

BEHV 3550-001 Behavior Change Techniques

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:50 PM

Chilton Hall (CHIL) 245

Instructor Contact

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Communication Expectations: There is a discussion board for General Course Questions or Concerns. Please post on this board if you have a question or concern related to the class that you would feel comfortable having other students read the post. Students have many similar questions, so it could be that your question could help others in the class, too. Before asking a general question about the course, please refer to the syllabus and the discussion board on Canvas. If your question is answered in either of these mediums, I will refer you to them in your email message.

Email (marcus.strum@unt.edu) and messages in Canvas are the best way to communicate with me outside of office hours. Please use professional communication when writing an email. This includes using a greeting (e.g., “Hello Mr. Strum”), including a subject relevant to your email, and including your name at the end of the email I make every effort to respond to emails within one business day. If I become aware of a situation that will prevent me from accessing email for more than one day, I will inform you of this as soon as possible. I will provide feedback to electronic submissions on Canvas within one week of their due date. I will post grade updates to Canvas.

Welcome to UNT!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT’s full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

Course Description

This course focuses on designing and implementing behavior change techniques. Topics in this include shaping, discrimination training, instructional and imitation training, and differential reinforcement.

Behavior change techniques can be applied in settings such as classrooms, institutions, workshops, and group homes. Data collection methods and supervision systems that can be used to assess their effectiveness will be included.

This course is part of the verified course sequence to sit for the Behavior Analyst Certification Board's (BACB) Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) certification examination. Specification of how the units align with the Task List (4th and 5th editions) can be found in the weekly schedule.

Course Structure

This course is scheduled as a face-to-face course. Modules will be posted on Canvas. Each module will include a chapter from the assigned textbook, a quiz, a lecture, and a learning activity. There will be 1-2 modules assigned each week, and we will follow the full-academic semester schedule. There will be several activities throughout the course that will require work in small groups. The course will include a group project that will be completed online throughout the course of the semester and will culminate in a final portfolio and presentation. The scheduled final is Thursday, December 9th 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

Successful completion of BEHV 2300 (required), 2700 (required), and BEHV 3440 (preferred).

Course Objectives

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

1. Identify and implement the behavior change procedures which include reinforcement, differential reinforcement, discrimination training, prompting, and fading
2. Identify behavior/environment relations in which these procedures can be used effectively to produce behavior change, and demonstrate that he/she/they can implement these procedures accurately
3. Correctly implement discrete-trial data collection procedures and create data sheets to record ongoing events for student-designed behavior change programs
4. Identify critical components in effective behavior change procedures, write behavior change programs, and identify the limits of behavior change procedures

Materials

- Miltenberger, R. G. (2016). *Behavior modification: Principles and procedures* (6th ed.). Thomson Wadsworth.



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- Printed OR electronic data sheets and protocols, writing utensils, printed materials for practice exercises, posted on Canvas
- PORTL manual – can be purchased at the UNT Bookstore or Voertman’s. You may need to search under BEHV 3770 to find it. You can find more information here:
<https://behaviorexplorer.com/store/>.
 - If you have taken or are in BEHV 3770, you can use the same manual and kit.
- PORTL kit – can be purchased at the UNT Bookstore or Voertman’s. You may need to search under BEHV 3770 to find it. You can also make your own:
<https://behaviorexplorer.com/articles/portl-kit-instructions/>
 - Save your PORTL kit for BEHV 3770!
- Learning Principles account (\$5 payable through PayPal)
<http://www.scienceofbehavior.com/bergmannlearnprin.php>

Teaching Philosophy

My goal for this course is to introduce you to effective behavior change techniques. This course will enable you to start applying the behavioral principles encountered in previous courses. This is a foundation-level course in which you will learn about behavioral techniques that will be contacted and strengthened in subsequent coursework, practicum experiences, and research. This course is a blend of lecture, active student responding, practice opportunities, writing activities, and a group project. You should be prepared to work in groups and on your own. This is not a course that you can put off until the end of the semester. It requires frequent attention, interaction, and engagement. I expect a lot from my students, and, in turn, I try to be an attentive instructor with many opportunities to provide and receive feedback.

