



PSY 310-06:  
**Behavior Modification**  
Course Syllabus  
Fall 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 at this time. 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  
Walk in office hours:  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 am to 10:30 am  
Other times by appointment

**Course Prerequisite:** PSY 101

**Classroom:** Au Sable Hall 1310

**Class Times:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30-2:45 pm  
First class: 8.30.21  
Last class: 12.8.21  
Last exam: 12.13.21 (Monday)

*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](http://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, delta, 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 (No access code is needed- all materials are provided in course)**

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)
- Writing utensil

### **Class Format**

- Prior to the first class of a new week (Friday), a power point presentation will be posted on Blackboard under Lectures to aid in note taking during class for the new week of lecture material.

- On Friday at 9:00 am, the reading quiz for the new lecture will open on blackboard and will close on Monday at 1:30 pm (when class begins). Students will take the online reading quiz during this time frame to prepare for the week's lecture.
- The instructor will expand upon the assigned reading and highlight the key points through interactive lecture, demonstrations, and activities.
  - The week will conclude with an on-line class evaluation.
- During the last 10 minutes of the second class of the week (2:35 pm), the lecture quiz and class evaluation will open on blackboard and will close on Thursday 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 this lecture quiz as soon as it opens.**

### **Course Grade**

It is the **student's responsibility to monitor their grade** and to seek help from the instructor should their overall grade fall below a B at any point during the semester. Grades will be updated in Blackboard every Thursday. The column named "Current Grade" in the Blackboard gradebook tells the student what their current grade is in the course at all times. 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 stop by office hours for additional individualized instruction. The overall course grade will be based upon the following categories:

- Participation (5%)
- Quizzes (35%)
- Exams (60%)
- 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. Each student will receive a name plate to be placed in front of each student's desk to assist the instructor in attendance, learning student names, and developing rapport in the class. At the beginning of class, the instructor will pass around the name plates. If a student arrives after the name plates have been passed around, the student should retrieve their name plate from the front of the room upon their arrival. At the end of class, students will turn in their name plate. If a name plate is not retrieved, that student will not receive class participation points for that class because that indicates the student was not present for the entire lecture. 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. **Students will receive one non-emergency absence but will still need to 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.) and the student notifies the instructor before class (more notice is preferred), can the student earn the percentage points for that class. **If a**

**student plans to leave early from class and would like to avoid losing points, the student must speak with the instructor to determine if the reason for leaving early is excusable. *Missing class for vacation, work, or any extra-curricular activity is not excusable.* The student must get approval from the instructor to complete the make-up work and only excusable absences will be approved. If the absence is approved by the instructor, the student must do the following three assignments to make up the points for the missed class (**The lecture handout and quizzes must be completed and turned in on time to earn the percentage points for a missed class. Partial work will not count.**):**

1. Watch the on-line lecture and complete the lecture handout before the next scheduled class. Email completed lecture handout before the beginning of the next scheduled class to the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to ask for a link to the on-line lecture and the corresponding lecture handout. \
2. Make up the quizzes before the next class. It is the student's responsibility to schedule a make-up with the instructor.

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 (except to drink or eat)**
- 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.

Lectures will go until 2:45 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 new material is covered to prepare students for class discussions. Reading quizzes will open on Fridays at 9:00 am and close on Mondays at 1:30 pm (see class schedule on pages 6 & 7). **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 come to office hours to discuss challenging questions. Lecture quizzes will be administered online through Blackboard. Lecture quizzes will open on Wednesdays (exception of the first lecture for week one) at 2:35 pm and close on Thursdays at 11:59 pm. 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. Lecture quizzes will not be given on exam weeks (see class schedule).
- 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 online 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 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 Wednesday 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 announced in class and posted in the lecture slides. **A student must be present during class, 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

<b>Behavior Modification Class Schedule</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Complete Before Class</b>	<b>Bring to Class</b>	<b>Complete After Class</b>
8/30 (M) Introduction of Course & Syllabus and	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Syllabus	<input type="checkbox"/> Syllabus <input type="checkbox"/> Whiteboard & marker	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading quiz for chapter 1 opens at 2:30 pm on Monday
9/1 (W) Lecture One: Introduction to Behavior Modification	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Wednesday at 1:30 pm)	<input type="checkbox"/> Whiteboard & maker <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture handout	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete lecture quiz and evaluation (closes Thursday (9/2) at 11:59 pm) <i>Reading quiz opens on Friday at 9 am</i>
9/6 (M) <b>NO CLASS MONDAY Labor Day Break</b>			
9/8 (W) 9/13 (M) 9/15 (W) Lecture Two: Observing and Measuring Behavior & Graphing and Measuring Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 2 & 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Wednesday (9/8) at 1:30 pm)	<input type="checkbox"/> Whiteboard & maker <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture handout <input type="checkbox"/> Bring a device with a stopwatch	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete lecture quiz and evaluation (closes Thursday (9/16) at 11:59 pm)
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>9/16-9/19: ON-LINE EXAM 1 (1-3)</b> <b>Opens Thursday at 9 am closes Sun at 11:59 pm</b>			
9/20 (M) 9/22 (W) Lecture Three: Reinforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Monday at 1:30 pm)	<input type="checkbox"/> Whiteboard & maker <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture handout	<b>No lecture quiz</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete evaluation (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm)
9/27 (M) 9/29 (W) Lecture Four: Extinction, Apply Extinction, & Punishment Part One	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 5 & 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Monday at 1:30 pm)	<input type="checkbox"/> Whiteboard & maker <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture handout	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete lecture quiz and evaluation (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>First Extra Credit Opportunity (1%) Due Monday, 10/4, by 1:30 pm</b>

