grade falls below a B, the instructor will ask the student to come into her office to discuss her grade, class performance, and study habits to develop a plan to improve class performance. Regardless of current grade, students are **strongly encouraged** to email and/or schedule an appointment for additional individualized instruction. The overall course grade will be based upon the following categories:

- A. Participation (25%)
- B. Weekly quizzes (35%)
- C. Exams (40%)
- D. Extra Credit (up to 10%)

- A. Participation.** Class participation will be based on answering questions, writing responses on white boards, taking notes, and/or asking questions and not surfing the net, texting, or engaging in any other activities that are not directly related to class instruction. Class attendance is expected, and students are expected to be on time for class. **For the health of all involved, students should NOT come to class if they are presenting any signs of illness or if recommended by health official to quarantine.** Signs of illness and recommended quarantines are excusable reasons for missing class and students should notify the instructor immediately. Upon notification, the instructor will admit the student to the virtual class held on Thursdays from 10-11:15 am. At the beginning of class, the instructor will take attendance. If a student arrives after attendance is taken, the student should see the instructor at the end of class to ensure their attendance was recorded to avoid losing points. If a student is not present and the

absence is not excused, that student will not receive class participation points for that class. **If a student plans to be absent, leave early, or arrive late to class, the student should immediately speak with the instructor to determine if reason is excusable. If absence is excusable, student will request make-up work from the instructor via email. Make-up work must be completed before the next class.** Unless excusable, when a student is absent, they will lose percentage points for participation, quizzes (reading and lecture quiz), and class activities for that week. **Missing class for vacation, work, or any extra-curricular activity is not excusable.** **Students will receive one non-emergency absence but still must notify the instructor and complete the make-up work to avoid losing points.** After that, only if an emergency arises (e.g., student illness, death in the family, family illness, etc.), can the student earn the percentage points for that class.

Participation in class discussion, activities, and evaluations is expected. Students need to bring a dry erase board or iPad to class as students will be asked to respond to questions. **Students are expected to engage in professional behavior in the classroom which is defined as:**

- **wearing a face covering always**
- being on time and attending all classes
- participating in class (e.g., taking notes, asking appropriate questions, commenting on content, etc.),
- being respectful of other students and the instructor,
- participating in class activities, and
- completing weekly class evaluations

Students looking for a letter of recommendation for future employment and/or graduate school should not only perform at the top of the class (A) but should engage in professional behavior throughout the entire course. Any unprofessional behavior in class that competes with participation and/or creates a negative classroom experience for others will not be tolerated. These behaviors include but are not limited to the following:

- **not wearing or removing a face covering**
- engaging in texting, internet surfing, instagram, facebook, other social media,
- making rude comments/facial expressions about other students and/or the instructor,
- completing assignments or studying for other classes,
- completing work assignments,
- failure to complete in class activities, and
- falsifying assignments

If such unacceptable behavior occurs in class, the instructor will provide immediate feedback and ask the student to stop engaging in the behavior during class. If the behavior persists, the instructor may ask for a meeting with the student, ask the student to leave the class, and/or take away points. Applied Behavior Analysis is a profession and to be successful, behavior analysts must always engage in professional behavior. As such, professional behavior is expected from all students.

Class will go until 12:45 pm; therefore, there is no need to refrain from asking questions in hopes of getting out early. My goal is for everyone to learn the material; therefore, when needed please ask questions.

Absences due to Religious Observances:

Students are expected to notify the instructor at the beginning of each academic term if they intend to be absent for a class or announced examination. Students absent for religious reasons, as notified to the instructor at the beginning of each academic term, will be given reasonable opportunities to make up any work missed.

- B. **Quizzes.** Up to twenty-four quizzes will be administered throughout this course. Quizzes will be administered online through Blackboard. Reading quizzes will be taken before each class to prepare students for class discussions. **Reading quizzes will come from one of the quizzes in the BACK of the required textbook covering the assigned reading for the week.** The quiz is selected at random and will not be announced until the beginning of the quiz. Students will be given one attempt and will have 10 minutes to complete the quiz. Students must complete the quiz before it closes. Failure to complete the quiz before it closes will result in a zero. Students must also be present in class. Failure to attend class will result in a zero on the reading quiz. **It is recommended that students complete the book quizzes prior to taking the reading quiz and email quiz answers for review or attend office hours to discuss challenging questions and/or review answers.** Lecture quizzes will be administered online through Blackboard. Lecture quizzes will consist of 10 multiple choice questions over the lecture

material for the week. Students will be given one attempt and will have 15 minutes to complete the quiz. Students must complete the quiz before it closes. Students must attend class to take the lecture quiz. Failure to attend class that day will result in a zero on the lecture quiz.

