



**PSY 310
Behavior Modification
Winter 2025
Sections 02, 05**

Instructor Information:

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Psychology Department
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Office hours:

Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30 – 12:30, 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.

Couse Information:

Section 02:

CRN: 26045
Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 – 9:45
2310 ASH Hall
Prerequisites: PSY 101

Section 05:

CRN: 32003
Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 – 11:15
2310 ASH Hall
Prerequisite: PSY 101

Required Text:

There is no required textbook. All readings will be placed on Blackboard.

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 (260). 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 (6@10pts)	60pts		
Exams (3@50pts)	150pts		
Group Presentation (30pts)	30pts		
Assignments (2@25pts)	50pts		
Total	290 pts		

Exams: 150 pts

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 assigned readings and lecture.

Exams will be taken in-class on Blackboard. Please bring a device to complete the exam (laptop, tablet, etc.). If you do not have access to a device, please let me know ahead of the exam and I will bring one for you to use.

Make-up exams: **Make up exams are only permitted for 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.). **Please be aware that failure to show up for an examination without notifying me will result in a zero.**

Quizzes: 60pts

There will be seven quizzes (10pts each) in this class. I will drop your lowest quiz score (or you may miss one quiz). All quizzes are on Blackboard, and taken at home. You have an unlimited amount of time to complete the quizzes, but once you begin a quiz, you must complete it. In addition, quizzes must be completed independently (you may not work in groups to complete the quiz). Because I drop one quiz automatically, make-up quizzes are not permitted.

Assignments: 50pts

There will be two assignments for this class. Specific details will be provided on Blackboard.

Group Presentation: 30pts

There will be a group presentation later in the semester. More information will be provided on Blackboard.

Course Specific Policies

- 1) **Attendance:** Class attendance is considered required. While attendance is not part of your grade, I will take it each class period to keep record of who is present. If you must miss a class, be sure to review the lecture notes and watch the recorded lecture (if available). Please note, I frequently make announcements in class that may not be posted on Blackboard. If you miss a class, please make sure that you check with your peers regarding any updates or class announcements.
- 2) **Late assignments:** Late assignments must be approved by the course instructor 24hrs prior to the assignment deadline. **I am generally flexible with deadlines, but you must communicate with me ahead of time.** Failure to obtain approval within this timeframe will result in a 10% deduction each 24hr period past the deadline.

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 Introduction and Welcome		
	1/9	Introduction to ABA	Biglan Ch 1	
Week 2	1/14	Identifying, Defining, and Measuring Behavior	Miltenberger Ch. 2	
	1/16	Identifying, Defining, and Measuring Behavior		
Week 3	1/21	Ethical Behavior Change	Bannerman 1990	Quiz 1 Due
	1/23	Evaluating Change	Normand 2009	
Week 4	1/28	Evaluating Change		
	1/30	Reinforcement	Miltenberger Ch. 4	
Week 5	2/4	Reinforcement		Quiz 2 Due
	2/6	Reinforcement		
Week 6	2/11	Catch up and Exam Review		Assignment 1 Due Quiz 3 Due
	2/13	Exam 1		Exam 1
Week 7	2/18	Extinction Punishment	Martin Ch. 5, 12	
	2/20	Stimulus Control	Martin Ch. 8	
Week 8	2/25	Prompting	Miltenberger Ch 10	Quiz 4 Due
	2/27	Shaping & Chaining	Miltenberger Ch. 9, 11	
Week 9	3/4	Spring Break		No Class
	3/6			No Class
Week 10	3/11	Behavior Skills Training	Miltenberger Ch. 12	
	3/13	Catch up and Review		Quiz 5 Due
Week 11	3/18	Exam 2		
	3/20	School Applications	Biglan Ch. 3, 4	
Week 12	3/25	School Applications		
	3/27	Clinical Psychology Applications	Biglan Ch. 5	Assignment 2 due
Week 13	4/1	Clinical Psychology Applications		
	4/3	Clinical Psychology Applications		
Week 14	4/8	Health and Fitness	Biglan Ch. 6, 7	
	4/10	Health and Fitness		
Week 15	4/15	Health and Fitness		
	4/17	Review		
Final Exam		Section 02: Thursday, April 24, 8:00 am		Final exam: Cumulative
		Section 03: Thursday, April 24, 10:00 am		