



BAT 312: Applied Behavior Analysis I Course Syllabus

Instructor

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Location & Meeting Time

Wham 0302
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Required Texts

Miltenberger, R.G. (2016). *Behavior Modification: Principles and Procedures* (6th ed). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1-305-10939-1

Additional readings may be provided via D2L.

Course Description and Objectives

This course will provide students with an introduction to the principles of the science of behavior known as behavior analysis. The philosophical system known as behaviorism that underlies this area of study will be explored, as will the application of behavioral principles to a number of areas of society, including interpersonal relations, parenting, treatments for persons with intellectual and other disabilities, business and management, and more. Students will learn techniques for utilizing the principles of behavior in their own lives, as well as the social benefits that the incorporation of behavioral principles into educational, rehabilitative, organizational, and other settings will afford. This course is required of the major in Behavior Analysis and Therapy.

Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will be able to discuss:

- The ABC's of applied behavior analysis and what this means for understanding the causes of behavior
- The behavioral position on freedom and free will
- The basic methodology utilized by the science of behavior
- Strategies for increasing and decreasing behavior
- Strategies for establishing behavior change in new circumstances
- Clinical interventions that are based upon applied behavior analysis

- The relationship between applied behavior analysis and evidence-based treatment
- The ethics of changing the behavior of others
- In general, the application of behavioral principles to individuals with autism or other intellectual disabilities and how behavioral treatment might affect relatives and friends of individuals receiving the treatment
- Simple strategies for how behavior analysis can be implemented successfully in the work-place, child-care, and one's interpersonal relations.
- The profession of behavior analysis and what the career for a board-certified Bachelors- and Masters-level behavior analyst entails.

The student will also be able to implement:

- Methods for observing and recording behavior
- Methods for graphically depicting behavioral data
- Simple plans for changing the behavior of oneself or others

Course Format

Class meetings will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and activities. Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings before coming to class. The lecture will not cover all material presented in the readings, and will also go beyond the reading materials. Thus, attendance in class is important as all reading assignments and lecture content may be included in quizzes. Students are encouraged to participate in class by asking questions, contributing to the discussion of course topics, and sharing experiences either managing others, or being managed.

Assignments

Participation and Attendance

Attendance and participation in class are required. Students who are consistently absent or silent during class will not earn full credit. Students may miss two (2) classes without losing points. No documentation or excuses required.

Quizzes

A quiz will be given every class period that covers the content in the assigned readings. Questions will be a mix of multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank. Quizzes will be administered on D2L, so students should bring a laptop or tablet to class. If you do not have access to an appropriate device, you make take the quiz on paper.

No make-up quizzes will be offered. However, a total of two (2) quiz scores will be dropped at the end of the semester (the two lowest scores).

PSI Modules

Students will complete a PSI module for each unit of content in the class. Each module will consist of a series of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and matching questions. Despite resembling quizzes, the PSI modules are learning devices that will help you solidify your understanding of key concepts. Here's how they work:

- You must earn at least a 90% on each module to pass it.
- You may attempt each module as many times as you need to pass.
- The questions will differ slightly each time you attempt to complete the module.
- You will receive immediate feedback on each module after completing it.
- You may not move on to the next module until you have passed the previous one.
- The modules are timed such that you will not only need to know the right answer, but be able to produce it quickly as well.
- You may complete the modules at your own pace (they will be open as soon as they are completed and uploaded) but **you must complete them all before finals week.**

Online Discussion

Students will engage in online discussion weekly regarding the assigned readings. There is no specific format for these discussion posts, but students should consider posting questions about concepts that they would like to have clarified, questions about the content, or thoughts or reactions to the content. The instructor will incorporate questions and comments into lecture provided they are posted at least 24 hours in advance of the class meeting. Students should plan to participate in these discussions on a regular basis. Students will likely not have something to post every week, but students who are consistently absent from discussion will lose points.

Article Report

Students will choose a research article that is referenced in the course textbook and prepare a brief (5-10 minute) oral presentation of the content of that article. Further instructions will be provided on D2L and in class.

Final Exam

A final exam will be given during finals week subject to university scheduling. The final exam will be administered on D2L. All students must have access to a reliable laptop computer or suitable tablet computer. Otherwise, students may arrange to take the exam in the testing center. No technical difficulties will be tolerated.

Grading

Grades will be weighted as follows. The total number of points may change during the semester. See the instructor regarding any questions about grading.