- C. **Exams.** Four on-line exams will be administered throughout the course. Students will be given 90 minutes to complete the exam. To discourage cheating, the exam is timed, students are given only one attempt, and exam questions are randomized; therefore, each exam will display questions in a different order. It is recommended that students prepare for these on-line exams as they would for an in-class exam. **Data indicates that students that attempt to look up answers during these exams, instead of committing the material to memory, do not perform well.** Exams will consist of short answer and multiple-choice questions. Exams will cover basic principles, assigned readings, and key points discussed in class (see power points and chapter practice tests). **Students are encouraged to attend office hours or email with any exam questions. Please note that to receive assistance and ensure the instructor has adequate time to reply to all student emails, questions regarding quizzes or an exam should be emailed by no later than 5 pm on the Friday before the exam or quiz.** Questions sent after that deadline will not be answered before the exam is administered. **Final Exam Exemption:** There is only one way a student may be exempted from taking the final exam. Any student that holds an overall grade of 98% or higher (**after extra credit has been calculated**) after completing the last reading and lecture quiz for the semester, will have an opportunity to bypass taking the final. By maintaining a 98% or higher in the course, a student demonstrates that they would perform well on the final and therefore, further testing over this material is not necessary. Students that bypass the final, will elect to take the current grade he or she holds in the course as her final grade. Following the last class, the instructor will email students that have met the requirement and offer the opportunity. Students will have the option to either take the opportunity or take the final and will notify the instructor via email of his or her decision. If the student elects to take the final exam, the student's overall grade will include the final exam regardless of performance on the final exam.
- D. **Extra Credit.** Extra credit will be offered throughout the course. A total of 10% extra credit will be offered. Extra credit opportunities will be presented in the on-line lecture. **A student must be present during class (unless excusable absence), when extra credit is assigned, to be able to participate in that extra credit opportunity.** A deadline will be given for each extra credit opportunity. **Once the deadline expires, the opportunity to complete that specific extra credit opportunity is no longer available.** Therefore, it is recommended that students complete extra credit opportunities as they occur to avoid missing out on receiving extra credit. It is important to note that most extra credit opportunities will be presented before the last few weeks of the course.

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

| | |
|---------------|------|
| 94 – 100% | = A |
| 90 – 93.9% | = A- |
| 87 – 89.9% | = B+ |
| 83 – 86.9% | = B |
| 80 – 82.9% | = B- |
| 77 – 79.9% | = C+ |
| 73 – 76.9% | = C |
| 70 – 72.9% | = C- |
| 60 – 69.9% | = D |
| Less than 60% | = F |

CLASS POLICIES

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies>. (See University Policies FH 3.03 A-E for more details.)

Academic Dishonesty

Any form of cheating on examinations or plagiarism on assigned papers constitutes unacceptable deceit and dishonesty. Disruption of the classroom or teaching environment is also unacceptable. Grand Valley State University has very specific policies and procedures regarding academic dishonesty or disruption of academic process. Cheating is the (a) the unauthorized granting or receiving of aid during the prescribed period of a course-graded exercise; students may not consult written materials such as notes or books, may not look at the paper of another student, nor consult orally with any other student taking the same

test; (b) asking another person to take an examination in his/her place; (c) taking an examination for or in place of another student; (d) stealing visual concepts, such as drawings, sketches, diagrams, musical programs or scores, graphs, maps, etc., and presenting them as one's own; (e) stealing, borrowing, buying, or disseminating tests, answer keys or other examination material except as officially authorized, research papers, creative papers, speeches, other graded assignments, etc.; (f) stealing or copying of computer programs and presenting them as one's own. Such stealing includes the use of another student's program, as obtained from the magnetic media or interactive terminals or from cards, print-out papers, etc. Punishment will be based on the University guidelines for academic dishonesty.

If you have any questions, please refer to GVSU Student Code

- <http://www.gvsu.edu/studentcode/>

Accommodations

If you need special accommodations, or if there is any topic or activity in class which makes you feel uncomfortable and causes serious distress, please advise the instructor. Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with Disability Support Resources in order to receive academic accommodations. DSR encourages students to notify instructors of accommodation requests. Please provide instructor with the appropriate, completed form with at least five business days prior to needing the accommodation. A letter from DSR must accompany this request.

- <http://gvsu.edu/dsr/responsibilities-of-students-17.htm>

Audio or Video Recording Policy

You must obtain advance written permission from the Instructor prior to audio recording or video recording any lecture or discussion with the Instructor. Suitable reasons may include a reasonable accommodation for a disability. However, students are not permitted to sell notes or tapes of class lectures.

Class Notes

Please be aware that students are not permitted to take notes in class for remuneration or for the purpose of sale to any person or entity.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as "literary theft" and consists of the unattributed quotation of the exact words of a published text, or the unattributed borrowing of original ideas by paraphrase from a published text. On written papers for which the student employs information gathered from books, articles, web sites, or oral sources, each direct quotation, as well as ideas and facts that are not generally known to the public at large, or the form, structure or style of a secondary source must be attributed to its author by means of the appropriate citation procedure. Only widely known facts and first-hand thoughts and observations original to the student do not require citations. Citations may be made in footnotes or within the body of the text. Plagiarism also consists of passing off as one's own segments or the total of another person's work. If you are not sure please bring the material to the instructor for guidance. The student who submitted the subject paper, lab report, etc. shall receive an "F" with a numerical value of zero on the item submitted, and the "F" shall be used to determine the final course grade.

Right to Change Syllabus

If necessary, some components of this syllabus may change. However, any such changes will be announced to the students in class and posted on blackboard. The student is responsible for any such announced changes.