
BEHV 2300

Behavior Principles I

Class Time: Mon 2:00 pm – 4:50 pm
Room: Chil 255
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Office Hours: Wednesday 2-3 PM

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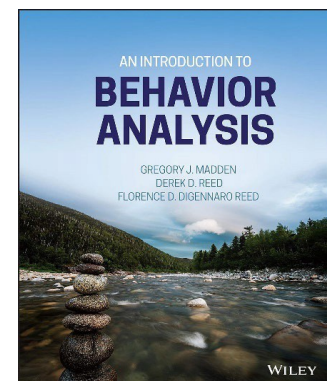
Course Description:

Behavior is examined as a part of the natural world, with primary focus on principles describing relations between operant behavior and its consequences. The principles of reinforcement, extinction, differential reinforcement, and punishment are related to naturally occurring events and to experimental and intervention procedures. Basic measurement concepts introduced.

What You Need:

This course primarily utilizes the textbook *An Introduction to Behavior Analysis* by Madden, Reed, & DiGennaro Reed (2021). Supplementary materials will be available on Canvas. The course structure integrates the textbook as a critical resource for success. Although it is possible to pass without fully engaging with the textbook, doing so would significantly affect the likelihood of success.

This course includes digital components requiring internet access to utilize the Canvas Learning Management System for content reference. Should there be any changes in technical requirements to access course materials, you will be promptly informed. For guidance on thriving in a digital learning environment, please visit Learn Anywhere (<https://online.unt.edu/learn>).



Course Components:

You will explore 12 fundamental units of behavior analysis throughout the semester. These units will be presented through in-class lectures and at-home readings. This course is structured around various interactive elements that contribute to your final grade. Below is a brief description of each component:

Assigned Reading: For each unit, start by reading the chapter in our textbook and then take the Reading Check on Canvas.

Lectures: Our classes will start with a lecture that reviews and expands upon the topics you've read about in the textbook.

Participation Activities: Participation will be assessed two ways:

1. In-Class Activities: On most days, there will be an activity that expands on the days topic. These can be completed at home but it is MUCH EASIER to complete them in class.
2. Attending quiz: At the end of every class a 1-2 question quiz will be given. I will make up these questions on the spot based around what we discussed during class. You can ONLY complete this quiz if you are present in class. If you have an excused absence you can submit a 200 word paragraph on something unexpected you learned from the unit.

Unit Quizzes: Each unit concludes with a quiz. The content of these quizzes will come from lecture and reading materials. The lowest quiz will be dropped at the end of the semester. Quizzes will be taken virtually after class and are due the following Thursday. This format is subject to change. We will vote after the third week on whether we like the structure or not.

Measurement Project: You will undertake one measurement project, applying what you've learned to observe behavior in real-life scenarios. The project culminates in a concise report summarizing your findings.

Determinism Project: Near the end of the semester, you will complete these project that forays into the philosophical underpinnings of behavior analysis. This assignment will primarily be based on personal reflections in relation to a video we will watch in class.

Teaching Project: For your final project this semester, you'll work in groups of 2-3 to turn a class topic into a teaching presentation. You will get some time and support during class but expect to do some work on your own too. Your finished presentation will be shared with the rest of the class and commenting on other classmates will be part of your grade.

Midterm and Final Assessments: These major assessments will test your cumulative knowledge through a combination of multiple-choice, multiple select, and short answer questions.

Grading Distribution

Assignment	Number of Opportunities	Points per Assignment	Total Points
Assigned Reading Check	11	20	220
Participation Activity	11	20	220
Participation Quiz	11	10	220
Unit Quiz	11	30	300
Determinism Project	1	120	120
Measurement Project	1	120	120
Teaching Project	1	240	240
Midterm Assessment	1	420	420
Final Assessment	1	420	420
Total Points			2280

Final Grade Point Ranges:

Total Points	Percentage Scale	Final Grade
2052+	90% or more	A
1824-2051	80% to 89%	B
1596-1823	70% to 79%	C
1238-1595	60% to 69%	D
1237 or fewer	59% or less	F

Attendance: Consistent class attendance is a critical behavior for academic success and is expected in this course. If you anticipate an absence, it's imperative to communicate with me beforehand. This allows for a collaborative approach to minimize the absence's impact on your learning and progress toward course objectives. Additionally, if health concerns prevent your attendance, promptly informing the instructional team is crucial. This behavior not only supports your own learning path but also contributes to the overall health and safety of our community, reinforcing a culture of mindfulness and responsibility.

