
BEHV 2300

Behavior Principles I

Class Time: Wed 6:00 pm – 8:50 pm

Room: Chil 270

Instructor: J. Logan Gibson

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TA: David Morales

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Department Phone: 940-565-2274

Office: Via Zoom

Office Hours: Monday 12 am-2 pm (or by appointment)

Course Texts: An Introduction to Behavior Analysis (Madden, Reed, & Reed)

Assignments: There are several ways in which students can earn points in the course toward their final course grade. Each of these assignments are described below.

Reading Checks: Students are given the opportunity to complete study materials pertaining to the relevant assigned literature. The study materials will be provided by the instructor, which often include prompts for terms/definitions, main ideas, specific details, self-generated examples when applicable, and more. The content from the Reading Checks will be expanded upon in the corresponding lecture.

Unit Quizzes: Students are expected to complete assessments on Canvas at the end of each unit. Content on the quizzes will be from the lecture videos and the unit reading assignment. The quizzes should be completed using the student's knowledge. Reading Guides and Lecture Notes will be valuable study materials for these quizzes. All quizzes will be taken in class. There are no make-up quizzes.

Group Activities: Each week, as a small group, (2-3) students will participate in activities that review and extend upon concepts discussed in class. These activities are designed to provide hands-on learning opportunities for students and require active engagement in the academic exercise. Activities will be completed in class unless otherwise instructed. There are no make-up activities.

Article Summary: Over the course of the semester, students will be assigned an article to read. Students will read the article and summarize clearly the critical parts of the article in a report.

Measurement Project: Over the course of the semester, students will complete a measurement project. In general, measurement projects involve measuring behavior in real-life situations.

Teaching Project: At the end of the semester, as a group (3 - 4) students will identify one of the topics covered in class and develop a lecture or activity to teach the identified topic. Students will have class time to work on this activity with the assistance of the instructor; however, students are expected to be actively working on the assignment outside of class as well (as necessary). At the end of the project, the final product will be presented to the class. Students will not be able to present without a group.

The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus over the course as necessary.

Midterm and Final Assessments: At the middle and end of the semester, students will complete major assessments. These assessments consist of a cumulative examination using a combination of multiple choice, multiple select, and short answer questions.

Grading Distribution

Assignment	Points Per Opportunity	Number of Opportunities	Total Points
Reading Checks	20	11	220
Unit Quizzes	20	11	220
Activities	30	11	330
Article Summaries	110	1	110
Measurement Projects	110	1	110
Teaching Project	220	1	220
Midterm Assessment	330	1	330
Final Assessment	440	1	440
Grand Total			1980

Final Grade Point Ranges:

Total Points	Percentage	Final Grade
1782 or more	90% or more	A
1584 to 1781	80 – 89%	B
1386 to 1583	70 – 79%	C
1188 to 1386	60 – 69%	D
1187 or fewer	59% or less	F

Additional Information

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 – The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As an instructor, I am required by law to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of his/her need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at <http://www.unt.edu/oda/apply/index.html>. Also, students may visit the Office of Disability Accommodation in the Sage Hall (room 167) or call them at (940) 565-4323.

Student Conduct: Each student automatically certifies that any material submitted for grading is his/her own independent work. UNT policies require reporting of plagiarism or any suspected violations that constitute possible academic misconduct. Students are responsible for being familiar with the Code of Student Conduct.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals.

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Course Materials for Remote Instruction: Remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a [webcam and microphone – faculty member to include what other basic equipment is needed] to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Additional required classroom materials for remote learning include: [list specific software, supplies, equipment or system requirements needed for the course]. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at <https://online.unt.edu/learn>

Online Content: Class videos and other content uploaded online are reserved for use only by students in this class for educational purposes. The materials should not be shared outside the class in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

Policy on Academic Dishonesty: Students in all Behavior Analysis courses are expected to maintain academic integrity at all times. Students committing acts of dishonesty including cheating and plagiarism are subject to receiving an "F" in the course. For a more detailed discussion on academic dishonesty, please refer to the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline on pages 108-109 of the undergraduate catalog. The information is also available at: <http://www.unt.edu/catalog/undergrad/policies.htm>

