

Applied Behavior Analysis: Principles, Procedures and Philosophy^{1,2}

Psyc 619-002 and EDSE 619-002
Spring 2011

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: 202 Democracy Lane, Thursday, 4:30 pm – 7:10 pm; 1/27/2011 – 5/5/2011.

Instructor: Johannes Rojahn, Ph.D., Phone: 703-993-4241, e-mail: jrojahn@gmu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday, 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*, 2nd ed. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Prentice Hall.
- Martin, G. & Pear, J. (2011). *Behavior modification: What it is and how to do it* (9th Ed.). Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Blackboard: Important information will be accessible on the internet, through Blackboard. The syllabus, the practica assignments and quizzes will be posted throughout the course. In addition, the Midterm and the Final Exam will be taken via Blackboard.

Add and Drop Deadlines

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the *Semester Calendar* <<http://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/2011Spring.html>>

Last day to add : 2/8/11

Last day to drop: 2/25/11

Performance Evaluation Criteria	Max Points
Practica: Students will complete 17 graded exercises (or practica). Each exercise can earn as many as 20 points. Note: late submissions will not be graded!	340
Quizzes: After each class one or more quizzes can be accessed on Blackboard (total of 30 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.	660
Midterm and Final Exam: The midterm and final exams consist of 50 multiple-choice and five short answer questions. Each correct answer earns 9 points. Short answer responses can earn between 0 and 9 points.	990
Total:	1990

¹ 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.

² 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.

Grading: Given these assignments, the distribution of total possible points per assignment type, and grading scale, are as follows:

Point Ranges		Percent Ranges		Grades	
1950.2	1990.0	98	100	A	4.00
1890.5	1950.1	95	97	A-	4.00
1830.8	1890.4	92	94	B+	3.67
1771.1	1830.7	89	91	B	3.33
1711.4	1771.0	86	88	B-	3.00
1651.7	1711.3	83	85	C+	2.67
1592.0	1651.6	80	82	C	2.33
	1591.9		79	C-	2.00

Weekly Schedule

Week 1	COURSE ORIENTATION; HISTORY; PHILOSOPHY; AREAS OF APPLICATION
Date	2/3/2011
Readings	Martin & Pear (2009) chapters 1, 2 & 29 Cooper, Heron, & Heward (2007) chapters 1 & 2
Assignments	none
Week 2	UNCONDITIONED AND CONDITIONED POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT
Date	2/10/2011
Readings	Martin & Pear (2009) chapters 3 & 4 Cooper et al. (2007) chapter 11
Practica due	None
Quizzes due	1, 2 & 29
Week 3	EXTINCTION OF POSITIVELY REINFORCED BEHAVIOR; INTERMITTENT REINFORCEMENT TO INCREASE BEHAVIOR (SCHEDULES OF REINFORCEMENT)
Date	2/17/2011
Readings	Martin & Pear (2009) chapters 5 & 6 Cooper et al. (2007) chapters 13 & 21
Practica due	(1) Positive reinforcement
Quizzes due	3 & 4
Week 4	INTERMITTENT REINFORCEMENT TO DECREASE BEHAVIOR
Date	2/24/2011
Readings	Martin & Pear (2009) chapter 7 Cooper et al. (2007) chapter 22
Practica due	(2) Extinction, (3) Schedules of reinforcement
Quizzes due	5 & 6
Week 5	BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT; SINGLE SUBJECT EXPERIMENTAL DESIGNS
Date	3/3/2011
Readings	Martin & Pear (2009) chapters 20, 21 & 22 Cooper et al. (2007) chapters 3 - 10
Practica due	none

Quizzes due	18 & 19
Week 6	STIMULUS CONTROL (DISCRIMINATION AND GENERALIZATION); STIMULUS FADING
Date	3/10/2011
Readings	Martin & Pear (2009) chapters 8 & 9 Cooper et al. (2007) chapter 17
Practica due	(4) Differential reinforcement, (15) Behavioral assessment
Quizzes due	7

