

BEHAVIOR PRINCIPLES II (BEHV 2700)

Spring 2026

Hours

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10:00 am – 10:50 pm

Location

Chilton 240

Instructor

Chris Varnon, PhD

Email

Christopher.Varnon@UNT.edu

Office hours

Chilton 360B

Wednesday 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Thursday 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

And by appointment

Contact

Please contact me **in person** or **by email** for questions.

I may not see messages sent through Canvas.

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of principles describing relations between behavior and environment. We will discuss how principles of operant, respondent, and nonassociative learning are related to experimental research, intervention techniques, and everyday life.

Course Objectives:

1. Learn key terms and concepts in behavior analysis.
2. Discriminate between and generate examples of a variety of behavioral processes
3. Read and disseminate key information from research articles.
4. Discuss the philosophical basis and broad applications of radical behaviorism.
5. Make connections between everyday events and behavior analytic concepts.

Prerequisites

BEHV 2300 Behavior Principles I

Required Materials:

Madden, G. J., Reed, D. D., & Reed, F. D. D (2021). *An Introduction to Behavior Analysis*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Students need access to the Microsoft Suite, which is available for free for UNT students. For information and step-by-step instructions on installing Microsoft Office and using the OneDrive Office Web Apps, please see the [IT Help Desk Website](#).

Students need a PDF reader. [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) can be downloaded for free.

Additional course materials, and assignments and other information will be posted on [Canvas](#). Check frequently for updates.

Your Job as a Student

- **Be willing to learn.** Approach the course with an open mind. There is always much to learn from new ideas, concepts, and perspectives. Embrace challenges as opportunities for growth and development.
- **Be prepared, present and punctual.** Complete assigned work and readings prior to class and be ready to participate. Attend classes consistently and on time. Assignments must be turned in on time to receive credit.
- **Dedicate time to the course.** College classes are designed so that each hour spent in class should be accompanied by three hours spent outside of class. For a class that is three hours a week, expect to spend nine hours outside of class studying and working on assignments. The actual time spent outside of class will vary across students, courses, and different periods in the semester. Be ready to invest time outside of class and find a way to make your schedule work.
- **Ask for help.** If you struggle, ask for help in a smart way. UNT has many resources to support students—find them. Don't be satisfied with not knowing how to succeed. Come to me for help but prepare yourself first. Put effort into identifying the problem so others can help you find ways to solve it.
- **Complete your degree.** Stay focused on your long-term goal of earning your degree. Keep track of your progress, meet with advisors regularly, and ensure you are meeting all requirements. Persevere through challenges and remember that every course and assignment bring you one step closer to achieving your educational and career goals. Data still shows that a college degree provides many opportunities and is worth the cost.
- **Go beyond the degree.** Seek out opportunities to develop skills and experiences that extend beyond the classroom. Engage in internships, extracurricular activities, networking, and other professional development opportunities. These experiences will enrich your education and prepare you for success in your future career and life. If everyone has the same degree and experiences as you, then you are not competitive. You need to find ways to get further ahead.
- **You can fail. But you can also succeed with the right efforts.**

Course Requirements and Policies

1. Attendance and Participation

Regular attendance and participation are required to be successful in any course. For this class, they are also a mandatory part of your grade. Attendance will be checked each class. Please be on time, late arrivals may be marked absent. If you are unable to attend in case of emergency or other academic events, please let me know as soon as possible.

2. Missed assignment policy

Late assignments will not be accepted. Make-up and exams assignments may be given at the discretion of the professor. If a make-up is permitted, it may vary in format and content from the original version of the exam or assignment. If you know you will miss an assignment or exam, please let me know immediately.

3. Electronic Devices Policy

You may use any electronic device during class time if it helps you with the class material. However, if I, or other students, find the device distracting, I will not allow you to use it. Please disable sounds on your devices. In this class, you may use computers, calculators, or cell phone apps to help with mathematical formulas. You may also use a computer, cell phone, or other device to record lectures. However, make sure you are also focused on the lecture during class.

4. AI Policy

Artificial intelligence software such as ChatGPT and Grammarly can be powerful tools, but effective use requires validation from an expert. I encourage you to stay up to date with all variety of tools and software in your careers. For this class, however, use AI software is prohibited. Use of AI tools will be considered academic dishonesty.

5. Grading

To provide you with the best feedback, grading takes time. Tests may take 1-2 weeks, and papers and other assignments may take 3 weeks.

Course Assignments

1. Attendance (5% of class grade)

Attendance will be checked each class. Please be on time, late arrivals may be marked absent. If you are unable to attend in case of emergency or other academic events, please let me know as soon as possible. I am aware attendance is listed twice on the syllabus. I really want you to be here. If there is an issue attending a class, please contact me in advance.

