

SPED 7720: Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis
Syllabus, Spring Semester, 2008

Instructor: Thomas S. Higbee, Ph.D., BCBA
Email: tom.higbee@usu.edu
Phone: (435) 797-1933
Office: Education Building Room #328
Office Hours: By appointment
Course Date and Time: Tuesdays, 1:30-4:00 p.m.
Course Location: SPER Conference Room (EDUC 313)

Readings: All readings will be posted to the course website or distributed during class.

Course Overview

The purpose of this course is to expand students' understanding of behavior analysis and their ability to apply behavior analysis to practical situations. The course assumes that students enter with a strong understanding of basic concepts of behavior analysis and that they have experience applying these concepts to practical educational or clinical problems. Given this background, the course is designed to deepen students' understanding of the fundamental concepts of antecedent stimuli, behaviors, and consequences. This process begins with examination of the defining features, animal research, and conceptual writing relevant to each concept. The course will then proceed to issues of generalization and maintenance of behavior in school and clinical situations. Functional analysis of behavior will be examined as an application of the behavioral approach and as a set of practical methods for solving behavioral problems.

Course web site: <http://bb.usu.edu>

General Expectations

- Assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of class time (4:30 p.m.) on the date they are due. Late assignments will be assessed a 15% penalty ***per day late***.
- Students are expected to attend class sessions and to remain for the entire scheduled period (1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.) unless previous arrangements are approved by the instructor.
- Students are to adhere to the USU Honor Code and Classroom Civility policy (see course website for details).

Student Evaluation:

Weekly writing assignments: Students will complete weekly writing assignments which will be due by midnight on Mondays. Detailed instructions for each writing assignment will be distributed in class each week. Each writing assignment will be worth 20 points.

Research Proposal: Students will be required to write a 10-15 page research proposal outlining a study investigating a topic related to those discussed in class. The proposal must be on a novel topic and cannot be the reformulation of a paper written for another purpose (e.g., paper written for another class, previously planned and composed research project). The paper will be written in APA style outlining the details of the

project and should include graphs demonstrating the anticipated results of the study. Each student's project topic must be approved by the instructor before it is begun and no later than March 18th. A preliminary draft of the proposal is due on April 8th. The completed paper is due on Apr. 22nd. The research proposal is worth 100 points.

Final Exam: The final exam will be given on April 29th. The final will be comprehensive and will be composed of short answer and essay questions. The final exam will be worth 50 points.

Discussion/Participation points: Regular participation by all students in class discussions is expected. Students will be able to earn up to 10 pts for active and thoughtful participation in class discussions.

Absences: Contact the instructor (797-1933, tom.higbee@usu.edu) prior to scheduled class time to report absences.

Allocation of Points and Grading:

| <u>Course Product/Activity</u> | <u>Points Possible</u> |
|---|------------------------|
| Weekly Writing Assignments (12 @ 20 pts each) | 240 |
| Research Proposal | 100 |
| Final Exam | 50 |
| Discussion Points | 10 |
| Total | 400 |

GRADE SCALE

| | |
|-------------|----|
| 94-100% | A |
| 90-93% | A- |
| 87-89% | B+ |
| 83-86% | B |
| 80-82% | B- |
| 77-79% | C+ |
| 73-76% | C |
| 70-72% | C- |
| 67-69% | D+ |
| 60-66% | D |
| 59% & below | F |

Accommodations and Alternate Format Materials

In coordination with the USU Disability Resource Center (DRC), reasonable accommodation will be provided for qualified students with disabilities. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class if accommodations are necessary. Accommodations and alternate format materials are available through the DRC found at TSC 104 or call 435-797-2444 TTY: 435-797-0740.

SPED 7720: Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis
Course Schedule

| Week | Date | Topic | Assignments Due |
|-----------|----------------|---|---|
| 1 | Jan. 8 | Syllabus Review, Definitions and Characteristics of Applied Behavior Analysis | |
| 2 | Jan. 15 | Choice/Preference Assessment | Writing Assignment #1 |
| 3 | Jan. 22 | Functional Assessment I: Informant and Descriptive Methods | Writing Assignment #2 |
| 4 | Jan. 29 | Functional Assessment II: Experimental Functional Analysis | Writing Assignment #3 |
| 5 | Feb. 5 | Functional Assessment III: Functional Analysis of Automatically Reinforced Behavior | Writing Assignment #4 |
| 6 | Feb. 12 | Function Based Interventions | Writing Assignment #5 |
| 7 | Feb. 19 | NO CLASS-MONDAY SCHEDULE | |
| 8 | Feb. 26 | Punishment/Aversive Control | Writing Assignment #6 |
| 9 | Mar. 4 | Methods of Promoting Spontaneous Language | Writing Assignment #7 |
| 10 | Mar. 11 | NO CLASS- SPRING BREAK | |
| 11 | Mar. 18 | Imitation/Video Modeling | Writing Assignment #8 Research Proposal Topic |
| 12 | Mar. 25 | Behavioral Momentum (High-P instructional sequence) | Writing Assignment #9 |
| 13 | Apr. 1 | Behavioral Economics | Writing Assignment #10 |
| 14 | Apr. 8 | Generalization | Writing Assignment #11 Research Proposal Initial Draft |
| 15 | Apr. 15 | Treatment Integrity | Writing Assignment #12 |
| 16 | Apr. 22 | The Future of Applied Behavior Analysis | Research Proposal Final Draft |
| 17 | Apr. 29 | Final Exam | |

Note: The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this schedule during the course of the semester if the need arises.