**COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Title: 512, Legal and Ethical Issues in Behavior Analysis  
Course Number: REHB 512  
Credit Hours: 3  
Location & Time: January 19 – May 13 during scheduled times on D2L  
Instructor: Dr. Mark R. Dixon, PhD, BCBA-D; Professor, Behavior Analysis & Therapy  
  Email: mdixon@siu.edu  
  Weekly D2L chat: Wednesdays 9 – 9:30 pm Central Standard Time (CST)  
Graduate Teaching Assistant: Ryan C. Speelman, M.S., BCBA  
  Email: speelmanryan@siu.edu  
  Weekly D2L Chat: Thursdays at 7:00 pm CST

**Texts & Assigned Readings:**
No Text is required for this class. Articles and other materials will be provided online.  
**Strongly Recommended Text:**  

**Course Objectives**
The primary course objective is for you the student to understand and be capable of correctly applying behavior analytic principles in manners that are both legal and ethical. This general objective will be attained by your (1) reading of each assigned chapter and research article, (2) discussing the points of each unit during online D2L chats, (3) responding appropriately to examinations based on the text and class discussion, and (4) completion of conceptual papers relevant to class material.

Upon successful completion of this class you will know how to discuss and apply information regarding:  
- History of ethics in human services and issues pertinent to behavior analysis  
- Philosophy and theory of ethics and morality  
- Professional codes of ethics for psychology and behavior analysis  
- Ethics of working with special populations and institutions  
- The US legal system and its role in human services  
- Ethics of research and teaching

**Reading Assignments**
Some of the information found in your readings will be presented to you via D2L class lecture. Since not all relevant material will be presented to you prior to taking the exam, it will be to your advantage to read all assigned materials and become familiar with all of the major concepts prior to participating in online class, and taking your exam.

Students should REVIEW ARTICLES ASSIGNED BEFORE THE CLASS THEY ARE ASSIGNED FOR.
Participation: (60 points)
Participation points will be awarded via active quality participation during D2L chats. Participation credit will be awarded based on the quality of your participation, not on the frequency.

Exams (6 exams @ 20 points each)
Exams will be available via D2L from 9am Friday through 11:59 pm Sunday evening on designated times indicated on the calendar. Exams will cover materials covered in the readings and during D2L chats.

Writing Assignments:
Students will be asked to compose a work of writing related to the assigned materials. These writing assignments will turned into dropbox at the designated time on the calendar. Late papers will not be accepted. These papers, including all citations and reference list, must be in APA format. **If it is not in CORRECT APA format you will lose points so be sure to consult an updated manual.** These assignments are to be written in your own words (i.e., not copied from other sources). Copying any portion of your assignment is a violation of SIU policy on plagiarism and since this is a course on ethics, let’s be sure we all behave ethically. The following assignments will be as follows:

1. **The role of ethics in Behavior Analysis**
   Provide a discussion on the necessity and function of an ethical code in behavior analysis. Be sure to take into account the historical events and contexts that have contributed to the necessity and form of our current ethical code. Also consider the professional, legislative, and social considerations that contribute to the current ethical code used by behavior analysts. Finally, compare and contrast the BACB ethical code versus that of another similar field, e.g. social workers, rehab counselors, psychologist, etc. Provide a brief discussion on how our ethical code fits into the field of behavioral health services.

2. **The use of Restrictive, Aversive, or Default Technologies**
   Provide an argument that defends the use of restrictive, aversive, or default technologies. Be sure to include: a definition and examples of the above mentioned types of interventions, the objectionable and valuable qualities of these interventions, and the contexts or requirements that you would recommend be in place prior to the use of these interventions.

3. **Human Subject Committee Proposal**
   Research with human or animal subjects is regulated by a number of laws, rules, and regulations. In order to assure ethical regulations are met, most institutions establish a review board for research. At SIU, human research is reviewed by the human subjects committee in “Office of Sponsored Projects.” Students will be expected to prepare a hypothetical human subjects proposal appropriate to behavior analytic research. The hypothetical experiment will include the following concerns:
   - Use of a vulnerable population
   - The use of an experimental or aversive intervention that will be used to address a issue of clinical concern of which the subject is already receiving treatment for.
   - At least one form of deception
   - The collection of personally sensitive information
Special attention should be placed on the description and justification for the use of the above concerns.

**HSC Training:**
All students are expected to complete the required trainings for human subject experiments as listed on the website for SIU’s Office of Sponsored Projects. Proof of completion will be submitted to the instructor via print-out of the certificate provided by the specific training you complete; either NIH or CITI courses are accepted. If you have already completed these trainings, you need only submit the certificate.

**Grades**

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<td>Exams (6 @ 20 pts)</td>
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<td>Paper Assignments (3 @ 100pts)</td>
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<td>Participation Points</td>
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Your Grade = your points /500 possible points
Letter Grades will be as follows:
A  450 – 500pts  
B  400 – 449pts  
C  350 – 399pts  
D  300 – 349pts  
F  0 – 299 pts

**Course Schedule**

Week of 1/19:  Introduction and Orientation to course

1/25- 1/31: **History of Ethics in BA**
- APA Ethics Code

2/1 – 2/7:
2/5 EXAM 1: available from 9AM 2/5 – 11:59 PM 2/7

2/8 – 2/14: Ethical Behavior in Society

2/15 – 2/21:

2/22 – 2/28:

EXAM 2: available from 9AM 2/26 – 11:59 PM 2/28

Ethics Paper due to dropbox by 11:59 PM on 2/28

2/29 – 3/6: The Aversives Debate in Behavior Analysis


Professional Organization Position Statements: ABA, AAMR, TASH, APA Division 33, CCBD


### 3/7- 3/13:

- Sidman, M., (1989). *Coercion and its fallout*. Boston. MA: Authors Cooperative, Inc. (Chapter 1 -- This coercive world, pp. 15 – 24; Chapter 2 - Not all control is coercion, pp. 25 – 43; Chapter 16 - Is there any other way?, pp. 210 – 236).


3/14 – 3/20: NO CLASS SPRING BREAK

### 3/21 – 3/27: Special Populations and Special Education


### 3/28 – 4/3:
• ABA Position Statement---Students’ Right to Effective Education

**4/1 EXAM 4: available from 9AM 4/1 – 11:59 PM 4/3**

**4/1 Aversives Paper due to dropbox by 11:59 PM on 4/3**

**4/4 – 4/10: Ethics of Teaching and Research**

**4/11- 4/17:**
• AND complete the NIH Human Subjects Training Module: https://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php

**4/15 EXAM 5: available from 9AM 4/15 – 11:59 PM 4/17**

**4/18- 4/24: Professional Liability, Confidentiality, & Legal Issues**
• HIPAA Primer

**4/25 – 5/1:**
• Simone, S., & Fulero, S. M. (2005). Tarasoff and the duty to protect. In S. F. Bucky, J. E. Callan, & G. Stricker (Eds.). *Ethical and legal issues for mental health*


5/2 – 5/8: Practice and Professional Issues

- [http://www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com). Read about BACB, Administration and Contacts, Exam Task List, Becoming BACB Certified (Click on and read the links to definitions), maintaining BACB Certification (read links), Conduct Guidelines, Download Section (Download and print application, task list, etc.), General FAQ.


5/9: HSC subjects paper and HSC certification due by 11:59PM to dropbox

*****This syllabus is subject to modification to correct errors, and to make additions or deletions aimed at improving the course. *****