

BEHV 5619

Fundamentals and Techniques of Compassionate and Effective Behavior Change

Spring 2023 Course Syllabus

Instructor and Teaching Assistant Contact Information

Instructor: Kenda Morrison, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Teaching Assistants: Cameron Scallan, MA, BCBA and Samantha Perdeep, BA

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Office Hours: Office hours are available for tutoring and will be held on Zoom on a day and time listed on Canvas. You can access the Zoom office hours meeting by clicking on Office Hours in the Prerequisite Module. All Zoom calls (video and/or voice) will be recorded.

Course Assistance: If you have a question that is not answered in the syllabus or activity instructions, please email us anytime. We love hearing from students, and we are here to help! To contact your Instructor or Teaching Assistant, please email us at behv5619@unt.edu.

If you would like to know the answers to specific questions, please let us know the activity title, the item number, and provide some information about why you think certain answers are correct or incorrect. While we cannot provide specific correct answers, your information will help us to provide tutoring over the course content, which will then help you determine the correct answer. Students can expect a response before or during the next business day.

Other Assistance: If you experience problems with Canvas, please select “help” in the Global menu or visit the [UNT help desk](#) or [Canvas Technical Support](#). If you believe Canvas is experiencing an outage, please go to the [Canvas Status page](#) to check.

If you require help registering for this or another course in the sequence, or if you need help with other administrative matters, please contact Micah Hope at behvDLinfo@unt.edu. We will either help you or forward your request for help to the appropriate personnel at UNT.

Please ensure that you are receiving emails from all “@unt.edu” addresses. Check your spam filters and your junk email folders. Change your email settings to allow emails from us to your inbox. We are not responsible for emails we send that you do not receive due to your email account settings. No extensions or exceptions will be granted based on this issue.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the science and practice of applied behavior analysis by providing students with foundational knowledge about the science of behavior analysis, as well as an overview of behavioral principles and the behavior change procedures derived from these principles. Through lectures, readings, video examples, and terminology exercises, students will develop foundational knowledge of concepts and apply these concepts in various simulations meant to further understanding and prepare students for the practice of behavior analysis. The themes of this course include the dynamic interaction of behavior and environment, the identification of behavioral concepts within the student’s life, and preparation for professional credentialing as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

Course Structure

This course is fully online; all activities and assessments will be completed in Canvas.

This course has weekly deadlines. To help students do well on the written assignment and in the course, students are required to complete activities by weekly deadlines. We understand that circumstances may sometimes prevent you from meeting a deadline. Therefore, we have a one-week grace period after each deadline. This means that each activity, with the exception of activities due during the last week of class and the final exam, will be available for **one week after the deadline specified on the module header**. After the one-week grace period ends, the activity will be deactivated, and students will no longer be able to earn any points on these activities. There will be no exceptions. Therefore, to do well, it is crucial to not only keep up with the course calendar, but to work ahead as much as possible in case of emergencies or other events. Working ahead also allows time for you to attend office hours or receive an email reply if you need to ask any questions about an assignment before it is due.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

BEHV 5610 ABA Foundations, Concepts and Principles I

BEHV 5612 Meaningful Assessment in Behavioral Practice

BEHV 5613 Culturally Responsive Ethics in Behavioral Practice (may be taken concurrently)

BEHV 5616 (only required for MA students; may be taken concurrently)

BEHV 5618 ABA Foundations, Concepts and Principles II (may be taken concurrently)

BACB Course Hours

Content is based on the 5th edition BACB Task list. This course specifically covers the following academic requirements for the BCBA certification exam: 45 hours of Behavior-Change Procedures. For more information on the Verified Course Sequence distribution, see the [VCS Grid](#).

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and define concepts relevant to the practice of applied behavior analysis.
- Identify and select the best answer when completing weekly quizzes over readings and videos relating to fundamentals and techniques relevant to behavioral practice.
- Integrate, apply, and demonstrate the technique recommendation process from initial assessment through final treatment recommendations.
- Demonstrate and apply knowledge of fundamentals and techniques within the science of behavior analysis.

