

**PSY 310**  
**Sections 03 and 04**  
**Behavior Modification**  
**Winter 2021**  
**Sections 03/04**  
**Online**

**Instructor Information:**

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 11:30 – 12:30 or by appointment

**Course Information:**

**Class Meetings**

This class will have both (1) asynchronous lectures and activities, and (2) weekly class meetings. The class meetings are as follows:

Section 03: Synchronous meeting: Tuesday, 8:30 – 9:45

Section 04: Synchronous meeting: Tuesday, 10:00 – 11:15

\*Note, the session that you attend is up to you – you do not have to stick with your registered section.

**Required Text:**

Miltenberger, R. (6<sup>th</sup> edition). Behavior Modification: Principles and Procedures.

Note: The 5<sup>th</sup> edition is acceptable, however the chapter numbers may not match.

**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 (465). A letter grade will be assigned based on the grading scale listed below.

Course Requirements		Grading Scale	
Quizzes (12@10pts)	120pts	93% and above	A
Assignments (3@20pts)	60pts	90% - 92%	A-
Weekly Class Activities (12@5pts)	60pts	87% - 89%	B+
Final Exam (1@50pts)	50pts	83% - 86%	B
		80% - 82%	B-
Total		77% - 79%	C+
		73% - 76%	C
		70% - 72%	C-
		67% - 69%	D+
		60% - 66%	D
		59% and below	F

## Course Information

This course utilizes a combined synchronous/asynchronous online format. We will meet online once/week to cover content and complete activities. These meetings are required. 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. 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 to Sunday. This means that course content for the upcoming week will be posted by Monday, and all assignments/quizzes are due on Saturday (by midnight).

### Weekly Learning Modules

This course is organized into weekly modules. We will focus on 1-2 topics each week. Each weekly module will be organized into three different folders: before class, during class, and after class. I will also post a weekly task list that will contains all of the requirements for the week.

*Before Class:* Video lectures, additional assigned readings, and any activities that need to be completed prior to our meeting will be placed in this folder.

*During Class:* Link to class meeting, materials for class activities, and links to other videos will be placed in this folder

*After Class:* Quizzes, assignments, and activities that need to be completed on your own will be placed in this folder.

### Synchronous Meetings

The synchronous meetings are intended to reinforce concepts from the lectures and to deepen your understanding though different activities. Please note, I will not be delivering the recorded lectures during this time, and you will need to have watched them prior in order to benefit from the activities.

### *Attendance during meetings*

These meetings are considered *required*. There are points assigned for activities during the class (5pts each week), but you can miss up to 3 classes to earn full credit (I only count 12 weeks of points for class). If extenuating circumstances cause you to miss more than 3 classes, please contact me immediately and we will work together to find a solution.

I understand that this has been a very difficult year for many of you, and I am willing to work with you to be successful in this class. The most critical thing is that you communicate with me immediately if you miss more than 3 classes.

### *Behavior Expectations during Class Meetings*

Online class meetings can be engaging and helpful or they can be VERY painful. I have found that classes are much more engaging for everyone when students are highly engaged. To encourage active engagement, I have the following expectations during our class meetings:

- 1) Make every effort to have your camera on. I understand that there are situations in which you would like your camera off, and I want to respect your privacy. If you must turn your camera off during the class, I ask that you use a photo for your profile so that I am not teaching to a bunch of blank screens. You don't have to use a picture of yourself – it could be of Mickey Mouse – that is fine.
- 2) Mute your microphone if you are not speaking in class discussions. You do not need to do this in small group activities.
- 3) Have files open and ready. If there are files that you need during class, I will post them in the “during class” folder for the week. I may also ask you to use certain google apps during class, so be sure to have access to these if needed.
- 4) You may participate to the class discussion in a number of different ways – you can use the “raise hand” function, the chat, or even send me a message. The important part is that you are participating. Please plan on participating in class meetings MORE than you typically do in a face to face class. This will make the meetings more enjoyable and helpful.
- 5) I will ask someone to monitor the chat for me during each class period. The role of this person is to monitor comments/questions, and to help me ensure that I am addressing any comments/questions that people may have. First, I will ask for volunteers. If I don't have enough volunteers, I will then randomly select someone before class. You may decline.
- 6) Finally, please feel free to wear your PJs, have pets in the background, etc. I recognize that “life” gets in the way during online instruction. Fair warning, I have 3 kids, 2 cats, 1 dog, and a bearded dragon at my house. It is highly likely that they will show-up at some point during the semester.

