



**College of Education and Human Development
Division of Special Education and disAbility Research**

Spring 2016

EDSE 623 DL1: Applied Behavior Analysis: Assessments and Interventions
CRN: 18614, 3 - Credits

Instructor: Dr. Christine Barthold	Meeting Dates: 01/19/16 - 05/11/16
Phone: 703-993-5450	Meeting Day(s): Wednesday (2/3, 2/10, 3/2, 3/30, 4/13, 4/20, & 4/27 ONLY)
E-Mail: choffner@gmu.edu	Meeting Time(s): 6:00pm – 7:00pm
Office Hours: By Appointment	Meeting Location: NET

***Note:** This syllabus may change according to class needs. Students will be advised of any changes immediately through George Mason e-mail and/or through Blackboard.*

Course Description

Further expands on basic content of applied behavior analysis and teaches how to implement behavioral procedures and develop behavioral programs for clients with fundamental behavioral needs.

Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week: 3

Hours of Lab or Studio per week: 0

Prerequisite(s): EDSE 619

Co-requisite(s): EDSE 619

Advising Contact Information

Please make sure that you are being advised on a regular basis as to your status and progress through your program. Mason M.Ed. and Certificate students should contact the Special Education Advising Office at (703) 993-3670 for assistance. All other students should refer to their faculty advisor.

Nature of Course Delivery

This course is delivered online. There are 5 mandatory synchronous sessions required throughout the semester.

Learning activities include the following:

1. Class lecture and discussion
2. Application activities
3. Small group activities and assignments
4. Video and other media supports
5. Research and presentation activities
6. Electronic supplements and activities via Blackboard

DELIVERY METHOD:

This course will be delivered online using an asynchronous format via the Blackboard learning management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard course site using your Mason email name (everything before “@masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on 1/20/2016.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

To participate in this course, students will need the following resources:

- High-speed Internet access with a standard up-to-date browser, either Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox. Opera and Safari are not compatible with Blackboard;
- Consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of the course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for Pcs and Macs respectively, available for free downloading by clicking on the link next to each plug-in:
 - Adobe Acrobat Reader: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - Windows Media Player: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/downloads/windows-media-player>
 - Apple QuickTime Player: www.apple.com/quicktime/download/
- A headset microphone for use with the Blackboard Collaborate web conferencing tool

EXPECTATIONS:

- **Course Week:** Refer to the asynchronous bullet below if your course is asynchronous or the synchronous bullet if your course is synchronous.
 - **Asynchronous:** Because online courses do not have a “fixed” meeting day, our week will **start** on Wednesday and **finish** on Tuesday.
 - **Synchronous:** Our course week will begin on the day that our synchronous meeting take place as indicated on the Schedule of Classes.

- **Log-in Frequency:** Refer to the asynchronous bullet below if your course is asynchronous or the synchronous bullet if your course is synchronous.
 - **Asynchronous:** Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, at a minimum this should be 2 times per week.
 - **Synchronous:** Students must log-in for all scheduled online synchronous meetings. In addition, students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, at a minimum this should be 2 times per week.
- **Participation:** Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which include viewing of all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.
- **Technical Competence:** Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students are expected to seek assistance if they are struggling with technical components of the course. Contact ITU (<http://itservices.gmu.edu/help.cfm>) at (703) 993-8870 or support@gmu.edu.
- **Technical Issues:** Students should expect that they could experience some technical difficulties at some point in the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- **Workload:** Expect to log in to this course **at least three times a week** to read announcements, participate in the discussions, and work on course materials. Remember, this course is **not** self-paced. There are **specific deadlines** and **due dates** listed in the **CLASS SCHEDULE** section of this syllabus to which you are expected to adhere. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.

Netiquette: Our goal is to be **collaborative**, not combative. Experience shows that even an innocent remark in the online environment can be misconstrued. I suggest that you always re-read your responses carefully before you post them to encourage others from taking them as personal attacks. **Be positive in your approach to others and diplomatic with your words.** I will do the same. Remember, you are not competing with each other but sharing information and learning from one another as well as from the instructor.

Learner Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe and identify ethical standards regarding behavior analytic assessment, instruction, and intervention.