Group work is encouraged; however, in the past there have been situations in which group work could have been considered cheating or plagiarism. "Legitimate" group work takes advantage of consultation with peers, provides students with ideas, suggestions, corrections, etc., which students take into consideration in the development of their unique and individual product. Examples include reading the text and writing answers to an assignment, then working closely with other students to compare answers, and to attempt to resolve different understandings. Failing to do the reading and memorizing answers that another student has written is not legitimate group work; it is cheating. Drafting the assignments, then comparing specific aspects of one product to another is appropriate. Copying someone else's work products (or making your work available to another student to copy) is not legitimate; it is cheating. Always, if students are unsure about boundaries of legitimate group work, please (1) ask for clarification from the instructor, and (2) make full disclosure so that there is no question about intentions. We are very happy to talk about these boundaries and work with students to maximize learning and maintain individual accountability.

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, the use of AI software is prohibited. Use of AI tools will be considered academic dishonesty.

Emergency Notification and Procedures: The University of North Texas informs students, faculty and staff persons about emergency situations (e.g., severe weather, campus closings, public safety) through the Eagle Alert system. Notifications are sent via phone so it is important that your contact information is current. Please visit www.my.unt.edu to update your contact information so that you are able to notifications in the event of an emergency. Additional information regarding emergency preparedness is available at <https://emergency.unt.edu/emergency-guidelines-0>.

Absences: If you must be absent for any reason, you should arrange to submit the assignments early. Students are responsible for making their own arrangements to obtain information from any missed class periods. The last day to drop this course with a grade of W is November 8th.

Late Policy: Quizzes and group activities cannot be turned in late. If you submit the Article Summary or Measurement Project after the due date, there will be a 10% point deduction per day it is late, up to five days late. After the assignment is five days late, the assignment can still be turned in but the point deduction will no longer escalate. That is, you may turn in the assignment at any point thereafter for 50% of the possible grade.

Extra Credit: Extra credit may be offered throughout the semester for the completion of assignments that greatly exceed expectations, research participation, and other alternative activities. Students are not guaranteed extra credit and the offering of extra credit will be at the instructor's discretion. Please keep in mind that extra credit is for extra work and work that exceeds expectations and will not be provided unless steps are taken that display such an effort and excellence in work.

Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Graded Assignments	Read Before Class
Week 1	8/20	Syllabus & What is Behavior?		Syllabus & Ch. 1 pp. 1-12
		Why Study Behavior?		
Week 2	8/27	Basic Concepts	Syllabus Quiz	Ch. 1 pp 12-24
		Activity 1: Concepts		
Week 3	9/3	Research & Measurement	Quiz 1	Ch. 2
		Activity 2: Measurement		
Week 4	9/10	Phylogenetics and Pavlov	Quiz 2	Ch. 4 (foundations)
		Activity 3: Pavlovian Cond.		
Week 5	9/17	Measurement Project	Quiz 3	
		Measurement Project		
Week 6	9/24	Reinforcement		Ch. 5 (up to pos and neg)
		Activity 4: Reinforcement		
Week 7	10/1	Positive & Negative R	Quiz 4	Ch. 5 cont.
		Activity 5: Pos & Neg	Meas. Project (Sunday)	
Week 8	10/8	Midterm	Quiz 5	Study
		Assessment	Study	Study
Week 9	10/15	Operant Extinction		Ch. 7 (up to differential R)
		Activity 6: Extinction		
Week 10	10/22	Differential Reinforcement	Quiz 6	Ch. 7 (The rest)
		Activity 7: Diff. R		
Week 11	10/29	Shaping	Quiz 7	Ch. 8
		Activity 8: Shaping		Start Article
Week 12	11/5	Motivation etc.	Quiz 8	Ch. 9
		Activity 9 Motivation etc.		
Week 13	11/12	Punishment	Quiz 9	Ch. 10
		Activity 10: Punishment		
Week 14	11/19	Antecedent Stim. Control	Quiz 10 & Article Summary (Sunday)	Ch. 12
		Activity 11: ASC		
Week 15	12/3	Teaching Project Presentations	Quiz 11	
		Teaching Project Presentations		
Dec 8-12	TBD	Final Exam	Study	Study

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