PSY 310
Behavior Modification
Fall 2025
Sections 04, 07

Instructor Information:
Amy Campbell, Ph.D.
Psychology Department
1309 ASH
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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 04:
CRN: 22782
Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 – 11:15
2310 ASH
Prerequisites: PSY 101

Section 07:
CRN: 34603
Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 – 2:15
1310 ASH Hall
Prerequisites: 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 (280). A letter grade will be assigned based on the grading scale listed below.

Course Requirements

Quizzes (6@10pts)	60pts
Exams (2@50pts)	100pts
Behavior Change Assignment	60pts
Group Presentation	50pts
Total	270pts

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

Exams: 100 pts
There will be 2 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 completed on Blackboard, but taken *in-class.* You must bring a laptop/tablet/other device to class to take the exam. If you do not have a personal device, I will provide you with one to take the exam.

I**MPORTANT:**
Make-up exams are only permitted for extenuating circumstances and must be approved before the due date. Please talk with me before the exam is due if you need to complete it at a different time/date. I am flexible, but you must communicate with me beforehand. If an exam is missed without prior notification or approval, you will receive a 0.

Quizzes: 60pts
There will be six quizzes (10pts each) in this class. Quizzes will be taken during class on Blackboard and are open note. You will be given up to 30-m to take the quiz. Quiz questions will be multiple choice. If you are absent on a quiz date, please notify me ahead of time, and we will schedule a time for you to make up the quiz

prior to the next class meeting. <u>Make-up quizzes will only be given if I am notified of your absence prior to class starting.</u>

<u>Behavior Change Assignment: 60pts</u>
This assignment will require you to identify, measure, and change one of your own behaviors. You will complete the assignment in sections (see due dates on the syllabus) and will work collaboratively with a small group for feedback.

<u>Group Presentation: 50pts</u>
Working in a small group (4-5 students), you will research a topic related to behavior analysis and present to the class. The topics for the presentations are based on your readings and will occur throughout the class. You will be given time during class to work on the presentation, and it is critical that you are actively engaged as a group member.

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. You are responsible for all content and updates made during the class period.

2) **Late assignments:** Late assignments must be approved by the course instructor 24hrs prior to the assignment deadline. **<u>I am generally flexible with deadlines, but you must communicate with me ahead of time.</u>** Failure to obtain approval within this timeframe will result in a 10% deduction each 24hr period past the deadline.

3) **Use of AI to complete course assignments:** There are specific course activities/assignments where AI can be a useful tool in this class. When the use of AI is permitted, I will let you know. If I do not specifically allow AI for an assignment, you may not use it. If I suspect that AI has been used, I reserve the right to

University Policies

<u>Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:</u> 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.

<u>Academic Integrity:</u> 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.

<u>Plagiarism:</u> 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	8/26	Course Introduction and Welcome		
	8/28	Introduction to ABA	Biglan Ch 1	
Week 2	9/2	Identifying, Defining, and Measuring Behavior	Miltenberger Ch. 2	
	9/4	Identifying, Defining, and Measuring Behavior		
Week 3	9/9	Ethical Behavior Change		Quiz 1
	9/11	Evaluating Change		
Week 4	9/16	Evaluating Change		
	9/18	Reinforcement	Miltenberger Ch. 4	Quiz 2
Week 5	9/23	Reinforcement		
	9/25	Reinforcement		
Week 6	9/30	Extinction	Martin Ch. 5	Quiz 3
	10/2	Punishment		
Week 7	10/7	Exam Review and Catch up		
	10/9	Exam 1		Exam 1
Week 8	10/14	Stimulus Control	Martin Ch. 8	
	10/16	Prompting	Miltenberger Ch 10	
Week 9	10/21	No Class – Fall Break		<mark>Fall Break – No Class</mark>
	10/23	Group Project Work time		
Week 10	10/28	Shaping & Chaining & BST	Miltenberger Ch 9, 10, 12	
	10/30	Shaping & Chaining & BST		Quiz 4
Week 11	11/4	School Applications	Biglan Ch. 3, 4	
	11/6	School Applications		
Week 12	11/11	Clinical Psychology Applications	Biglan Ch. 5	Behavior Change Project Due
	11/13	Clinical Psychology Applications		Quiz 5
Week 13	11/18	Health and Fitness	Biglan Ch. 6, 7	
	11/20	Health and Fitness		Quiz 6
Week 14	11/25	Group Presentation Worktime		
	11/27			<mark>No Class: Thanksgiving</mark>
Week 15	12/2	Presentations		Group Presentation Due
	12/4	Presentations		
Final Exam		Section 04: Thursday 12/11, 10:00 – 11:50 Section 07: Tuesday 12/9, 12:00 – 1:50		