Materials

Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2019). *Applied behavior analysis* (3rd ed.). Pearson Prentice Hall.

Mayer, G. R., Sulzer-Azaroff, B., & Wallace, M. (2022). *Behavior analysis for lasting change* (5th ed.). Sloan Educational.

Cambridge Center (Producer). (various years). UNT video textbook [Video collection].

<https://uwf.behavior.org/product/unt-bundle/>

Instructional Allocations

This course is a 3 semester credit hours (sch) graduate course. A typical college graduate course requires allocations of 3 hours of contact time (e.g., course lectures and/or engagement activities) per week and about 6 hours of additional effort (e.g., reading, writing, researching, studying). This totals 45 hours of instructional time and about 90 hours of additional activities. In this course, contact time includes watching videos and answering questions. Additional effort includes reading and written projects.

Success in an Online Course

Completing courses is part of your graduate education. *How* you engage in those courses is also part of your graduate education – because of that we emphasize professional etiquette as part of your preparation as a behavior analyst.

- Be kind, polite and respectful. Sometimes the impersonality of the computer makes it hard to remember that we are all humans trying to teach, learn, and make the world a better place. That is why we went into behavior analysis. Be patient with yourself, the process and us!
- Be a problem solver and contributor to improvement of situations. Communicating online is not always as easy because of time differences, technology challenges, and lack of context. Try to approach problems from a behavior analytic perspective and then work on solutions by changing the environment.
- Seek help when you are not able to resolve something on your own. Collaboration is an important skill in behavior analysis. Learn to know what you don't know and when you need to ask for help. Respond to feedback and suggestions in a professional manner. Our courses are designed to help you succeed. That is why we exist.
- Remember the big picture and let that help you behave civilly when you feel discouraged. You are doing this because you will learn skills to help people. That is a goal worth all the hard effort you are putting into it.

Collaboration and civility are core values in the practice of behavior analysis.

Resources

At the beginning of the course on Canvas, there is a Resources module. This module contains valuable information for students including the following topics:

- BAO Registration Information
- Drop/Withdrawal Process
- Getting Help
- Requesting a Transcript
- Technology Information and Requirements

Please check this module to see if your question is answered there before contacting the instructor or TA.

Weekly Objectives and Activities

Weekly Module	Topic	BACB Task List	Weekly Objectives	Component Assessment Activities	Integration and Application Assessments
1	Basic Concepts of Behavior Change	G-1, 2, 3, 4, 15, 16, 18	Identify the basic concepts of behavior change and examples that might be observed in clinical practice.	Study Guide Cambridge Video StudyMate	Weekly Quiz
2	Selecting and Defining Target Behavior	G-16, 19	Define target behaviors and select appropriate methods for measuring these behaviors.	Cambridge Video Practice StudyMate	Weekly Quiz Integration Component
3	Developing and Selecting Reinforcement	G-1, 3	Describe and identify examples of reinforcement including classification, characteristics, effective clinical use, schedules, parameters, and ethical considerations	Study Guide Cambridge Video StudyMate	Weekly Quiz
4	Collecting Useful Data and Evaluating Behavior Change	G-9, G-22	Describe methods for selecting interventions based on scientific evidence and assessment results, then making on-going, data-based decisions throughout intervention.	Study Guides Cambridge Videos StudyMate	Weekly Quiz Integration Component
5	Effectively Implementing Reinforcement	G-1, 3, 17, 18, 20	Describe and identify examples of reinforcement including classification, characteristics, effective clinical use, schedules, parameters, and ethical considerations	Cambridge Videos StudyMate	Weekly Quiz
6	Establishing New Behavior-Shaping and Chaining	G-5, 7, 8, 9	Describe and identify clinical examples of techniques and procedures for effectively establishing new behavior	Study Guides Cambridge Video StudyMate	Weekly Quiz Integration Component
7	Promoting Antecedent Control	G-2, 4, 6, 10, 12	Describe and identify examples of antecedents including classification, characteristics, and effective clinical use	StudyMate	Weekly Quiz
8	Achieving Stimulus Control and Prompting	G-2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12	Describe and identify examples of antecedents including classification, characteristics, and effective clinical use	Cambridge Video StudyMate	Weekly Quiz
Cumulative Mid-Term Exam					
9	Specific Programs and Procedures	G-2, 9, 11, 14	Describe Skinner's classification of verbal behavior and identify examples observed in clinical practice	Cambridge Video StudyMate	Weekly Quiz
10	Expanding Stimulus Control	G-4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 21	Describe and identify clinical examples of techniques and procedures for effectively establishing new behavior	Cambridge Video StudyMate	Weekly Quiz Integration Component
11	Maintaining Behavior and Systems Support	G-5, 21, 22	Describe strategies to promote generalization and maintenance of behavior-change, as well as strategies for helping clients by arranging environments and collaborating with those providing service delivery and support.	Cambridge Videos StudyMate	Weekly Quiz
12	Identification of Effective Techniques	G-21, 22	Describe and discuss strategies for identifying socially significant and effective techniques.	Cambridge Videos StudyMate	Weekly Quiz Integration Component
13	Preventing Unwanted Behavior	G-6, 13, 14, 15	Describe and identify examples of the effective clinical use of techniques used to decrease behavior without the use of punishment	Study Guides Cambridge Video StudyMate	Weekly Quiz
14	Behavior Reduction: Considerations and the Role of Reinforcement	G-6, 13, 14, 15, 18	Describe and identify examples of meaningful considerations regarding behavior reduction, as well as the effective clinical use of techniques to decrease behavior by manipulating reinforcement	Cambridge Video StudyMate	Weekly Quiz Final Project: Essay Exam