Late Policy: If you need to submit an assignment after the due date, then there will be a 10%-point deduction per day it is late, up to five days late. Assignments will be accepted more than five days late but the highest grade that can be earned is 50% of the earned points.

Extra Credit: Extra credit may be offered over the course of the semester for the completion of assignments that greatly exceed expectations, various volunteer activities, 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.

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.

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

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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.

Tips for Success

I'm Here to Help

It's important to ask questions and seek help whenever you need it, even though it might feel a bit awkward at first. Remember, this is a key skill that will serve you well throughout your studies and beyond. I'm here to support you, so feel free to drop by my office (Chilton 360F) or join me on Zoom to chat. You can come by during the listed times, or if those don't work for you, just send me an email and we can arrange another time that suits you. I'm looking forward to helping you succeed in any way I can!

Office hours are a great opportunity for a variety of things. If there's something from class or an assignment that you need clarification on, this is your chance to ask. It's also a good time for me to get to know you better as a person and learn about your interests. We can discuss potential career paths or any other concerns you might have.

Campus Resources

Remember, seeking support is a sign of strength, not weakness. If you find yourself facing challenges, don't endure them silently or feel isolated. University life is rich with both opportunities and obstacles. UNT is equipped with an array of resources designed to assist and support you through your journey. We encourage you to take full advantage of these services whenever you need a helping hand. You're not alone in this—utilize the community and resources available to you!

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course.

You may request reasonable accommodation at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member

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prior to implementation in each class.

Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>).

You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323

Additional Resources I encourage you to take advantage of are:

- [UNT's Counseling and Testing Services](#) can provide psychological counseling and academic testing.
- [UNTWell](#) provides FREE individual and group counseling as well as a vocational assessment.
- [UNT Food Pantry](#) is a great resource if you or someone you know experiences food insecurity.
- [Academic Success Center](#) can support you in your academics.

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

Schedule

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Week	Date	Topic	Graded Assignments	Read Before Class
Week 1	8/18	Syllabus & What is Behavior?		Syllabus & Ch. 1 pp. 1-12
		Why Study Behavior?		
Week 2	8/25	Basic Concepts	Syllabus Quiz	Ch. 1 pp 12-24
		Activity 1: Concepts		
Week 3 - 9/1/25 – LABOR DAY – NO CLASS				
Week 4	9/8	Research & Measurement	Quiz 1	Ch. 2
		Activity 2: Measurement		
Week 5	9/15	Phylogenetics and Pavlov	Quiz 2	Ch. 4 (foundations)
		Activity 3: Pavlovian Cond.		
Week 6	9/22	Reinforcement	Quiz 3	Ch. 5 (up to pos and neg)
		Activity 4: Reinforcement		
Week 7	9/29	Positive & Negative R	Quiz 4	Ch. 5 cont.
		Activity 5: Pos & Neg	Meas. Project (Sunday)	
Week 8	10/6	Midterm	Quiz 5	Study
		Assessment	Study	Study
Week 9	10/13	Operant Extinction		Ch. 7 (up to differential R)
		Activity 6: Extinction		
Week 10	10/20	Differential Reinforcement	Quiz 6	Ch. 7 (The rest)
		Activity 7: Diff. R		
Week 11	10/27	Shaping	Quiz 7	Ch. 8
		Activity 8: Shaping		Start Article
Week 12	11/3	Motivation etc.	Quiz 8	Ch. 9
		Activity 9 Motivation etc.		
Week 13	11/10	Punishment	Quiz 9	Ch. 10
		Activity 10: Punishment		
Week 14	11/17	Antecedent Stim. Control	Quiz 10 & Article Summary (Sunday)	Ch. 12
		Activity 11: ASC		
Week 15 – 11/24/25 – FALL BREAK – NO CLASS				
Week 16	12/1	Teaching Project Presentations	Quiz 11	
		Teaching Project Presentations		
Dec 9-13	TBD	Final Exam	Study	Study

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