



**PSY 310
Behavior Modification
Fall 2021
Sections 04, 05**

Instructor Information:

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Psychology Department
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Office hours:

Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 – 11:00, or by appointment.

You may attend office hours either in-person or via Zoom. If you would like to attend via Zoom, please contact me ahead of time and I will provide you with the link.

Course Information:

Section 04:

CRN: 24592
Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 – 9:45
2132 ASH Hall
Prerequisites: PSY 101

Section 05:

CRN: 22782
Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30 – 12:45
2310 ASH Hall
Prerequisites: PSY 101

Required Text:

Miltenberger, R. (2016). Behavior Modification: Principles and Procedures, 6th 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	
		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
Course Requirements			
Quizzes (7@10pts)	70pts		
Exams (2 @ 50pts each)	100pts		
Behavior Change Assignments	80pts		
Class Activities	20pts		
 Total	 270 pts		

Exams: 100 pts

There will be two 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. Quizzes will be available Thursday after class, and are due by the beginning of class on Tuesday. All quizzes are on Blackboard. You will have 20-m to complete each quiz. Once you begin a quiz, you must complete it. While the quizzes are open-book, you will need to be familiar and fluent with the content in order to complete it within the time limit.

Important note: Because quizzes are taken off-campus and you have 5 days to complete it, no late quizzes will be accepted. In addition, quizzes must be completed independently (you may not work in groups to complete the quiz).

Behavior Change Assignments: 80pts

This semester, you will apply class concepts to change a behavior. The behavior change project is broken into 3 assignments that build upon each other. For this project, you will select a behavior, develop and implement a strategy, and evaluate your progress. Assignments will be due throughout the semester. More detailed information is available on the assignment description.

Class Activities: 20pts

There will be a variety of class activities during the semester. These activities will be announced in class and are worth 2-5 points each. Class activities may be completed either in-person during our class period or at home on your own. All activities must be submitted by the beginning of the next class period.

Course Specific Policies

- 1) **Attendance:** Class attendance is highly encouraged. I do not formally take attendance.
- 2) **Late assignments:** Late assignments must be approved by the course instructor 24hrs prior to the assignment deadline. Failure to obtain approval within this timeframe will result in a 10% deduction each 24hr period past the deadline.

COVID Specific Policies

While I sincerely hope that we will be able to get through this semester without disruptions due to COVID, it is likely that we may need make adjustments as the semester progresses. Below, I have outlined my expectations and policies to ensure we have a successful class.

- 1) Please do not come to class if you are feeling sick. I will post recorded lectures on Blackboard, and all activities can be completed at home.
- 2) Currently, masks are required in our classroom. I understand that communication can be challenging with masks. All lectures will be posted on Blackboard after class, and I will allow any small group work to take place outside of the classroom.
- 3) Notify me if you have to quarantine and miss more than one class. I will work with you to ensure that you do not miss any content.
- 4) In the event that I have to quarantine, I will temporarily move the class online for that time period. I will post recorded lectures and class activities on Blackboard. I will also host a Zoom session during our class period to go over the content and answer questions.
- 5) If at anytime you begin to feel uncomfortable attending class due to COVID, please reach out to me. I am committed to ensuring all students are able to be successful in this class and will work with you.

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	8/31	Intro to ABA Syllabus	Ch. 1	Review Syllabus
	9/2	Introduction to ABA	Ch. 1	
Week 2	9/7	Identifying and Defining Behavior	Ch. 2	
	9/9	Measuring Behavior	Ch. 2	
Week 3	9/14	Measuring Change	Ch. 3	Quiz 1 (Ch. 1, 2)
	9/16	Graphing Tutorial: This class will be held on Zoom.		ONLINE CLASS
Week 4	9/21	Reinforcement 1	Ch. 4	Assignment 1 Due Quiz 2 (Ch. 2, 3)
	9/23	Reinforcement 2	Ch. 4	
Week 5	9/28	Reinforcement 3	Ch 13	Quiz 3 (Ch. 4)
	9/30	Extinction	Ch. 5	
Week 6	10/5	Punishment	Ch. 6	
	10/7	Differential Reinforcement	Ch. 15	
Week 7	10/12	Review		Quiz 4 (Ch. 5, 6, 13, 15)
	10/14	Midterm	Ch. 1-6, 13, 15	
Week 8	10/19	Stimulus Control	Ch. 7	
	10/21	Promoting Generalization	Ch. 19	
Week 9	10/26	Fall break – no class		
	10/28	Self-Management	Ch. 20	Quiz 5 (Ch. 7, 19) 10/29: last day to drop with a “W”
Week 10	11/2	Shaping	Ch. 9	
	11/4	Prompting	Ch. 10	Assignment 2 Due
Week 11	11/9	Chaining	Ch. 11	Quiz 6 (Ch. 9, 10, 20)
	11/11	Behavior Skills Training	Ch. 12	
Week 12	11/16	Respondent Conditioning	Ch. 19	Quiz 7 (Ch. 11, 12)
	11/18	ABA and Clinical Psychology	Ch, 21, 24, 25	
Week 13	11/23	Assignment Work Group		Quiz 8 (Ch. 19, 24, 25)
	11/25	Thanksgiving Break: No Class		
Week 14	11/30	ABA applied autism spectrum disorders	Review website (on BB)	Assignment 3 Due
	12/2	ABA applied to health and fitness	Review website (on BB)	
Week 15	12/7	Assignment presentations		
	12/9	Review		
Final Exam		Section 04: Thursday, 12/16, 8:00 – 9:50 Section 05: Tuesday, 12/14, 10:00 – 11:50		Final exam: Cumulative