Course Technology & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

Provide a list of the minimum technology requirements for students, such as:

- Computer
- Reliable internet access

- Speakers
- Microphone
- Zoom
- Microsoft Office Suite
- [Canvas Technical Requirements](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements) (<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

Provide a list of course-specific technical skills learners must have to succeed in the course, such as:

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Downloading and installing software
- Using spreadsheet programs
- Using presentation and graphics programs
- Accessing links

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm) (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328) (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

Assessments and Grading

This course will employ a variety of assessments and activities to help you acquire and build fluency in the application of behavioral principles in behavior change techniques. You should expect to respond frequently and in multiple modalities throughout the course.

Assessments

1) QUIZZES (15 [1 point each] = 15 points total)

- a) You will have 15 quizzes assigned to you throughout the semester. One quiz will be on the syllabus, and 14 quizzes will be on material in the lectures and book chapters. Quizzes are due Sundays by 11:59 PM.
- b) The syllabus quiz can be taken once. You can use your syllabus and there is no time limit.
- c) You may take each chapter quiz up to three times, and the highest attempt will be recorded for your grade.
 - i) Quizzes are timed and you may use your book or notes.
 - ii) Quizzes will close when they are due and will not reopen.

2) BEHAVIOR CHANGE PROCEDURES PORTFOLIO (group contract [1 point], target behavior + recording system + scenario/vignette [4 points] + six procedures [3 points each] + generalization plan [2 points] + 1 presentation [5 points] + 10 group work days/feedback sessions [1 point each] + 2 draft submissions [2 points each] = 44 points total)

- a) You and a partner will select hypothetical target behaviors at the beginning of the semester and construct a vignette to describe the individual/group for behavior change.
- b) You will provide an operational definition of your target behavior and design recording methods and systems to measure the behavior. You will design a data sheet to accompany your portfolio.
- c) You will select 6 behavior change procedures to include in your portfolio. You will pretend that you were designing the behavior change procedure to address your target behavior with your target organism.
 - i) For each procedure, you will create your own behavior change programs based on the course content, the textbook chapters, and activities.
 - ii) You must reference all sources that you use in APA 7 format.
- d) The instructor will provide a sample to guide you when writing your own behavior change procedures.
- e) At the end of the semester, you and your partner will present portions of your portfolio in a professional 10-15 min presentation.
- f) Group work days and feedback sessions will be scheduled throughout the semester. On these days, you and your partner should bring your in-progress portfolio to class. Mr. Strum will look over one behavior change procedure and provide feedback. On group work days, you will report your goals as a group at the beginning of the class and will report whether they were met at the end of the class. Participation is required.

3) CRITICAL THINKING AND APPLICATION WORKSHEETS (6 [2 points each] = 12 points total)

- a) Worksheets will be posted on Canvas for some of the chapters. You will work on the worksheets in small groups during scheduled class time and then upload the worksheets to Canvas by the posted due dates.
- b) Worksheets will be graded for accuracy and completion.

4) LAB 1: Learning Principles Tutorials (11 points total)

- a) You will complete all 11 tutorials on Learning Principles at this website:
<http://www.scienceofbehavior.com/bergmannlearnprin.php>
- b) You must purchase an account through PayPal (Instructions on Canvas) for the site administrator to track your progress and share your progress with me at the end of the semester

- i) NOTE: I do not have access to your accounts and cannot check your progress for you.
- ii) NOTE: You must complete ALL 11 tutorials to receive credit. Incomplete progress will result in a score of 0.
- c) You must enter your name the same way each time you access the tutorials so that they are tracked correctly. I suggest this format: FirstName_LastName

5) LAB 2: Technique Procedures Practice (6 [3 points each] = 18 points)

- a) With a partner, you will practice some behavior change techniques. These activities can be completed with a classmate in person. Accommodations will be made if students need to complete these activities remotely.

6) EXTRA CREDIT (Up to 5 points total)

- a) By completing various approved activities (e.g., participating in research studies, reviewing podcasts), you can earn up to 5 points of extra credit. These points will be applied to your final grade. Extra credit opportunities will be announced throughout the semester and posted on Canvas.

Grading

Your grade will be calculated based on the total number of points that you earn in the course.