2. Study guides (9 study guides at 10 points each, 12% of class grade)

Students will complete study guides for each weekly unit prior to attending lectures. The study guides are designed to be a roadmap through the material, directing attention to key information. Students may refer to the assigned material when completing the study guides. You will have **only one attempt** to complete the study guide. Please prepare accordingly.

3. Class activities (9 activities at 5 points each, 6% of class grade)

Most weekly units have in-class activities, consisting of individual or group work, to apply concepts learned in that unit. These activities will be completed in class.

4. Quizzes (9 quizzes at 20 points each, 25% of class grade)

Students will complete an in-class quiz at the end of each weekly unit. The quizzes are closed book/notes and should be completed using the student's own knowledge.

5. Presentation (1 presentation at 75 points, 10% of class grade)

At the end of the semester, students will develop a lecture, teaching activity, or research proposal for one of the topics we discussed. Students will have class time to work on this activity with the assistance of the instructor; however, they should work on the assignment outside of class as well.

6. Exams (2 exams at 150 points each, 42% of class grade)

Students will complete a midterm exam and a final exam. Each exam will be cumulative. Optional review activities will be provided.

7. Final Grade

This class is graded out of 725 points. Students must earn at least 652 points for an A, 580 points for a B, 507 points for a C, and 435 points for a D.

Schedule Overview – Specific assignments and updates will be posted on Canvas.
 Generally, Mondays are lecture days, Wednesdays are activity days, and Fridays are quiz days.

Date		Content
1/12/26	Monday	Introduction
1/14/26	Wednesday	Introduction
1/16/26	Friday	Understanding Behavior Research
1/19/26	Monday	MLK Day - No Class
1/21/26	Wednesday	Understanding Behavior Research
1/23/26	Friday	Understanding Behavior Research
1/26/26	Monday	Experimental Designs
1/28/26	Wednesday	Experimental Designs
1/30/26	Friday	Experimental Designs
2/2/26	Monday	Phylogenetic Behavior and Pavlovian Conditioning 1
2/4/26	Wednesday	Phylogenetic Behavior and Pavlovian Conditioning 1
2/6/26	Friday	Phylogenetic Behavior and Pavlovian Conditioning 1
2/9/26	Monday	Phylogenetic Behavior and Pavlovian Conditioning 2
2/11/26	Wednesday	Phylogenetic Behavior and Pavlovian Conditioning 2
2/13/26	Friday	Phylogenetic Behavior and Pavlovian Conditioning 2
2/16/26	Monday	Antecedents Review and Motivating Operations
2/18/26	Wednesday	Antecedents Review and Motivating Operations
2/20/26	Friday	Antecedents Review and Motivating Operations
2/23/26	Monday	Antecedents Review and Motivating Operations
2/25/26	Wednesday	Antecedents Review and Motivating Operations
2/27/26	Friday	Antecedents Review and Motivating Operations
3/2/26	Monday	Midterm Review
3/4/26	Wednesday	Midterm Review
3/6/26	Friday	Midterm
3/16/26	Monday	Schedules of Reinforcement
3/18/26	Wednesday	Schedules of Reinforcement
3/20/26	Friday	Schedules of Reinforcement
3/23/26	Monday	Choice
3/25/26	Wednesday	Choice
3/27/26	Friday	Choice
3/30/26	Monday	Verbal Behavior
4/1/26	Wednesday	Verbal Behavior
4/3/26	Friday	Verbal Behavior
4/6/26	Monday	Coercion
4/8/26	Wednesday	Coercion
4/10/26	Friday	Coercion
4/13/26	Monday	The Nurture Effect
4/15/26	Wednesday	The Nurture Effect
4/17/26	Friday	The Nurture Effect
4/20/26	Monday	Review
4/22/26	Wednesday	Review
4/24/26	Friday	Projects
4/27/26	Monday	Projects
4/29/26	Wednesday	Projects
5/1/26	Friday	Reading Day - No Class

Final Exam – Saturday, May 2nd, 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM, Chilton 240

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Classroom Civility

Each student is encouraged to help create an environment during class that promotes learning, dignity, and mutual respect for everyone. Students who speak at inappropriate times, sleep in class, display inattention, take frequent breaks, interrupt class by coming to class late, engage in loud or distracting behaviors, use cell phones or other electronic devices in class, use inappropriate language, are verbally abusive, display defiance or disrespect to others, or behave aggressively toward others could be asked to leave the class. Class discussion is integral to this course, and all others, and the classroom must maintain a civil and safe place for everyone to participate, ask questions, and learn the material.

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Accommodation Statement

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please check your email for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Other policies can be found at policy.unt.edu