15	Punishment	G-1, 2, 6, 14, 15, 16	Describe and identify examples of punishment including classification, characteristics, effective clinical use, schedules, parameters, and ethical considerations	StudyMate	Weekly Quiz
Cumulative Final Exam					

Course Activities

Module View

To be successful in course activities, please be sure to use the Module view and complete activities in order.

Study Guides and Practice

Each module contains videos, journal articles, and/or book chapters selected by the course designer. These readings and/or videos have a corresponding Study Guide which consists of multiple-choice questions, which may have multiple correct answers. These activities are designed to be a roadmap through the material, directing the students' attention to key important information in the material. Students may refer to the assigned material when answering Study Guide questions.

Practice activities give students an opportunity to learn through practicing application of a skill or concept learned during that week's activities. Students may refer to the assigned material when answering Practice questions.

Cambridge Center Video Assignments

This course incorporates material from the Cambridge Center, including lectures and quizzes. The links to these videos are within the course modules on Canvas. After watching each assigned lecture on the Cambridge website, students will answer questions over the lecture, which are also on the Cambridge website. After successfully answering those questions, students will download their completion certificate and upload it to the corresponding activity in the Canvas course menu. Students will be awarded points for their certificates within two weeks.

StudyMate

StudyMate activities are not worth points but are a way to study and prepare for the weekly quizzes, which are worth points. Each Module has corresponding StudyMate activities that are linked within the module. Students should be successful with the fill-in-the-blank activities before attempting the weekly quiz. Students may refer to the assigned material when practicing StudyMate activities.

Weekly Quizzes

At the conclusion of each module, students will complete a quiz over the content covered that week.

Integration Assessments

Students will submit a series of Integration Component Assignments throughout the course and a Final Project which is an Application Essay Exam at the end of the course. These activities provide an opportunity to apply what you have learned in the course readings and videos to real-world situations. Please complete all previous course menu activities before submitting an integration assignment to earn the best possible grade. Specific instructions for each written assignment will be under the specific activity in the Canvas Module.

The first two assignments must be completed to a minimum standard to receive points. If this does not occur, zero points will temporarily be awarded. The student will need to improve this section before the next component is submitted. If it then meets the minimum standard, up to 80% of the points will be awarded on the previous assignment which had earned zero points. If it does not, the student can again revise for an opportunity to earn up to 60% of the points available. If it still does not, the student can revise a third time for an opportunity to earn up to 40% of the points available.

All feedback provided within this course assumes that scenarios in the course and provided by the student are hypothetical. No feedback should be taken as clinical advice or consultation.