Week 7	RESPONSE SHAPING; RESPONSE CHAINING
Date	3/24/2012
Readings	Martin & Pear (2009) chapters 10 & 11 Cooper et al. (2007) chapters 19 & 20
Practica due	(5) Stimulus control, (6) Stimulus fading
Quizzes due	8 & 9

Midterm Friday, 3/11/2011 – Wednesday 23/23/2011 (Bb-based)

Week 8	PUNISHMENT, ESCAPE AND AVOIDANCE CONDITIONING
Date	3/31/2011
Readings	Martin & Pear (2009) chapters 12 & 13 Cooper et al. (2007) chapter 14 & 15
Practica due	(7) Response shaping, (8) Response chaining
Quizzes due	10 & 11

Week 9	RESPONDENT CONDITIONING; COMBINING OPERANT AND RESPONDENT CONDITIONING
Date	4/7/2011
Readings	Martin & Pear (2009) chapters 14 & 15
Practica due	(9) Punishment, (10) Escape and avoidance conditioning
Quizzes due	12 & 13

Week 10	GENERALITY OF BEHAVIORAL CHANGE; RULES AND GOALS – RULE GOVERNED BEHAVIOR
Date	4/14/2011
Readings	Martin & Pear (2009) chapters 16 & 17 Cooper et al. (2007) chapter 28
Practica due	(11) Feeling and Thinking (respondent and operant)
Quizzes due	14 & 15

Week 11	MODELING, GUIDANCE, AND SITUATIONAL INDUCEMENT; MOTIVATION
Date	4/21/2011
Readings	Martin & Pear (2009) chapters 18 & 19 Cooper et al. (2007) chapter 16
Practica due	(12) Programming generality, (13) Rule governed behavior
Quizzes due	16 & 17

Week 12	FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS
Date	4/28/2011
Readings	Martin & Pear (2009) chapter 23 Cooper et al. (2007) chapter 24

Practica due	(14) Short-cut tactics with stimulus control
Quizzes due	20, 21 & 23
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Week 13	VERBAL BEHAVIOR; SELF-CONTROL
Date	5/5/2011
Readings	Martin & Pear (2009) chapters 26 Cooper et al. (2007) chapters 25
Practica due	(16) Functional behavioral assessment
Quizzes due	22
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Week 14	COGNITIVE BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION; ETHICAL ISSUES
Date	5/10/2011 (last class)
Readings	Martin & Pear (2009) chapters 27, 28 & 30 Cooper et al. (2007) chapter 29
Practica due	(19) Causes and problems of self-control
Quizzes due	22a, 26 27, 28, 30
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Week 15	No class
Date	5/10/2011
Practica due	none
Quizzes due	none
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Final Exam	Wednesday, 5/11/2011 – Monday 5-9 (Bb-based)

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

Student Expectations

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Campus Resources

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students’ personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].

Final Examination. On the last night of class, you will take a 50 item final exam. You will earn 1 point toward your final grade for each correct response. You will also take this examination on your first night of class as a pretest. Using the exam in this way permits the instructor an evaluation of the extent to which the course objectives of were met. It also removes any mystery, for the students, as to what constitutes the final exam. You’ll receive feedback on your pretest performance during the second or third class session, including a breakdown of percentage correct by content area. Your final exam is your Taskstream Signature Assignment. After completing the exam, you’ll receive a feedback form by e-mail which you will be required to then submit electronically to Taskstream. Once the feedback form’s been submitted, it will be rated according to the following rubric with regard to the extent to which you’ve mastered the material as it pertains to the CEC’s Standard 4 (Instructional Strategies):

Does not meet expectations	Meets expectations	Exceeds expectations
Earns a score of less than 35 correct on the final examination	Earns a score between 35 and 49 correct on the final examination	Earns a score of 50 of 50 on the final examination

Every student registered for any EDSE course as of the Fall 2007 semester is required to submit signature assignments to TaskStream (regardless of whether a course is an elective, a one-time course, or part of an undergraduate minor). TaskStream information is available at <http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/sped/>. Failure to submit the Signature Assignment to TaskStream will result in the course instructor reporting the course grade as Incomplete (IN). Unless this grade is changed upon completion of the required TaskStream submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester.