

Eastern Kentucky University
Department of Psychology
Syllabus for Psychology 846
Behavioral Research Methods
CRN 20313
3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Dr. Andrea Strait
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Class time: M 9:05-11:00 / W 9:05-9:55 Cammack 207

Catalogue Course Description: Theory and methods of contemporary practice of behavioral assessment and single subject research design. Supervised practice in clinical applications of assessment methods. Review of relevant learning theory and behavioral principles.

****Prerequisite: departmental approval.***

Text:

Cooper, J.O., Heron, T.E., and Heward, W.L. (2007). *Applied Behavior Analysis (2nd Edition)*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson: Merrill Prentice Hall.

Additional Required Reading:

Hale, A.D. & Hawkins, R.O. (2009). Assessment and evaluation of counseling outcomes. *Journal of Psychological Practice*, 15 (1), 1-23.

How to Make an Excel Graph Website

http://spreadsheets.about.com/od/excelcharts/ss/column_chart.htm

Student Learning Objectives:

When you have completed this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Understand the process and methodology of behavioral assessment and be able to apply it to clinical work. (assessed by Exams and functional behavior report assignment)
- Use behavioral assessment information to formulate cases and develop treatment plans. (assessed by Exams and functional behavior report assignment)
- Analyze a partial functional behavior assessment report to summarize information, determine hypothesis of the function of the behavior, and write appropriate, comprehensive, and research based recommendations (assessed by functional behavior assessment report assignment)
- Articulate the ethical and professional issues relevant to the practice of behavioral assessment and intervention (assessed by Exams)
- Understand and be able to apply single-case and other behavioral research methodologies (assessed by Exams and direct observation assignment)

- Be able to locate (using print as well as electronic media including EBSCOhost, ERIC, PsycINFO, and Science Direct databases available at ECU), read, and evaluate sources of information on empirically supported interventions and assessment procedures (assessed by research article review)
- Be able to create an appropriate Excel graph using a specified data set (assessed by Excel Graph Assignment)
- Articulate the cultural and diversity issues relevant to the practice of behavioral assessment and intervention (assessed by Exams).

Evaluation Methods:

Your progress toward accomplishing each of these objectives will be assessed by your performance on exams and homework assignments.

Student Progress:

Blackboard will be used to record student grades in this course. Each student can access this site to monitor his/her current grade in the course.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance in this course is mandatory. If a student has an excusable reason to be absent, the student must contact the instructor prior to the class he/she is going to miss. If an emergency occurs the student is expected to contact the instructor at the earliest possible opportunity. While attendance points are not given in the class, if a student misses more than 10% of the class meetings the instructor reserves the option to drop that student's grade by one letter grade. An additional letter grade may be dropped for each class meeting missed after the student has missed 10% of class meetings.

Student Expectations:

I expect that each student will have completed the assigned reading and be prepared to participate in class. I expect that each student will arrive to class on time, respect the comments and viewpoints of others, and complete all assignments by the given due date. I am committed to protecting the learning environment of all students; therefore, all electronic devices such as cell phones, Ipods, etc. should be turned off or silenced before the beginning of class. Text messaging will not be allowed during class time.

Disability Statement:

If you are registered with the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities, please obtain your accommodation letters from the OSID and present them to the course instructor to discuss any academic accommodations you need. If you believe you need accommodation and are not registered with the OSID, please contact the Office in Student Services Building Room 361 by e-

mail at disserv@eku.edu or by telephone at (859) 622-2933 V/TDD. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in an alternative format.

Academic Integrity Statement:

Students are advised that EKU's Academic Integrity policy will strictly be enforced in this course. The Academic Integrity policy is available at www.academicintegrity.eku.edu. Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Students found guilty of an academic honesty violation will receive a 0 on the assignment in question. Violations could also result in a 0 in the course and/or a referral to the Academic Council.

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating, and co-responsibility (i.e., "anyone who knowingly assists in any form of academic dishonesty shall be considered as guilty as the student who accepts such assistance").

Official E-mail:

An official EKU e-mail is established for each registered student, each faculty member, and each staff member. All university communications sent via e-mail will be sent to this EKU e-mail address.

Standards for Written Assignments:

Students in all psychology courses are expected to use correct grammar, spelling and composition in written assignments. These elements of writing will be taken into consideration in grading all out-of-class writing assignments.

Course Requirements:

Exams:

There will be **three** exams in this course including a **comprehensive** final exam. Each exam will be worth **100** points.

Data Sheet Group Homework Assignment:

Students will be assigned to groups of two or three. Each group will be provided with a description of a behavior. The students will develop a data sheet to measure that behavior. Specific instructions regarding this assignment will be provided in class. This homework assignment will be worth **25** points.

Each group member will complete a student evaluation form for each of the members. The electronic form can be found under the Assignments Tab on Blackboard. The completed form(s) should be submitted with the assignment via Blackboard.

Single-Subject Design Research Article Review:

Each student will find a single-subject research design article and use the information from that article to complete the article review. A single-subject design does not necessarily mean only one participant, but the number of participants should be low and single subject design methods must be used. Specific directions can be found under the Assignments Tab in Blackboard. This article must be from a scholarly (peer reviewed) journal. A copy of the article used must be provided with the article review. The article review will be worth **30 points**.

