

**Applied Behavior Analysis: Principles, Procedures and Philosophy<sup>1,2</sup>**  
Psyc 619-001 and EDSE 619-5S1  
Spring 2010

**Course Description:** This course focuses on the basic principles, procedures and the underlying philosophy of ABA; on identification of factors that contribute to behavioral problems and improved performance; and on procedures that minimize behavioral problems, improve performance, teach new behaviors, and increase probability of behaviors occurring under appropriate circumstances.

**Location and Time:** 10340 Democracy Lane, Suite 202, Mondays 1:00 – 3:40 pm.

**Instructor:** Johannes Rojahn, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Phone: 703-993-4241, e-mail: [irojahn@gmu.edu](mailto:irojahn@gmu.edu)

**Office Hours:** Wednesday, 11:00 AM to noon.

**Nature of Course Delivery:** Lectures, practica, weekly quizzes, in-class and web-based discussions.

**Required Texts and Reading Materials:**

- Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2007). *Applied behavior analysis*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Prentice Hall.
- Martin, G. & Pear, J. (2007). *Behavior modification: What it is and how to do it* (8th Ed.). Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Prentice Hall.

**Blackboard:** Important information will be accessible on the internet, through Blackboard. The syllabus the Discussion Forum and the quizzes will be posted there throughout the course. In addition, the Final Exam will be taken via Blackboard.

**Add and Drop Deadlines**

Last day to add – Feb 2, 2010

Last day to drop without tuition penalty – Feb 2, 2010

Last day to drop: February 19, 2010

**Criteria for Evaluation and Grading**

- **Take home exercises (Practica):** Students complete 13 graded take home exercises. They were designed to learn how to apply principles and techniques discussed in class to real life situations. Each exercise can yield as many as 20 points. Note: late submissions will not be graded!
- **Quizzes:** After each class one or more multiple-choice and true-false quizzes are available on Blackboard, one for each Martin & Pear chapter (total of 30

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<sup>1</sup> The University Honor Code will be followed in this course. Each student is responsible for knowing the rules, regulations, requirements, and academic policies of the university.

<sup>2</sup> If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

quizzes). Each quiz consists of 15 to 30 questions (average 22). A correct answer earns 1 point. Access to each quiz is 30 minutes. Each question can be answered twice, but only the first one counts.

- **Midterm and Final Exam:** The midterm consists of 55 multiple-choice questions and *short* answer question, while the final examination consists of 66 multiple-choice questions and *short* answer questions. Each correct answer yields 9 points.
- **Grading:** Given these assignments, the distribution of total possible points per assignment type, and grading scale, are as follows:

Point Ranges		Percent Ranges		Grades	
1793	1992	90	100	A	4.00
1693	1792	85	89	A-	3.67
1594	1692	80	84	B+	3.33
1494	1593	75	79	B	3.00
1393	1493	70	74	B-	2.67
1195	1392	60	69	C	2.33