Examinations

This course includes two examinations, each of which will ask questions over all content previously covered in the course.

Evaluation

Grading

A grade of 'B' or better is required for this class.

You will have immediate feedback on all activities, with the exception of written assignments. Grading for written assignments will begin on the due date. Students will receive feedback within two weeks of the regular or grace period deadline, whichever they used.

Each activity on Canvas indicates the number of points that can be earned within the activity. The Grades link in your Course Menu will provide you with information about your score for each activity and your grade in the class. Please note that assignments that are not completed by the due date will automatically be counted as missing and assigned a grade of 0. If the assignment is then completed during the grace period, the grade will be updated to reflect the highest score earned on the activity.

For more information on how to navigate the Grades page on Canvas, please see the [Canvas Student Guide](#).

Grades are based on the percentage of possible points that a student earns:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89.9%
- C = 70-79.9%
- F = below 70%

Coursework will be weighted as follows:

- 20% Study Guides and Practice Activities
- 25% Weekly Quizzes
- 15% Integration Components
- 10% Final Project: Application Essay Exam
- 15% Mid-Term Examination
- 15% Cumulative Final Examination

Course Evaluation

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course. SPOT evaluations will be available from April 17th to May 4th.

Course Policies

Assignment Policy

Please complete the first module of the course, Preparatory Activities, the first week of the semester. You must complete this module in order to unlock the rest of the modules in the course.

Please notate the due dates of the following assignments. These assignments offer a grace period, but utilizing this will delay the feedback provided, likely preventing you from receiving feedback before the next submission.

January 30	Choosing and Specifying Behavior
February 13	Data Collection Systems
March 6	Reinforcement Systems
April 3	Prompting and Teaching Procedures
April 17	Maintenance and Systems Support
May 1	Final Project: Application Essay Exam

Activities in the last week of the course will be due by May 4th at 11:59pm CT. **There are no grace periods for these activities.**

The final exam is due May 10th at 11:59pm CT. There is no grace period for the final exam.

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Examination and Quiz Policy

Weekly quizzes must be completed on a laptop or desktop computer using a webcam as quizzes require the use of Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor. **Students may not look at any course or other materials during quizzes.**

Examinations must be completed on a laptop or desktop computer using a webcam as exams require the use of Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor. **Students may not look at any course or other materials during examinations.**

Late Work

No credit is given for late assignments.

Attendance Policy

This course is fully online; all activities and assessments will be completed in Canvas. No attendance at any specific day or time is required.

Syllabus Change Policy

The instructor reserves the right to make changes and updates to the syllabus as needed. Any updates to the syllabus will be posted on Canvas and an announcement will be made regarding relevant changes.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

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.

Honesty is a core value in the practice of behavior analysis. Progress depends on honesty in data collection, reporting, and documenting. For that reason, plagiarism is especially troublesome for behavior analysts in training.

Please note that all work in this course must be completed independently and must be your own work in your own words. Plagiarism, including submitting content identical or highly similar to other student's papers and copying content from journal articles, websites or other sources, is strictly prohibited. Using your own previous work without citation is also considered plagiarism.

The Integration assignments will be submitted through Turnitin on Canvas. Turnitin is a program that will systematically detect any plagiarism. If plagiarism is detected, you will not receive points for the activity. If more than one assignment is plagiarized, you will receive an "F" in the course. If you plagiarize in more than one course, you will be dropped from the program.

You are responsible for reading and understanding [Academic Integrity Policy](#) and the [UNT Student Academic Integrity Policy](#).

ADA Policy

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](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>).

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 refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Sources

Course Designer

Kenda Morrison, Ph.D., BCBA-D designed this course. Our outstanding staff conducts testing and reliability on course activities.

Copyright Information

All activities, lectures, and PowerPoints in the course are copyrighted by UNT and may not be reproduced or utilized by any means, electronic or mechanical, without permission of the copyright owners. Students are expressly prohibited from copying course questions and/or uploading them to websites. This is both a violation of copyright and a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy

References

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<http://bao.unt.edu/ce/jpvideo/player.cfm?xid=IS-JT1>