### Quizzes

Each unit will have a 10-pt quiz. The quiz will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and/or matching questions. You will have 20-minutes to complete the quiz. Your lowest two quiz scores will be dropped (this includes any missed or late quizzes). While the quizzes are open book, you will need to be fluent with the concepts in order to do well. There are 13 quizzes total, and I will drop the lowest score.

Quizzes must be done independently and you may not share any information about the quiz (questions, topics, etc.) with your peers. Any incidence of sharing information about the quiz with your peers will be considered an academic integrity violation. You will receive your quiz score after you have taken the quiz, but feedback on individual items will not be available until the due date has passed.

*Late or missed quizzes:* If a quiz is late, but taken within 24hrs of the due date, I will deduct 2pts. If a quiz is completed after 24hrs past the due date, you will receive a “0”. Be aware that one quiz score will be automatically dropped. If you need an extension on a quiz, you must contact me at least 24hrs prior to the due date.

### Assignments

There will be 3 written assignments during the semester. Each assignment is worth 20pts. These assignments will be announced in the weekly module folders, and you will be given 2 weeks to complete. Late assignments will be subject to the following penalties: 3-point reduction if turned in within 24hrs of the due date, 6-point reduction if turned in within 48hrs of the due date. You may request an extension on the assignment, but it must be requested a minimum of 24hrs prior to the due date and for a valid reason (extended illness, etc.).

Assignments that are not completed within 48hrs of the due date will receive a “0” unless you requested an extension.

### Weekly Activities

Each week, there will be activities that are intended to deepen your knowledge of the content from class. Many of these activities will be completed in small groups during our class meetings. Some may need to be completed prior to the meeting, and you will be expected to share during class. Each activity is worth 5pts. You will generally receive the full 5pts for each activity. However, if it appears that little to no effort was put into the activity (e.g., I ask you write a paragraph and you only include 2 sentences, I ask you to collect data for 4 days and you only do 2 days), I reserve the right to deduct points from activities.

### 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. As the course progresses, I may utilize other programs (i.e., Wimba, Pronto, etc.). All programs will be made available through Blackboard.

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 Policies**

*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.

In addition, please be sure to check the Blackboard site (including the syllabus, assignments, and weekly modules) for answers to questions before sending an email. This will help ensure that student emails will be answered in a timely manner.

## **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	Synchronous Class	Reading	Topic	Assignments
1	1/19	Baer, Wolf, Risley (1968)	Course tour/overview Introduction to ABA	Quiz 1 (syllabus)
2	1/26	Chapter 1	What is applied behavior analysis?	Quiz 2
3	2/1	Chapter 2	Identifying, defining, and measuring behaviors	Quiz 3
4	2/8	Chpt 3	Evaluating behavior change	Quiz 4
5	2/15	Chpt. 4	Reinforcement	Quiz 5 Assignment 1 Due 2/21
6	2/22	Chpt. 4, 5, 14	Schedules of Reinforcement & Extinction	Quiz 6
7	3/1	Chpt. 6, 15, 17, 18	Punishment & Differential Reinforcement	Quiz 7
8	3/8		Optional review activities	Break! No quiz or class meeting
9	3/15	Chpt. 7	Stimulus control	Quiz 8 Assignment 2 Due 3/21
10	3/22	Chpt. 9, 10	Shaping & Prompting	Quiz 9
11	3/29	Chpt. 11, 12	Chaining & BST	Quiz 10
12	4/5	Chpt. 24 & 25	ABA & Mental Health	Quiz 11 Assignment 3 Due 4/11
13	4/12	TBD	ABA & Sports/Health	Quiz 12
14	4/19		Review activities	Quiz 13
15	4/26		Final Exam	