Applied Behavior Analysis (PSY-3630-901)
Spring 2021

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Course Description

The objective of this course is to provide an overview of the scientific field of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), which focuses on the application of principles of learning to everyday situations (e.g., work, school, clinical, health). More specifically, in this course you will understand (a) basic principles and definitions relevant to ABA, (b) methodological and measurement issues at the core of behavioral analysis, (c) strategies, techniques, and approaches for effective behavioral assessment, (d) core issues related to reinforcement and punishment, (e) principles and techniques for increasing and decreasing behaviors, and (f) applications of ABA and professional issues relevant to practicing ABA.

Course Readings & Text

Required Texts: Cooper, J.O., Heron, T.E., & Heward, W.L. (2020). *Applied Behavior Analysis* (3rd ed.). Pearson.

Selected Readings: In addition to the text, there will be several required empirical journal articles that must be reviewed. These articles will be available through the course website.

Grading Policy

You earn points in the class as follows:

Assignment	Weight	Possible Points
6 Exams - 30 pts each	75%	180 points
Behavioral Intervention Plan Project	25%	60 points
Total		*240 points*

Letter Grades

A	93+%	> 221 points	C	73-76%	175-184
A-	90-92%	215-221	C-	70-72%	167-174
B+	87-89%	208-214	D+	67-69%	160-166
B	83-86%	199-207	D	63-66%	150-159
B-	80-82%	191-198	D-	60-62%	143-149
C+	77-79%	185-190	F	< 60%	<143

Course Requirements and Materials

Exams
There will be **6 small exams over the course of the semester, worth 30 points each (180 total)**. Each exam will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions. The exams will draw from the text, readings, videos, lecture and other content. **Exams are taken online through the Blackboard system**. You should not use your notes, book, journal articles, electronic devices, etc. during the exam. Thus, you should prepare for these online exams in the same way you prepare for any other in-class exam. Given that these are being taken online, you have a limited amount of time to complete each exam. Specifically, you will have 35 minutes to complete each exam. This gives you just over 1 minute per question. Once you begin the exam, you will need to complete it in one sitting (not multiple tries). I will leave the exam open for one week during the ending portion of the time that a unit is released (generally starting early on a Monday morning at 12:00am until the close of section content on a Sunday at 11:59pm). See schedule below for specifics. There are 6 units throughout the semester, going with the 6 exams. The content will cover everything since the last exam (i.e., there are no comprehensive exams). You can take the exam at any point during the window of time when the exam is available. You should attempt to follow the schedule of consuming the relevant course content over the unit release period and take the exam near the end of the exam release period. Under extreme circumstances, I will allow a given exam window to be extended if the student has a legitimate, university-appropriate reason for missing the window the first time. Please contact me (Dr. Rose) via email ASAP if you find yourself in this situation. As you can imagine, it would be rather difficult to miss multiple exams in a row and still perform well in the course. So please try to keep up and, if you do fall behind, let me know ASAP so that we can discuss your options.

Respondus Lock Down Browser: Exams in this course are taken on-line through "Respondus Lock Down Browser" in Blackboard. This program is already on computers at the Field House and main campus library, but you may need to take several minutes to download on your computer prior to the examination. Information about this program is located at the following page: https://www.utoledo.edu/dl/students/lockdown_pc.html.
This webpage also gives instructions on how to use this program for test taking. The program reduces the usage of other programs on your computer during the examination.
You can download the program here: http://www.utoledo.edu/dl/main/downloads.html

Behavioral Intervention Plan Project
Throughout the semester, you will conduct a behavioral intervention plan project in two parts/phases (30 points for each phase). For the project, you will design a novel behavioral intervention plan to change a specific behavior in yourself (e.g., exercise, eating habits, road rage). The goals of this project are to provide insights into the process of behavior change, to increase your knowledge of core ABA concepts, to provide experience with conducting literature reviews and synthesizing information from such reviews, and to give practice in applying basic concepts into an action plan that can be applied to real-world behaviors. In Blackboard you will find a document for the project describing the assignment in more detail and specifying what you need to do to complete each phase/part of the project. Upon completion of each portion of the project, you will submit documents into Blackboard. **Phase 1 of the behavioral intervention plan project will be due on 3/19** and **Phase 2** of the behavioral intervention plan project will be due on **5/3**. Failure to complete each phase of the project by the deadline without a university-appropriate excuse will result in loss of points (5 points off per day late). See Blackboard for more information about the project.

