



**PSY 310**  
**Behavior Modification**  
**Winter 2020**

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**Instructor Information:**

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30 – 12:30, or by appointment

**Course Information:**

CRN: 26046  
Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 – 2:15  
2110 B MAC  
Pre-requisites: PSY 101

**Required Text:**

Miltenberger, R. (2016). Behavior Modification: Principles and Procedures, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

**Course Description:**

From the 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.

More 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 (280). A letter grade will be assigned based on the grading scale listed below.

		Grading Scale	
<b>Course Requirements</b>		93% and above	A
Quizzes	70pts	90% - 92%	A-
Exams (3 @ 100pts each)	150pts	87% - 89%	B+
Assignments (4 @ 20pts each)	80pts	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

### Exams: 150pts

There will be three exams 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: 70pts

There will be eight quizzes (10pts each) in this class. I will drop the lowest quiz scores, and take the highest seven for your final points.

### Assignments (4 @20pts each)

There are four assignments that will require you to apply specific concepts from the course. Each assignment will be described on Blackboard. Note the assignment due dates on the course schedule below.

## Course Specific Policies

- 1) **Attendance:** Course attendance is required. I do not take attendance, but you are responsible for all content and information delivered in class. In addition, there may be extra-credit opportunities presented in class. If you must miss class due to illness, family emergency, university-sponsored events, or other excused reasons, please make contact me or your peers to ensure you are up to date.

- 2) **Late assignments:** Late assignments are not accepted unless approved by the instructor at least 24hrs before the due date.

## **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.

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>



	Date	Topics	Readings	Assignment
Week 1	1/7	Course overview		
	1/9	Key concepts	Ch. 1	
Week 2	1/14	Identifying and Defining Behavior	Ch. 2	
	1/16	Measuring Behavior	Ch. 2	Quiz 1
Week 3	1/21	Functional Assessment	Ch. 13	
	1/23	Graphing and Behavior Change	Ch. 3	
Week 4	1/28	Graphing and Behavior Change	Ch. 3	Quiz 2
	1/30	Reinforcement	Ch. 4	
Week 5	2/4	Reinforcement	Ch. 4	
	2/6	Reinforcement and Review		Assignment 1 Due Quiz 3
Week 6	2/11	Exam 1		
	2/13	Punishment Ch. 6, 17, 18	Ch. 6, 17, 18	
Week 7	2/18	Extinction	Ch. 5	
	2/20	Differential Reinforcement	Ch. 15	Quiz 4 Assignment 2 Due
Week 8	2/25	Stimulus Control Shaping and Chaining	Ch. 7	
	2/27	BST	Ch. 12	Quiz 5
Week 9	3/3	Spring Break		
	3/5	Spring Break		
Week 10	3/10	Shaping and Chaining	Ch. 9, 11	
	3/12	Prompting	Ch. 15	Quiz 6
Week 11	3/17	Review and Catch-up		
	3/19	Exam 2		Ch. 8 – 15
Week 12	3/24	Promoting Generalization	Ch. 19	Assignment 3 Due
	3/26	ABA applied to clinical psychology	Ch. 24, 25	Quiz 7
Week 13	3/31	ABA applied to sports and health		
	4/2	ABA and autism spectrum disorders		Quiz 8
Week 14	4/7	TBD		
	4/9	TBD		Assignment 4 Due
Week 15	4/14	Catch-up		
	4/16	Review		
	4/21	Tuesday 12:00-1:50		Final exam: Cumulative