Direct Observation Assignment:

Students will be divided into teams of two or three and assigned to a teacher at Model Laboratory School. Each group will schedule a time to observe the classroom on two occasions. The target behavior will be on-task behavior. Each group will conduct an anecdotal observation as well as an observation using a data sheet developed by the group. This assignment will be worth **50 points**.

Each group member will complete a student evaluation form for each of the members. The electronic form can be found under the Assignments Tab on Blackboard. The completed form(s) should be submitted with the assignment via Blackboard.

Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) Report Assignment:

Students will be assigned to teams of two or three. Each team will be responsible for reviewing a partial functional behavior assessment report that will be provided by your instructor. Each team will then write the summary of the report which will include the hypothesis in regard to the function of the behavior. Each team will also write appropriate, comprehensive, and research based recommendations based on the information provided in the report. This assignment will be worth **50 points**.

Each group member will complete a student evaluation form for each of the members. The electronic form can be found under the Assignments Tab on Blackboard. The completed form(s) should be submitted with the assignment via Blackboard.

Excel Graph

Each student will be given a data set and each student will use that data set to construct an appropriate line graph using Excel. This assignment will be worth **25 points**.

Course Grades:

Grades for the course will be based on the percentage of total number of points accumulated during the semester. The total number of points available in this course is 480. Final letter grades will be determined as follows:

- A: 90-100% of total points available (432-480 points)
- B: 80-89% of total points available (384-431 points)
- C: 70-79% of total points available (336-383 points)
- F: 69-0% of total points available (335-0 points)

Course Outline

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Assignment Due
1/20 Wed	Introduction to Class and Syllabus Review		
1/25 MON	Introduction to Behavioral Theory and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 1	
1/27 WED	Introduction of Basic Behavior Concepts	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 2	
2/1 MON	Positive and Negative Reinforcement	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 12	
2/3 WED	Punishment	No additional reading assignment: Continued content from Chapter 2	
2/8 MON	Selecting and Defining Target Behaviors	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 3	
2/10 WED	No Class-NASP Conference		
2/15 MON	Selecting and Defining Target Behaviors (continued)	No additional reading assignment: Continued content from Chapter 3	
2/17 WED	Measuring Behavior and Applications in a Clinical Setting	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 4 & <u>Hale & Hawkins</u> (2009)	Single-Subject Design Research Article Review Due via Blackboard

2/22 MON	Measuring Behavior and Applications in a Clinical Setting Continued Data Sheet Group Homework Assignment Provided In Class	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 4 and <u>Hale & Hawkins</u> (2009) Continued	
2/24 WED	Assessing the Quality of Behavioral Measurement	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 5	
2/29 MON	Exam One		
3/2 WED	Functional Behavior Assessments: FBA Interview	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 24	Data Sheet Group Homework Assignment Due via Blackboard
3/7 MON	Functional Behavior Assessments Continued	No additional reading assignment: Continued content from Chapter 24	
3/9 WED	Reinforcement as an Intervention Component	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 11	
3/14 MON	SPRING BREAK NO CLASS		
3/16 WED	SPRING BREAK NO CLASS		
3/21 MON	Reinforcement as an Intervention Component Continued and Schedules of Reinforcement	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 13	

3/23 WED	Differential Reinforcement	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 22	
3/28 MON	Punishment as an Intervention Component	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 14	
3/30 WED	Punishment as an Intervention Component Continued	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 15	
4/4 MON	Punishment as an Intervention Component Continued & Stimulus Control	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 17	
4/6 WED	Extinction as an Intervention Component	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 21	Direct Observation Assignment Due via Blackboard
4/11 MON	Extinction as an Intervention Component Continued	No additional reading required	
4/13 WED	Ethical Considerations for Applied Behavior Analysts	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 29	
4/18 MON	Exam Two		

4/20 WED	Constructing and Interpreting Graphic Displays of Behavioral Data	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 6	
4/25 MON	Constructing and Interpreting Graphic Displays of Behavioral Data Continued and Analyzing Behavior Change: Basic Assumptions and Strategies	<u>Cooper</u> : Chapter 7	
4/27 WED	Analyzing Behavior Change: Basic Assumptions and Strategies Continued	No additional reading required	Functional Behavior Assessment Report Due via Blackboard

5/2 MON	Reversal, Alternating Treatment Designs, Multiple Baseline and Changing Criterion Designs	<u>Cooper:</u> Chapters 8 and 9	
5/4 WED	Planning and Evaluating Applied Behavior Analysis Research Applied Behavior Analysts	<u>Cooper:</u> Chapter 10	Excel Graph Due via Blackboard
5/11 WED	Comprehensive Final Exam from 8:00-10:00 AM		

Important Dates to Remember

Sunday, January 24	End of Add/Drop period: Last day to drop a course "Dropped" classes do not appear on student transcripts, last day to register for or add full-semester courses.
Sunday, February 14	Last day to withdraw without incurring withdraw fee (\$50.00 per credit hour)
March 14-18	SPRING BREAK
Sunday, April 10	Last day to withdraw from full-semester classes with a "W" grade or withdraw from the University
Friday, May 6	Regular class times end
Monday, May 9	Final Exams begin
Saturday, May 14	Final Exams end, Fall Semester ends
Monday, May 16	Final grades deadline: 1 PM, Faculty to submit online via Banner Faculty Web