PSYC 423: Applied Behavior Analysis
Fall Semester 2019

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      Office Hours: After class

Text: Martin, G. & Pear, J. (2015). Behavior Modification: What it is and how to do it (Tenth Edition). New Jersey: Prentice Hall

Recommended Reading: "How to Excel in College Academics" – A brief paper on study and test-taking techniques. This three-page paper is available on Canvas.

Purpose of the Course: The focus of this course will be the practical application of both operant and respondent conditioning techniques to bring about improvement in behavior, primarily in humans, but applications for other animals will be discussed. The importance of direct observation and measurement of behavior will be stressed, as well as the implementation and assessment of treatment programs. You will hopefully leave this course will a powerful set of skills that will have both personal and professional applications.

Course Requirements: Your final grade will be based on the following:

(1) Four exams worth 50 points each. Exam format is multiple choice. Exam questions will be derived from the book, lectures, and the movies shown. **Note that the exams are cumulative**.

(2) An Applied Behavior Analysis Project Report worth 50 points: You will undertake a simple behavior modification program on yourself and provide a detailed written analysis of your program. Papers must be in MS-Word or PDF format. Your report will contain the following information (template available on Canvas):

- Description of Problem being Addressed
- Operational Definition of Target Behavior(s)
- Objective or Desired Outcome
- Behavioral Techniques Employed In The Program
- Rationale behind Intervention: Why should it work?
- How will the Target Behavior be maintained over time?
- Baseline of Target Behavior: Measure for One Week
- Intervention Period Recording of the Target Behavior: Two Weeks
- Baseline and Intervention Responses Graphed (template available on Canvas)
- Conclusion – Was the program Successful? Why or why not?

We will have an informal presentation of the self-modification projects at the end of the semester. No presentation materials (poster, PowerPoint, etc.) are required. Be prepared to briefly discuss your target behavior, the behavioral program you implemented, and whether or not your program was successful. The presentation is worth 10% of your report grade (5 points).

Your points will be tallied as follows: A = 250 to 233, A- = 232 to 225, B+ = 224 to 218, B = 217 to 208,
B- = 207 to 200, C+ = 199 to 193, C = 192 to 183, C- = 182 to 175, D+ = 174 to 168,
D = 167 to 158, D- = 157 to 150, F = 149 and under

Policies:
- I will not schedule make-up exams without a valid reason discussed BEFORE the exam or without excusal from the Dean's office. I am only on campus the evenings I teach and do not have a TA for the course, so scheduling a make-up exam is difficult.

- I do not accept late papers. It is your responsibility to ensure your paper uploaded to Canvas correctly. If your paper is unreadable or cannot be opened, you will not receive any points.

- There aren't any opportunities for extra credit.

- If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to acquire the lecture notes from another student.

- I prosecute academic dishonesty to the highest level of penalty allowed without mercy. Penalties can range from failure in the course with parental notification and fees up to expulsion from the university. The Student Guide to University Policies can be found here: http://www1.udel.edu/stuguide/19-20/code.html

Psych 423 Schedule of Assignments
Note: This timeline is flexible

Month	Date	Course Topic (Note that Chapter timeline is flexible)
August	27	Lecture: Chapters 1, 2, 4
September	3	Lecture: Chapters 5, 6, 8
	10	**Exam 1: Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8** September 10th is the last day to register or to add courses
	17	Lecture: Chapters 12, 9, 10
	24	Lecture: Chapters 7, 11, 13, 14
October	1	**Exam 2: Chapters 1, 2, 4-14** *Talk with me about ideas for your project*
	8	Lecture: Chapters 3, 15, 16, 17
	15	Lecture: Chapters 18, 19, 20, 21, 22
	22	**Exam 3: Chapters 1-22** *You should be collecting baseline data for your project now* October 22nd is the last day to withdraw from a course without academic penalty
	29	Lecture: Chapters 23, 24, 25, 26 *You should be collecting your intervention period data now*
	5	Movie: "Teaching Psychotic Children to Speak using ABA"
	12	Lecture: Chapters 27, 28, 29, 30
	19	Presentations: Informally present your self-modification program results
	26	*Thanksgiving Break: Classes are cancelled.*
December	3	**Final Exam: Chapters 1-30 + Movie** **ABA Self-Modification Project Reports are due (upload to Canvas)**