- Describe the rationale for conducting a functional analysis and a functional assessment.
- Describe, identify, and demonstrate procedures for conducting a functional assessment.
- Describe and identify procedures for conducting a functional analysis.
- Interpret functional assessment and functional analysis data.
- Select and develop function-relevant instructional and intervention procedures on the basis of functional assessments or functional analyses.
- Write well-composed, parsimonious instructions for implementers of behavior analytic instructional and intervention procedures.
- Describe and develop procedures for competency based training of others who will implement behavior analytic instructional and intervention procedures.
- Incorporate interobserver agreement, procedural fidelity, and implementer behavior management procedures into written behavior analytic instructional and intervention procedures.
- Describe conditions relevant to development and success of behavior analytic instruction, training sessions, workshops, seminars, and staff management.

Required Textbooks

Cooper, J.O., Heron, T.E., & Heward, W.L. (2007). *Applied behavior analysis*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson-Merrill-Prentice Hall. ISBN: 0-13-142113-1

Sidman, M. (2001). *Coercion and its fallout*. Boston, MA: Authors Cooperative. ISBN 1-888-83001-8

Digital Library

Effective summer 2015, the Division of Special Education and disAbility Research will discontinue the use of the Pearson Digital Library. No further registrations will be accepted. Students who hold current subscriptions will continue to have access to the library for the remainder of their subscription time. However, no further updates will be made to the digital library. During this time, should a textbook be revised or a new book is adopted for a class where the text is included in the digital library, Pearson will have options available to you and will provide you with an individual e-text or, if there is no e-text, a printed copy. Students, who have purchased a 3-year subscription directly through Pearson Education, will also have an option to obtain a prorated refund. However, 3-year subscription access cards purchased via the GMU bookstore will need to speak with a George Mason Bookstore Representative. Please be aware that the issuance of a refund, in this case, is at the discretion of the George Mason bookstore. Concerns or questions may be directed to Molly Haines at Molly.Haines@pearson.com.

Recommended Textbooks

None

Required Resources

Students are required to sign up for a Google Account and share their address with the instructor at choffner@gmu.edu. Drafts and other course activities will be completed in Google Docs.

Additional Readings

Additional Readings will be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Relationships to Program Goals and Professional Organizations

This course is part of the George Mason University, Graduate School of Education (GSE), Special Education Program for Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate. This program complies with the standards for teacher licensure established by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the major special education professional organization. The CEC Standards are listed on the following website:

<http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/ProfessionalStandards/>. The content of the courses in this program is derived from the Task List published by the national Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) as well as the Board's Guidelines for Responsible Conduct. The BACB Standards are listed on the following website: For more information on the Board and the examination, please visit the Board's website at www.bacb.com. The CEC standard that will be addressed in this class is Standard 4: Assessment. (Updated Fall 2014 to align with the revised CEC Standards)

GMU Policies and Resources for Students:

- a. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>].
- b. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].
- c. 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.
- d. 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/>].
- e. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services and inform their instructor, in writing, as soon as possible. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor. <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].

f. Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

g. 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/>].

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Core Values Commitment

The College of Education & Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles. [See <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>]

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>]

Course Policies & Expectations

Attendance.

Students are expected to attend all class meetings, defined as viewing all course materials, completing all required assignments, and submitting an Activity Feedback Form. All students are required to log into Blackboard Collaborate for synchronous sessions and stay logged in until dismissed by the instructor.

Late Work.

Work is considered on-time if it is submitted by 11:59pm on the date that it is due. Once class work is graded, no additional drafts or submissions will be accepted unless arrangements are made in advance with the instructor. No Discussion Board revisions will be accepted once a grade has been submitted for the week. Activity Feedback forms will not be accepted if submitted more than two weeks after the due dates. Quizzes will not be able to be opened if attempted two weeks after the due date. No work will be accepted after the final examination has been submitted.

Students are responsible for following these guidelines for grading:

- All assignments must be submitted through Blackboard, with the exception of drafts and assignments submitted through Google docs.
- Emailed and hard copies of assignments will not be graded unless approved in advance by the instructor, as these methods of submission lead to a high probability of lost student work.
- Assignments, whenever possible, should be in Word format and in one continuous file.

- Your FBA Assignment must be accompanied by a self-evaluation of your work. You can self evaluate by grading yourself using the rubric for the assignment. You do not have to justify your choice. The instructor will not track down missing self evaluations. Any assignment without a self evaluation submitted with it will be immediately assigned a grade of 0.
- Detailed information about each assignment, including grading rubrics and a task analysis, is posted on Blackboard. Failure to review all documents available often results in low performance.

