

Syllabus Spring 2013

Title	Behavior Modification
Number	Psych 322-001
Discipline	Psychology
Description	Behavior modification is a comprehensive technology for the improvement of behavior based on scientifically derived and empirically demonstrated principles of learning. Behavior modification has been applied to a wide variety of persons and many different types of issues. This course is designed to impart fundamental knowledge on the philosophy, principles, and procedures of behavior modification and to illustrate its evidence-based application in a variety of areas.
Course dates	Last day to add and to drop w/o penalty: To be determined Last day to drop: To be determined
Location	To be determined
Days	Tuesday/Thursday
Times	4:30 pm - 7:10 pm
Prerequisites	Psych 324 or permission of the instructor

Course Goals

Review elementary principles and procedures of behavior modification. Acquaint students with empirical and theoretical underpinnings of the field by providing advanced discussion and references to the classical and current research literature in the field. Enable students to think about behavior modification critically and creatively. Provide practical know-how skills

Course Requirements and Expectations

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to participate actively in class activities and projects. After the lecture of each topic short multiple-choice quizzes will be made available on-line for a limited period of time during which students have to answer the questions and submit their answers electronically via *Blackboard*. In addition, there will be several in-class and take-home practicum assignments, a midterm and a final exam.

Course Grading

	Points
<p><i>Quizzes</i> – A total of 26 <i>Blackboard</i> quizzes with approximately 13 multiple choice questions each will be available online, typically one quiz after each lesson. Each correct answer earns 1 point. The purpose of the quizzes is to self-evaluate your mastery of the most recent material presented in class.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Note: Quizzes will be available for a limited time only - from the evening of the day of class until midnight of the day before the next class.</p>	340
<i>Midterm</i> - 50 midterm questions - 9 points for each correct answer.	450
<i>Final Exam</i> - 50 final exam questions - 9 points each for each correct answer.	450
<i>Exercises</i> – In-class exercises are scheduled, for each of which a maximum of 20 points can be earned.	200
Active class participation (10 points per session)	280
Maximum number of points to be earned:	1720

%	Earned Points		Letter Grade	
95-100	1634	1720	A	passing
90-94	1547	1633	A-	
85-89	1460	1546	B+	
80-85	1373	1459	B+	
75-79	1286	1372	B-	
70-74	1199	1285	C+	
65-69	1112	1198	C	
60-64	1025	1111	C-	
55-59	938	1024	D	
0-54	851	937	F	failing

University Honor Code

This is a reminder that 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.

Students in Need of Accommodations

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.

Instructor Information

Name	Johannes Rojahn, Ph.D.
Email	jrojahn@gmu.edu
Office location	Center for Psychological Services 10340 Democracy Lane, Suite 202
Office hours	Wednesday, 12:00 am - 1:00 pm (or by appointment)
Phone	703-993-4241

Textbook

Required reading	Martin, G. & Pear, J. (2011). Behavior modification: What it is and how to do it (9th edition). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. ISBN-10: 0-205-79272-3.
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Course Schedule

Psyc 322 - Summer 2013

Session 1 (1) Introduction; (2) Areas of application

Date	Tuesday, 6/4/13
Readings	Chapters 1 and 2

Session 2 (3) Positive reinforcement; (4) Conditioned reinforcement

Date	Thursday, 6/6/13
Readings	Chapters 3 and 4
In class activity	Exercise 1: Positive reinforcement
Quizzes	1 & 2

Session 3 (5) Extinction

Date	Tuesday, 6/11/13
Readings	Chapter 5
In class activity	Exercise 2: Extinction
Quizzes	3 & 4

Session 4	(6) Intermittent reinforcement; (7) Differential reinforcement
Date	Thursday, 6/13/13
Readings	Chapters 6 and 7
In class activity	Exercise 3: Schedules of reinforcement
Quizzes	5
Session 5	(8) Stimulus control; (9) Stimulus fading
Date	Tuesday, 6/18/13
Readings	Chapters 8 and 9
In class activity	Exercise 4: Stimulus control
Quizzes	6 & 7
Session 6	(10) Response shaping; (11) Response chaining
Date	Thursday, 6/20/13
Readings	Chapters 10 and 11
Quizzes	8 & 9
Session 7	(12) Punishment; (13) Escape and avoidance
Date	Tuesday, 6/25/13
Readings	Chapters 13 and 13
In class activity	Exercise 5: Escape and avoidance conditioning
Quizzes	10, 11, 12, & 13
Midterm	Thursday 6/27/13
Session 8	(14) Respondent conditioning
Date	Tuesday, 7/2/13
Readings	Chapter 14
Quiz	none
Session 9	(15) Emotions, thinking, and language
Date	Thursday, 7/4/13
Readings	Chapter 15
In class activity	Exercise 6: Respondent and operant components of emotions
Quiz	14
Session 10	(16) Generality; (17) Rules and goals
Session	
Date	Tuesday, 7/9/13
Readings	Chapters 16 and 17
In class activity	Exercise 7: Programming generality
Quiz	15
Session 11	(18) Modeling, etc.; (19) Motivation
Date	Thursday, 7/11/13
Readings	Chapters 18 and 19
In class activity	Exercise 8: Antecedent control

Quiz 16 & 17

Session 12 (20) (21) (22) Dealing with data

Date Tuesday, 7/16/13

Readings Chapter 20, 21, and 22

Quiz 18 & 19

Session 13 (23) Functional assessment and problem behavior

Date Thursday, 7/18/13

Readings Chapter 23

In class activity **Exercise 9: Functional assessment**

Quiz 20, 21, & 22

Session 14 (26) Self-control tactics; (27) Cognitive behavior therapy

Date Tuesday, 7/23/13

Readings Chapter 26 and 27

In class activity **Exercise 10: Self-control**

Quiz 23

Session 15 (28) Clinical behavior therapy

Date Thursday, 7/25/13

Readings Chapter 28

Quiz 26, 27, & 28

Final Exam To be announced