



GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

PSY 310-02:

Behavior Modification

Online Course Syllabus

Winter Semester 2021

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Office hours (Virtual - Blackboard Collaborate Course Room):
Mondays and Wednesdays, 1-2 pm
Other times available by appointment

Course Prerequisite: PSY 101

Classroom: On-line: Asynchronous learning format

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>

On-line Asynchronous Learning Format

An on-line asynchronous learning format is where students listen, read, and/or watch pre-recorded lectures on-line while completing a corresponding lecture handout. **Students will not receive a live lecture during this course.**

- Every Thursday at 9 am, a reading quiz will open on Blackboard to cover the assigned reading for the following lecture. The reading quiz will close on Sunday at 11:59 pm. Students will complete the assigned reading and take the online reading quiz during this time frame to prepare for the week's lecture.
- Every Monday at 9 am, an on-line lecture, corresponding lecture assignment, and lecture quiz will be posted in Blackboard. Students will have from Monday until Thursday to complete the on-line lecture assignment and quiz. The lecture assignment and quiz will close at 11:59 pm on Thursday. After the lecture assignment and quiz close, the answers will be posted on Blackboard under the corresponding lecture assignment. Lectures will be available in recorded and written versions.
- Every Monday and Wednesday, from 1-2 pm, the professor will be live in the course room on Blackboard collaborate. Students are not required but encouraged to join the professor to discuss class content, concerns, questions, future careers, etc.
- Throughout the semester, the professor will hold student conferences. Students will sign-up to meet with the professor for 15 minutes to discuss student progress, questions, and/or concerns. The first conference will be held the first week of classes. During this conference, students will meet in small groups with the professor for an ice breaker activity. The purpose is for the professor to learn more about each student and for the students to learn about the professor and meet classmates. All conferences will be held in the Blackboard course room.

Class Schedule

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

Topic	Assigned Tasks to Complete
Week 1 - 1/19: Introduction of Course & Syllabus	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Syllabus <input type="checkbox"/> Watch lecture <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with professor and classmates
Week 2 - 1/25: Introduction to Behavior Modification (reading quiz posted on 1/21)	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Sunday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture (posted on Monday at 9 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture handout (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture quiz (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm)
Week 3 - 2/1: Observing and Measuring Behavior & Graphing and Measuring Change (reading quiz posted on 1/28)	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 2 & 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Sunday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture (posted on Monday at 9 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture handout (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture quiz (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2/4- 2/7 EXAM 1 (Ch. 1-3) Opens Thursday at 6 am closes Sunday at 11:59 pm	
Week 4 - 2/8: Reinforcement (reading quiz posted on 2/4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Sunday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture (posted on Monday at 9 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture handout (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> No Lecture Quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with professor
Week 5 - 2/15: Extinction, Apply Extinction, & Punishment Part One (reading quiz posted on 2/11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 5 & 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Sunday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture (posted on Monday at 9 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture handout (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture quiz (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> First Extra Credit Opportunity (1%) Due Monday, 2/22, by 5:00 pm
Week 6 - 2/22: Punishment Part Two, Applications of Positive & Negative Punishment, and Ethics (reading quiz posted on 2/18)	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 6, 17, & 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Sunday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture (posted on Monday at 9 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture handout (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture quiz (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Second Extra Credit Opportunity (1%) Due Monday, 3/1, by 5:00 pm
Week 7 - 3/1: Stimulus Control (reading quiz posted on 2/25)	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Sunday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture (posted on Monday at 9 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture handout (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture quiz (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Third Extra Credit Opportunity (1%) Due Monday, 3/8, by 5:00 pm
<input type="checkbox"/> 3/4-3/7: EXAM 2 (Ch. 4-7, 14, 17, 18) Opens Thursday at 6 am closes Sunday at 11:59 pm	
Week 8 - 3/8: Respondent Conditioning (reading quiz posted on 3/4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Sunday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture (posted on Monday at 9 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture handout (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> No Lecture Quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with professor
Week 9 - 3/15: Functional Assessment (reading quiz posted on 3/11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Sunday at 11:59 pm)

	<input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture (posted on Monday at 9 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture handout (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture quiz (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm)
Week 10 - 3/22: Shaping & Behavioral Skills Training (reading quiz posted on 3/18)	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 9 & 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Sunday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture (posted on Monday at 9 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture handout (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture quiz (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm)
Week 11 - 3/29 Prompting & Chaining (reading quiz posted on 3/25)	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 10 & 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Sunday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture (posted on Monday at 9 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture handout (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture quiz (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Fourth Extra Credit Opportunity (3%) Due Monday, 4/5, by 5:00 pm
Week 12 - 4/5: Differential Reinforcement (reading quiz posted on 4/1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Sunday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture (posted on Monday at 9 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture handout (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture quiz (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> *No class meetings this week. Office hours by appt only.
<input type="checkbox"/> 4/8- 4/11: EXAM 3 (Ch. 8-15, except 14) Opens Thursday at 3 pm closes Sunday at 11:59 pm	
Week 13 - 4/12: Antecedent Control Procedures & Self-Management (reading quiz posted on 4/8)	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 16 & 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Sunday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture (posted on Monday at 9 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture handout (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> No Lecture Quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Fifth Extra Credit Opportunity (3%) <input type="checkbox"/> Due Monday, 4/19, by 5:00 pm Self-Analysis Activity <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with professor
Week 14 - 4/19: Advanced Applications of ABA (reading quiz posted on 4/15)	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Ch. 21, 24, & 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Sunday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Watch on-line lecture (posted on Monday at 9 am) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture handout (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Submit lecture quiz (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> 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. Lecture Handouts (25%)
- B. Weekly quizzes (35%)
- C. Exams (40%)

D. Extra Credit (up to 10%)

A. Lecture Handouts. Class participation will be based on completing the lecture handout and activities. Given this course is on-line, it is expected that students will complete all the material for this course. **If a student is unable to complete course work by the established deadline due to an excusable situation (e.g., illness, death in the family, family illness, religious observance, collegiate athletic event, etc.), the student should immediately speak with the instructor to determine if the situation is excusable. If situation is excusable, student will be granted an extension. Make-up work must be completed by the extension.** Unless excusable, when a student does not complete course work by the established deadlines, they will lose points for the missed work. **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 by the extension to avoid losing points. Students are expected to engage in professional behavior in the on-line classroom which is defined as:

- Completing coursework by deadlines
- Meeting with the professor during scheduled meetings
- Producing quality work – lecture handouts should be completed thoroughly. **Fail to produce quality work will reflect in receiving only half the points for an assignment.**
- Being respectful of other students and the professor in written correspondence and virtual interactions
- 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 this course that competes with performance and/or creates a negative classroom experience for others will not be tolerated. These behaviors include but are not limited to the following:

- making rude comments/facial expressions about other students and/or the professor,
- not showing for meetings with the professor
- failure to complete in class activities, and
- falsifying assignments

If such unacceptable behavior occurs in class, the professor will provide immediate feedback and ask the student to stop engaging in the behavior. If the behavior persists, the instructor may ask for a meeting with the student, ask the student to leave the course, 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.

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 lecture becomes available to prepare students for lecture handout. **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. **It is recommended that students complete the book quizzes prior to taking the reading quiz and email quiz answers for review or attend virtual 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 virtual office hours or email with any exam questions. Please note that to receive assistance and ensure the professor 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 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.