Tk20 Performance-Based Assessment Submission Requirement

Every student registered for any Special Education course with a required performance-based assessment is required to submit the *Functional Relevant Treatment and Instruction Project* to Tk20 through Blackboard (regardless of whether the student is taking the course as an elective, a onetime course or as part of an undergraduate minor). Evaluation of the performance-based assessment by the course instructor will also be completed in Tk20 through Blackboard. Failure to submit the assessment to Tk20 (through Blackboard) will result in the course instructor reporting the course grade as Incomplete (IN). Unless the IN grade is changed upon completion of the required Tk20 submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester.

Grading Scale

Point values are assigned to exams and assignments. Letter grades will subsequently be assigned on the basis of overall class performance. That is, percentages will be determined by dividing the TOTAL number of points earned by the total possible points.

Grading Criterion:

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A+	97-100%	A	96-93%	A-	92-90%
B+	87-89%	B	83-86%	B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%	C	73-76%	C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%	D	63-66%	D-	60-62%
F	59% and below				

Assignment	Points Possible
Discussion Board	195
Activity Feedback Form	90
Unit Quizzes	80
Functional Behavior Assessment Project	210
Total Points	575

Assignments

Performance-based Assessment (TK20 submission required).

For all assignments, you will be assigned a group. Please see guidelines and tips in Blackboard for working and problem solving within groups.

Group Projects: Written FA Interpretation and Intervention Procedures.

You will be provided with a completed functional assessment consisting of a complete Functional Behavior Assessment: You will do the following:

1. Complete the Competing Behavior Model as described by O'Neill et al. (1997),
2. Identify and write an operational definition for the competing behavior (e.g., the replacement behavior or alternative behavior) you will teach;
3. determine the normative rate for the competing behavior you've selected;
4. determine the normative rate for the problem behavior;
5. write a behavioral objective for the terminal state of the competing behavior;
6. write a behavioral objective for the terminal state of the problem behavior;
7. name the contingencies currently maintaining the problem behavior;
8. compose step-by-step instructions telling the reader how to make environmental modifications to decrease probability of the problem behavior
9. compose step-by-step instructions telling the reader how to make environmental modifications that will increase the probability that the competing behavior will be evoked;
10. compose step by step instructions telling the reader how to teach or accelerate the competing behavior;
11. compose step-by-step reactive procedures to enact should the problem behavior happen;
12. compose step-by-step practical procedures to implement should the problem behavior occur under unfavorable conditions.

Three separate packets of assessments will be provided to each group. All students are required to submit their project via Blackboard. A self-evaluation using the rubric must be presented when the assignment is uploaded. Failure to do so will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment. Ungraded drafts of portions of the assignment will be due throughout the semester in order to receive a final grade for the assignment (**70 points apiece for a total of 210 points**)

Performance-based Common Assignments (No TK20 submission required).

Weekly Discussion Boards

Students will be divided into groups. Each week, a writing prompt will be developed for your group based upon readings, coursework, and field experiences. Discussion Board prompts will be open-ended enough that there will be room for discussion.

You are responsible for posting a response that answers the writing prompt as it relates to your experience in clinical and educational settings, the readings, class discussion, and your own personal experience. You must also leave a comment on the post of *at least* one of your group members. Any questions posted on your thread should be answered. Comments should build upon the blogger's ideas, and connect to other ideas we have explored in class. Posts and responses **MUST** stay in the group assigned, unless arrangements are made with the instructor. Once the discussion board is graded, the student may not edit or add to the post to increase their grade.

A schedule of writing prompts and due dates will be posted in Blackboard (NOTE THAT DUE DATES DO NOT NECESSARILY CORRESPOND TO CLASS MEETINGS TO INSURE THAT THERE IS ENOUGH TIME TO FOSTER CONVERSATION). *No student or school personnel should be referred to by name.* When posting or commenting, it is important to stay on-topic, and to treat other individuals in the class with respect. Flames or other derogatory conversation will not be tolerated, and may result in a 0 for the poster. Discussion boards will not be graded after one week past the due date unless arrangements are made with the instructor in advance. **(15 Points for 13 Weeks or 195 Points)**