Grading Table

Assignment Categories	Count in Category	Point Breakdown	Points Possible
Quizzes	15	1	15 points
Behavior Change Procedures Portfolio			
Portfolio group contract	1	1	1 point
Group work days and Feedback sessions	10	1	10 points
Draft Submissions	2	2	4 points
Portfolio target behavior + recording system + scenario/vignette	1	4	4 points
Portfolio procedures	6	3	18 points
Generalization plan	1	2	2 points
Portfolio presentations	1	5	5 points
Worksheets	6	2	12 points
Lab Assignments			
Learning Principles Tutorials	11	1	11 points
Technique Procedures Practice	6	3	18 points
Extra Credit Opportunities			**5**
Total Points Possible			100 points

Total Points Possible for Semester/Grading Scale = 100 total points

*Rounding will be applied for final grade calculations (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% and 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%)

100-89.5 points = A	100% - 89.5% = A
89.4 – 79.5 points = B	89.4% - 79.5%=B
79.4 – 69.5 points = C	79.4% - 69.5%=C
69.4 – 59.5 points = D	69.4% - 59.5%
59.4 – 0 points = F	59.4% or less=F

Calendar

Please See Schedule Document

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 will be available November 16 – December 3.**

Course Policies

Assignment Policy

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.

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 your peers, provides you with ideas, suggestions, corrections, etc., which you take into consideration in the development of your unique and individual product. Failing to do the reading and memorizing answers that another student has written for the study guide is not legitimate group work; it is cheating. Drafting the assignments, then comparing specific aspects of your product to others’ 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 you 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 your intentions. We are very happy to talk about these boundaries and work with you to maximize your learning and maintain individual accountability.

* While we encourage students to work together, assignment sharing is not acceptable. File sharing, copied & pasted portions, & assignments duplicated from previous semesters will result in a zero and possible further disciplinary action.

Due dates are listed in the course schedule and on Canvas. Due dates may change, and those changes will be communicated via Canvas. Due dates will only be extended and never moved temporally closer. Assignments will be submitted via Canvas. Documents can be .doc, .docx, or PDF. Turnitin will be used for written assignment submission.

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.

Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback

As your instructor, I commit to providing you opportunities to acquire and master concepts and principles of behavior analysis.

- I will make every attempt to assist your learning by guiding discussion, providing clear instructions for projects and assessments, answering questions about assignments, identifying additional resources as necessary, providing grading rubrics/criteria, and reviewing and updating course content.
- I will make every attempt to return feedback on assignments within two weeks of turn in and respond to emails within one business day.

Re-grades

If a student believes an error has been made in grading, a written request for reconsideration of the item(s) in question may be submitted within 1 week of receipt of the graded material. The written request should specify the item(s) in question, and the reason the student believes the answer given was correct, citing relevant sources (e.g., page number from readings on which the answer was based).

Turnaround Time

I aim to return graded work to you within one week of the due date. When this is not possible, I will send an announcement to the class.

Late Work

Late work is given a zero. Nevertheless, circumstances come up that draw our attention away from our schoolwork at times. Please communicate with the instructor as soon as possible before or following an incident or issue that affects your ability to complete an assignment on time.

Attendance Policy

Your attendance in this course is expected. You are expected to arrive on time to class, come prepared with materials completed before coming to class, and to participate in class for the duration of the class period. Information about the [University of North Texas' Attendance Policy](http://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-2) can be found here <http://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-2>.

COVID-19 Impact on Attendance

While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I may decide about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

Class Materials for Remote Instruction

Additional 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 to participate remotely. Additional required classroom materials for remote learning include: Zoom, Microsoft Office, Adobe, and Canvas. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at <https://online.unt.edu/learn>.

Statement on Face Covering

Face coverings are required in all UNT facilities. Students are expected to wear face coverings during this class. If you are unable to wear a face covering due to a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Access to request an accommodation. UNT face covering requirements are subject to change due to community health guidelines. Any changes will be communicated via the instructor.

Class Participation

Class participation is expected in all aspects of the course. This includes watching the lecture videos, completing homework, working with your group, and practicing the techniques in the activities. Your mastery of these behavior change techniques depends upon your active engagement with the material during and outside of class.

Assistance with the Course

Students are encouraged to contact the instructor (by email or during office hours) any time clarification or additional help in understanding the material is needed. Any questions that will aid you in mastering the material are welcomed.

Syllabus Change Policy

As the instructor of this course, I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time. Updates to this syllabus may include changes to the reading list, modified assignments, updates to due dates, etc. Changes will be communicated on the course Canvas page and via email. You are responsible for staying up to date with any syllabus changes.

UNT Policies

Please see “UNT Policies” in “Start Here” module in Canvas for important policies that apply to this course.

Academic Support & Student Services

Please see “Academic Support & Student Services under “Start Here” module in Canvas.