Participation/ Attendance	150 pts
Quizzes	120 pts
PSI	150 pts
Discussion	20 pts
Article Presentation	50 pts
Final Exam	100 pts

Grades will not be curved and cutoffs are as follows:

A: $\geq 90\%$ (531+)

B: 80%-89.99% (472-530)

C: 70%-79.99% (413-471)

D: 60%-69.99% (354-412)

F: $< 60\%$ (0-353)

A note about being successful in this course

Being successful in this course will be largely dependent on student effort. The best way to do well is to put forth a consistent and frequent effort. Attending class, being an active participant, asking questions, reading and reviewing the material often are all encouraged and expected.

Additional Course Policies

Classroom Etiquette

Students should maintain a respectful environment in the classroom at all times. The faculty are committed to maintaining an environment conducive to learning, including being respectful of students and their opinions. In return, you should also maintain respect for the faculty and your fellow students.

To facilitate learning, students are expected to avoid creating distractions in the classroom by speaking out of turn, using cell phones or other non-academically necessary devices or internet services. If you do create distractions during class, you will be asked to leave.

Email Policy

Communication is key in academia, much like in the world beyond school. When important announcements are made, especially those involving time-critical events, they will be made via email and sent through SIU Online to your registered SIU email address. Students are expected to maintain their email accounts and check email at maximum intervals of 24 hours. Failing to check emails regularly will not be accepted as an excuse for missing important announcements. Relatedly, the instructor is committed to replying to emails within 24 hours of receipt.

The instructor is available to students via email as a resource. Students are strongly encouraged to email the instructor to ask for clarification, or to communicate about course-related issues. However, out of respect for my time, I will ask that students consult the syllabus, email announcements, and the course page on SIU Online prior to emailing questions. If the question was answered on the syllabus, in an announcement, or in the modules on D2L, the instructor will

not return the email. This policy is in no way aimed at discouraging students from communicating with the instructor. Rather, self-help and professionalism are important skills for students to master. One way you can demonstrate these professional skills is to refrain from asking questions that have already been answered.

Copyright

The instructor reserves all rights to the intellectual property generated for this course. Slides and other course materials may not be distributed to the public outside the context of this course.

The additional readings made available to you on D2L are covered by the Fair Use clause of the Copyright Act. You are welcome to use these materials for personal and educational purposes, but they should not be re-distributed to the public.

Academic Misconduct/Dishonesty

Students are responsible for understanding the University policy on plagiarism and academic misconduct/dishonesty. Any instance of plagiarism will result—at minimum—in failing the assignment in which the instance of plagiarism was discovered. Depending on the severity of the violation, the instructor may also assign a failing grade in the course, and/or make a report about the incident to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR). Violation of the Code of Conduct, which includes but is not limited to academic dishonesty, may result in sanction, probation, or dismissal from the University.

Incidences of plagiarism include:

- Any presentation of works authored by someone else as your own, original work
- Failure to cite resources consulted or referenced
- Improper citation of works referenced

Failure to read or understand the policies on academic misconduct is not a valid excuse. It is the students' responsibility to read, understand, and adhere to the Code of Conduct. **If you are uncertain whether your assignment contains plagiarism, consult the instructor well before the deadline for the assignment.**

Additional University Policies

Consult the syllabus addendum for information on additional policies including Incomplete grades, disability accommodations, etc.

Course Agenda

The following agenda is a guide to the course schedule. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the agenda with due notice to students to accommodate unforeseen circumstances that may arise.

Date	Topic & Assignments Due	Readings Due by Class
1/17	Course Introduction	Course Syllabus
1/19	Intro to Behavior Analysis	Ch. 1
1/24	Observing and Recording Behavior	Ch. 2
1/26	Graphing and Measuring	Ch. 3
1/31	Reinforcement	Ch. 4
2/2	Extinction	Ch. 5
2/7	Punishment	Ch. 6
2/9	Stimulus Control	Ch. 7
2/14	Respondent Conditioning	Ch. 8
2/16	Shaping	Ch. 9
2/21	Prompting	Ch. 10
2/23	Chaining	Ch. 11
2/28	BST	Ch. 12
3/2	Functional Assessment	Ch. 13
3/7	Applying Extinction	Ch. 14
3/9	Differential Reinforcement	Ch. 15
3/14	No class – Spring Break	None
3/16	No class – Spring Break	None
3/21	Antecedent Control	Ch. 16
3/23	Time-Out & Response Cost	Ch. 17
3/28	Positive Punishment	Ch. 18
3/30	Generalization	Ch. 19
4/4	Self-Management	Ch. 20
4/6	Habit Reversal	Ch. 21
4/11	Token Economies	Ch. 22
4/13	Behavioral Contracts	Ch. 23
4/18	Anxiety Reduction	Ch. 24
4/20	Cognitive Behavior	Ch. 25
4/25	Article Presentations Due	None
4/27	Special Topics	TBA
5/2	Free Day – Finish PSI modules	None
5/4	Final Exam Review	None
	Finals Week	None