Course Syllabus, Academic Honesty, and Unit Quizzes

This course is broken into three units. For each unit, students will be responsible for a 20 item Multiple Choice quiz. Quizzes will be delivered online through Blackboard. Students will have up to 3 chances to increase their grade, but note that questions will be randomized from a pool of questions. It is not possible to memorize answers to increase your grade. Students are encouraged to complete guided lecture notes, all activities and readings, and actively participate in study groups, as these are the basis for the weekly quizzes. In addition to the Unit Quizzes, you are also required to complete a quiz on course requirements and academic honesty. Due dates for quizzes are available on the Google Calendar. **(4 quizzes at 20 points apiece – 80 points total)**

During the First week of class, 50-question pre-test will be administered to determine proficiency on basic principles of behavior analysis. This quiz is optional; however, any points earned on the pre-test will be added to your final grade as extra credit.

Other Assignments.

Activity Feedback Form

Students are expected to complete an activity feedback form (located on Blackboard) and return it at the end of class that delineates at least two things that were learned in the day's lecture, asking questions for clarification about the day's lecture, and suggesting items for improvement. All information must be in the own words of the student. Each index card is worth five points, and will be graded on the following scale:

0 points – no feedback form
1 point – points written verbatim from lecture or more than two parts of the feedback form are incomplete
2-4 points – one part of the feedback form is incomplete
4-5 points – all parts of the form are complete and in the own words of the student

In addition to the feedback form, students are **REQUIRED** to attend all synchronous sessions. Attendance for synchronous sessions, measured at the first five and last five minutes of class, are worth 5 additional points apiece **(5 points apiece for 13 weeks = 65 points; 5 points per synchronous session = 25 points; total points = 90 points)**

Schedule

Class Schedule, due dates, and readings are available as a separate document available on Blackboard as a Google Calendar or PDF. Students have the opportunity to subscribe to the Google Calendar and can set reminders as necessary to keep them on track.

Unless otherwise posted:

- Quizzes and drafts are due Friday by Midnight
- Activity Feedback forms are due the Wednesday after the topic is introduced
- Discussion Board Posts are due Monday by Midnight
- Discussion Board Responses are Due Friday by Midnight

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Items Due
1	1/20	Introduction to Class	Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Blackboard • Basic Principles Pre-Test
2	1/27	Introduction to Function-Based Assessment	Cooper, Ch 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Honesty/Syllabus Quiz • Discussion Board 1 • Week 1 Feedback
3	2/3	Ethics and Informed Consent SYNCHRONOUS SESSION	Cooper, Ch. 24 Sidman, Ch. 16 & 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board 2 • Week 2 Feedback
4	2/10	Problem Identification and Operational Definitions SYNCHRONOUS SESSION	Sidman, Ch. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board 3 • Week 3 Feedback • Unit Quiz #1
5	2/17	Indirect Assessment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board 4 • Week 4 Feedback
6	2/24	ABC and Scatterplot	Cooper, Ch. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board 5

		Assessments	Sidman, Ch. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 5 Feedback
7	3/2	Direct Observation SYNCHRONOUS SESSION	Cooper, Ch. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board 6 • Week 6 Feedback
Week of 3/9 is Spring Break – no classes or activities are due				
8	3/16	Functional Skills Assessments	Readings on Blackboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board 7 • Week 7 Feedback
9	3/23	Stimulus Preference Assessments	Cooper, Ch. 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board 8 • Week 8 Feedback
10	3/30	Structural and Functional Analysis SYNCHRONOUS SESSION	Cooper, Ch. 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board 9 • Week 9 Feedback
11	4/6	Writing a Statement of Function and Evidence- Based Practice	Skim Cooper, Ch. 21-23 Read Sidman, Ch. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board 10 • Week 10 Feedback • Unit Quiz #2
12	4/13	Selecting Replacement Responses SYNCHRONOUS SESSION		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board 11 • Week 11 Feedback
13	4/20	Writing a Behavior Support Plan Staff Training and Treatment Integrity SYNCHRONOUS SESSION	Cooper, Ch. 21- 23, 28 Sidman, Ch. 6, Ch. 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board 12 • Week 12 Feedback • Competing Behavior Pathway and Lit Review Draft
14	4/27	In Class FBA Work SYNCHRONOUS SESSION		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board 13 • Week 13 Feedback • Behavior Support Plan and Staff Treatment Integrity Draft
	5/6	NO CLASS MEETING		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit Quiz 3 Due
	5/9	NO CLASS MEETING		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All FBA Revisions Due to Blackboard

Appendix