PSY 205 Elementary Analysis of Behavior
Wintermester 2019

Number of Credits

3

Instructor

Laura Barcelos Nomicos M.A., BCBA

Catalog Description

Survey of principles of reinforcement theory in the analysis of behavior. Principles of learning demonstrated in the laboratory.

Required Textbooks/Materials

The following texts are required material in this course:

Miltenberger, R.G. (2014). *Behavior Modification: Principles and Procedures* (6th ed.). Cengage Learning

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to
- identify relations between an individual's behavior and environmental events in daily life;
- articulate behavioral phenomena using the terminology of behavioral science;
- compare, contrast, and evaluate different methods for measuring and changing behavior; and
- discuss ethical issues related to changing an individual's environment and behavior.

Course Details

This course is designed to introduce students to behavior analysis, a natural science approach to the study of environment-behavior relations. The primary focus of the course will be on the basic learning principles which describe how environment-behavior relations operate. The behavioral principles of interest are applicable across species, however, most of the examples provided will be from applied human research. By the end of the course you should be able to recognize most of these principles at work in your own everyday life.

You should plan to spend 1-3 hours studying the reading for each class. For textbook readings, I recommend

- considering (and answering) the "Practice Test" questions at the end of each chapter;
- making sure that you understand exactly what any tables and figures are showing;
- taking notes as you read; this includes writing down any questions that you have about the reading; and
- asking questions in class to clarify anything that you did not understand from the readings.

Assignments will include:

- Daily learning checks based on required readings for each class.
- Behavioral Terms—Every week you will be required to select 10 terms from the reading to define and give an example of from your everyday life. Both the definition and example are expected to be concise, the total assignment should not exceed 1 page. All terms should be taken from the readings from the previous week. A template will be provided.
- Behavioral Project—This assignment will give you the opportunity to use what you have learning in the class in your life. You will be required to observe, record, and attempt to change a behavior you engage in. The project consists of 3 components: a proposal, update, and final paper. This assignment will require your attention throughout the class, this will not be something you can do the day before. Once you select the target behavior you will be required to begin collecting data, this will continue daily throughout the semester. Templates will be provided.
- Exams—There will be a total of 2 exams including the final. You are responsible for all material covered in the readings and in class. While there will be overlap, this is not guaranteed for all material. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true-false, short answer, and diagramming questions. The exams will focus on the most current material; however, the material builds on itself making all tests essentially cumulative. Additionally, I may bring back old questions regarding especially important concepts.

Grade Breakdown

The percentage distribution for the course is:

Letter	Percentage
A	93–100
A-	90–92.5
B+	87–89.5
B	84–86.5
B-	80–83.5
C+	77–79.5
C	74–76.5

Letter	Percentage
C-	70–73.5
D+	67–69.5
D	63–66.5
D-	60–62.5
F	below 62