Course Website and Computer Skills Requirements

The course website is on Blackboard (http://www.dl.utoledo.edu) and contains assignment information, course content, grades, etc. All students should be comfortable and able to navigate on-line. If you do not have strong computer skills, I do not recommend taking this course. A basic level of computer skills is a prerequisite and I will not be teaching these skills in the course. If you have never taken an on-line course before I highly recommend visiting http://www.dl.utoledo.edu/help_desk/help.htm to learn how to work with the on-line course system.

Technical Assistance: I am not a computer expert. Therefore, if you are having technical problems, please contact the Distance Learning Department at 419-530-8835 or toll free at 866-utoledo (866-886-5336) or by email at UTDL@utoledo.edu. Please contact them when problems arise—they want to help.

Notification of Technical Problems: If you are having problems with your computer and you are unable to notify me of this event by email, please contact me by phone. My contact numbers are listed on the top of our syllabus. Technical problems with your computer are not a legitimate reason for failing to complete assignments or exams by posted deadlines. There are many computer options available to you, such as the many University of Toledo computer labs and the computers at public libraries. To find out the hours of the University of Toledo computer labs, you can call this number: 419-530-4636. Each student is responsible for finding their own alternative methods or locations to complete assignments by the given deadlines.

Class Home Page

These are the areas on our home page that you to need to visit and learn to use:
- How to Log On to Our Class Home Page: https://blackboard.utdl.edu/. Once you are there, you will see the following areas/icons in our home page:
  - **Course News**– This is basically the homepage to our course. If needed, it provide announcements for the course.
  - **Syllabus** – This link takes you to our course syllabus.
  - **Lecture Content** – This link is where the "Lectures" take place. The material is broken up into folders based on the unit/week. Each week/unit will have various materials that are relevant to the exam for that week. Typically these will involve PowerPoint lecture slide files, articles, and video links. Naturally, there will be a great deal of overlap between the text and this other material, but there will also be material unique to each. All of this material is important for exams.
  - **Activities** – This link displays content related to the course activities/projects.
  - **Exams** – This is where you will take your exams.
  - **My Grades** – This is where course grades will be displayed

Course Policies

Absenteeism
This is a distance learning class, which means that the structure and timing are unconventional. Content will be released in six "units" corresponding to each exam, and students are responsible for accessing and consuming the relevant content as it becomes available prior to the exam on such content. If you have an illness or other university-appropriate excuse that interferes with your ability to meet deadlines in this class, notify me ASAP and provide appropriate documentation. Such events may necessitate your dropping the course, particularly given the nature of the class.

Email
I will respond to student email daily. Due to COVID-19, I will likely not be in my physical office most days. Thus, email is the best way to reach me and I will check this regularly. I am also happy to set up virtual office hours to speak with you.

Course Materials

As indicated above, you will take 6 exams throughout the semester. When it comes to material for each of the 6 units (e.g., lectures, articles, chapter readings), I will release each set of materials for a particular exam one at a time just like the exams (see above). This is to allow you to pace yourself throughout the course and permit you to create habits of consuming the material and demonstrating your knowledge. The content is released first and then the exam is released later during the unit period.

Course Readings

Each unit you will have selected chapters from your textbook as well as 1-2 journal articles to read. The schedule below lists the readings (textbook chapters and articles) assigned for the given week. The selected journal articles can be found in Blackboard under the lecture content.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Topics	Readings	Assignments
Unit 1: Introduction to APA and Basic Concepts			
1/18	Definitions and characteristics of ABA	Ch. 1	
1/25	Basic Concepts	Ch. 2; Harrison & Pyles (2013)	---**Exam Unit 1** (1/25 to 1/31)
Unit 2: Selection and Measurement of Behavior			
2/1	Selecting and Defining Target Behavior; Measuring Behavior	Chs. 3-4; Donaldson et al (2011)	
2/8	Improving and Assessing the Quality of Behavioral Measurement	Ch. 5; Skrtic & Sepler (1982)	---**Exam Unit 2** (2/8 to 2/14)
Unit 3: Evaluating and Analyzing Behavior Change			
2/15	Constructing and Interpreting Graphic Displays	Chs. 6; Artman et al (2012)	
2/22	Analyzing Behavior Change; Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating ABA Research	Chs. 7 & 10	---**Exam Unit 3** (2/22 to 2/28)
Unit 4: Reinforcement and Punishment			
3/1	Positive & Negative Reinforcement	Ch. 11-12	
3/8	Schedules of Reinforcement	Chs. 13; DePaulo et al (2019)	
3/15	Punishment	Chs. 14-15; White & Bailey (1990)	---**Exam Unit 4** (3/15 to 3/21) ---**Phase 1 of BIP project due** by 5pm on 3/19
Unit 5: Developing New Behaviors & Decreasing Old Ones			
3/22	Imitation, Shaping, & Chaining	Chs. 21-22	
3/29	Imitation, Shaping, & Chaining	Ch. 23; Fonger & Mallot (2019)	
4/5	Extinction, Differential Reinforcement, & Antecedent Interventions	Chs. 24-26; Berth et al (1999)	---**Exam Unit 5** (4/5 to 4/11)
Unit 6: Applications, Self-Management, & Practical Issues			
4/12	Functional Behavioral Assessment & Token Economy	Ch. 27-28; Phillips et al (1971)	
4/19	Self-management & Maintenance	Ch. 29-30	
4/26	Professional issues	Ch. 31; BACB (2020)	
5/3	**Finals week**		---**Exam Unit 6** (5/3 to 5/9) ---**Phase 2 of BIP project** due by 5pm on 5/3