10/4 (M) 10/6 (W) Lecture Five: Punishment Part Two, Applications of Positive & Negative Punishment, and Ethics	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 6, 17, & 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Monday at 1:30 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Quiz 2 from 6, 17, or 18</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Whiteboard & maker <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture handout	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete lecture quiz and evaluation (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Second Extra Credit Opportunity (1%) Due Monday, 10/11, by 1:30 pm</b>
10/11 (M) 10/13 (W) Lecture Six: Stimulus Control	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Monday at 1:30 pm)	<input type="checkbox"/> Whiteboard & maker <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture handout	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete lecture quiz and evaluation (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Third Extra Credit Opportunity (1%) Due Monday, 10/18, by 1:30 pm</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>10/14-10/10: ON-LINE EXAM 2 (Ch. 4-7, 14, 17, 18) opens Thursday at 9 am closes Sunday at 11:59 pm</b>			
10/18 (M) 10/20 (W) Lecture Seven: Respondent Conditioning	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Monday at 1:30 pm)	<input type="checkbox"/> Whiteboard & maker <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture handout	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>No lecture quiz</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete evaluation Thursday at 11:59 pm <input type="checkbox"/> <b>On-line Assignment: Watch on-line lecture and complete lecture handout for Chapter 13 (opens Thursday at 9 am)</b>
10/25 (M) <b>NO CLASS MONDAY - FALL Break</b>			

			11/15 (M) 11/17 (W) <input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 15
10/27 (W) Lecture Eight: Functional Assessment (closes Wednesday at 1:30 pm)	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture handout <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Watch on-line lecture</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Upload lecture handout (due by Wednesday at 1:30 pm)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Whiteboard & maker <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Whiteboard & maker <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture Eleven: <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Differential (closes Monday at 1:30 pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture handout
11/1 (M) 11/3 (W) Lecture Nine: Shaping & Behavioral Skills Training	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 9 & 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Monday at 1:30 pm)	<input type="checkbox"/> Whiteboard & maker <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture handout	<input type="checkbox"/> Reinforcement
11/8 (M) 11/10 (W) Lecture Ten: Prompting & Chaining	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 10 & 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete reading quiz (closes Monday at 1:30 pm)	<input type="checkbox"/> Whiteboard & maker <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture handout	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>11/18-11/21: ON-LINE EXAM 3 (Ch. 8-15, except 14)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Opens Thursday at 9 am closes Sunday at 11:59 pm</b> 11/22 (M) 11/24 (W)
			7

**NO CLASS MONDAY or WEDNESDAY - THANKSGIVING Break**

11/29 (M) 12/1 (W)       Read Chapter 16 & 20       Whiteboard &  
Lecture Twelve:       Complete reading quiz      maker  
Antecedent Control      (closes Monday at 1:30 pm)  Lecture handout  
Procedures & Self-  
Management  
12/6 (M) 12/8 (W)       Read Chapter 16 & 20      Ch. 21, 24, & 25  
Lecture Thirteen:       Complete reading quiz      Quiz 1 from 21, 24,  
Advanced Applications of      (closes Monday at 1:30 pm)      or 25  
ABA

Complete lecture quiz and evaluation (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm)

Complete lecture quiz and evaluation (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) **Fourth Extra Credit**

**Opportunity (3%) Due Monday, 11/14, by 1:30 pm**

Complete lecture quiz and evaluation (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) **Fifth Extra Credit**

**Opportunity (3%) Due Monday, 12/6, by 1:30 pm**

**12/13 (M) FINAL: EXAM 4 (Ch. 16, 20, 21, 24, & 25)  
Opens Monday at 6 am and closes at 11:59 pm**

Complete lecture quiz and evaluation (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm)

Complete lecture quiz and evaluation (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm)

Complete lecture quiz and evaluation (closes Thursday at 11:59 pm) **GVSU On-line Evaluation – 1% Extra Credit if 90% of the class completes.**

**CLASS POLICIES**

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at [www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies](http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies). (See *University Policies SG 3.04.C* 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 coursegraded 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.