Academic Policies

All students at the University of Toledo must read, understand, and follow the academic policies that govern their attendance at the University. These policies include, but are not limited to, academic dishonesty, academic forgiveness, adding and dropping a course, grades and grading, and the missed class policy. Please use the following URL to read a comprehensive list of academic policies that pertain to you in this class and throughout your time at UT: http://www.utoledo.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate/. If you have any questions after reading through the policies, please let me know.

Collegiate Policies

Policy Statement on Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability (ADA)

The University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Please read The University's Policy Statement on Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability Americans with Disability Act Compliance.
Students can find this policy along with other university policies listed by audience on the University Policy webpage (http://www.utoledo.edu/policies/audience.html/#students).

Academic Accommodations

The University of Toledo embraces the inclusion of students with disabilities. We are committed to ensuring equal opportunity and seamless access for full participation in all courses. For students who have an accommodations memo from Student Disability Services, I invite you to correspond with me as soon as possible so that we can communicate confidentially about implementing accommodations in this course. For students who have not established affiliation with Student Disability Services and are experiencing disability access barriers or are interested in a referral to healthcare resources for a potential disability or would like information regarding eligibility for academic accommodations, please contact the Student Disability Services Office (http://www.utoledo.edu/offices/student-disability-services/) by calling 419.530.4981 or sending an email to StudentDisability@utoledo.edu.

University of Toledo Policy Pertaining to Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated. Among the aims of education are the acquisition of knowledge and the development of skills necessary for success in any profession. Activities inconsistent with these aims are not permitted. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes academic dishonesty. If students are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating they should seek the instructor's advice. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:
- Plagiarizing or representing the words, ideas or information of another person as one's own and not offering proper credit or documentation to the other person;
- Giving or receiving, prior to an examination, any unauthorized information concerning the content of that examination;
- Referring to or displaying any unauthorized materials inside or outside of the examination room during the course of an examination;

- Communicating during an examination in any manner with any unauthorized person concerning the examination or any part of it;
- Giving or receiving substantive aid during the course of an examination;
- Starting an examination before the stipulated time or continuing to work on an examination after the announced conclusion of the examination period;
- Taking, converting, concealing, defacing, damaging or destroying any property related to the preparation or completion of assignments, research, or exams;
- Submitting the same written work to fulfill the requirements for more than one course.

Other Policies

Your safely and well-being as a University of Toledo student is important to the faculty, staff, and administration; as such please take time outside of class to review the code of conduct and non-discrimination policies that apply to you as a student: https://www.utoledo.edu/title-ix/policies.html. You can use this URL to view a more comprehensive list of student policies: https://www.utoledo.edu/policies/audience.html/#students.

Academic and Support Services

Please follow this link (http://www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/departments.html) to view a comprehensive list of Student Academic and Support Services available to you. UT also provides a variety of academic and support services on campus to help you succeed and reach your fullest potential. Whether you need to ask a question, get help with an assignment, seek advice from a counselor, find a job or join a club, UToledo offers some help:

    Tutoring: http://www.utoledo.edu/success/lec/
    Library: http://www.utoledo.edu/library/
    Success Coaching: https://www.utoledo.edu/successcoach/
    Student Affairs: http://www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/
    Career Services: http://www.utoledo.edu/success/career/

Safety and Health Services for UT Students

Please use the following link to view a comprehensive list Campus Health and Safety Services available to you as a student. It covers services related health, mental health, emergencies, and discrimination, among other things. In addition, UT provides assistance via a Food Pantry: http://www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/food-pantry/.

Special Course Expectations During COVID-19

It's important to note that based on the unpredictability of the COVID-19 virus things can change at any time so please be patience and understanding as we move through the semester. I also ask that you keep me informed of concerns you may have about class, completing course work/assignments timely, and/or health concerns related to COVID.