

EAB 3002: Principles of Behavior Analysis, Spring 2025

Instructor: Chris Podlesnik, PhD, BCBA-D

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Office: 320 Psychology Building

Office hours: Tuesday: 2:45-3:45pm; Friday: 10:00-11:00am

Class Time/Location:

Tuesday 1:55-2:45pm, Psychology Building 130

Thursday 1:55-3:20pm, Psychology Building 130

Graduate Teaching Assistant: TBD
Office Hours:
Zoom link:

UG Teaching Assistants: Khushi Desai, khushidesai@ufl.edu
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Course Description: Behavior allows organisms to interact with and adapt to environmental changes, whether those changes be for the better or worse for the organism. The goal of this course is to introduce you to the basic principles of behavior, or our understanding of how environmental changes result in changes in behavior. Understanding these principles leads to effective science and practice of behavior analysis, the field concerned with understanding and applying the principles of behavior. This course will focus on understanding the fundamental behavior principles underlying behavior as a natural science, including Pavlovian and operant learning. A different course, EAB 3764, focuses more on the application of those behavioral principles. Nevertheless, learning about these principles will provide insight into big questions, such as why your behavior changes depending on circumstances, why you feel, think, and imagine, why you sometimes procrastinate, and why some anxieties might not go away.

Course Objectives: After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the goals and practices of the field of behavior analysis
- Describe the rationale for the different approaches to measuring behavior
- Identify different research designs and the rationale for using them
- Describe Pavlovian conditioning and its common phenomena
- Describe operant conditioning the role of reinforcement in operant behavior
- Distinguish between positive and negative reinforcement
- Identify uses of extinction and differential reinforcement to influence operant behavior
- Distinguish between primary and conditioned reinforcer and their use in shaping
- Describe motivation from the perspective of behavior analysis
- Identify variables influencing the effectiveness of reinforcers
- Describe how habits are formed and changed through environmental contingencies
- Describe the different kinds of punishers and how they influence behavior
- Identify the different schedules of reinforcement and how they differentially affect behavior

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- Describe antecedent stimulus control and its importance when influencing behavior
- Describe the study of choice and its relevance to understanding impulsive choices
- Distinguish among the different types of verbal operants and their functions
- Identify how rules influence behavior differently from direct influence from the environment

Course Materials

1. Required Textbook: Madden, G. J., Reed, D. D., & DiGennaro Reed, F. D. (2021). *An Introduction to Behavior Analysis*. Wiley.

2. Honorlock: <https://pfs.tnt.aa.ufl.edu/media/dceufledu/pdfs/Honorlock-Student-Guide-UF-Update.pdf>

3. Google Chrome Web Browser

4. Bring notebook paper and pen/pencil to every class

5. Canvas

See link if you are unfamiliar with Canvas:

<https://elearning.ufl.edu/student-help/keep-learning/quickstart-guide-for-students/>

Completing assignments well before the deadline is a good idea. Extensions will not be given for student-based technical difficulties. If UF Canvas experiences technical difficulties (and we know when this happens), deadlines will be adjusted.

Assignments and Course Policies

Course Format: Classes generally will involve an interactive lecture with formal and informal opportunities to ask and answer questions. It is important to complete readings and guides on time before class begins and be prepared to participate in class activities and discussions. In-class materials are structured assuming some familiarity with the material through readings and guides. In-class activities will be completed for credit but only for those in attendance.

Attendance Policies: Attendance is a strong predictor of course performance. You should arrive on time, be prepared with appropriate materials, and remain on task throughout the course. Turn off any unnecessary devices, including phones. If you are unable to attend class or submit an assignment on time, be sure to make appropriate arrangements and plan to collect notes for any missed classes from a peer. Students must take all quizzes and submit assignments at scheduled times except for University approved reasons. Any absences or requests for an extension must be based on University approved reasons and must include proper documentation as per University guidelines from the Dean of Students. Please check your calendars against the course schedule. Requests for extensions must be made before the assignment deadline, if possible, or within 24 hours of the deadline for unexpected emergencies. Late assignments without approved extensions will not be accepted. If missing a quiz or exam, contact me, the graduate TA, and your assigned undergraduate TA as early

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and as soon as possible. Please send me formal documentation and arrange with your TA to take the quiz or exam early or a makeup as close to the scheduled time as possible. If you have a conflict due to a religious observance, please contact me and your TA at the beginning of the semester so we can make any necessary arrangements. For all attendance rules, we will follow the university attendance policies (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>).

Reading Guides: 25% of grade. Guides with specific questions will accompany all assigned readings and are in the Files section of Canvas. These guides are assigned to keep you up with course content and provide you with questions to assist you in applying and evaluating concepts more effectively than would a passive read. Questions on the guides will bring out the main themes of the readings and allow you to familiarize yourself with the topics before class. As with any course material, engaging actively with the material in as many ways as possible (e.g., flash cards) leads to better learning. Please read the preface of the textbook for advantages and strategies related to active studying. Also, please **do not confuse** the Reading Guides with the Practice Quizzes in each chapter, though I do recommend also completing the practice quizzes for yourself as you read the text.

Reading guides will be checked for completion, relevance, and thoroughness of your answer. Your answers should not be identical other students', online resources, or the textbook. Identical or incomplete answers will not be counted. If reading guides require you make graphs or you think a graph would be helpful for answering a question, either draw these by hand and take a picture or use graphing software – embed any graphs within the text of the Reading Guide. Please submit your completed guides to Canvas as a Microsoft Word file by the specified date/time. Late submissions also should be submitted via Canvas but will be penalized 10% per day but complete submissions after 5 days can earn up to 50% until the last day of classes for the semester. It is **your responsibility** to ensure the file(s) you upload to Canvas are correct and saved properly (e.g., by refreshing the screen, opening uploaded file(s)) to be counted as on time. Your score will reflect the assignment submitted by the deadline.

In-Class Activities: 20% of grade. Most classes will include activities to be submitted to me at the end of the class period. Please ensure you bring paper and a pen/pencil to every class. Your lowest two scores will be dropped, excluding unexcused absences.

Psychology Research Experience: 15% of grade. One of the goals of this course is to become familiar with the research process in psychology. To meet this goal, you must complete one of the two following options: (1) participate in research experiments in the psychology department via SONA or (2) write a critical-analysis paper of published research. As a student in this course, you must complete one of the two options. The information for this assignment is available on Canvas. Please let your undergraduate TA know if you want to do Option 2 by the date indicated in the [Research Experience guide](#). Articles for Option 2 are located in Files. Be sure to get started on this early to ensure you complete the requirements on time -- **do not leave these assignments for the very last moment, as there will be no way to complete them after the deadline!**

Quizzes: 40% of grade. Six quizzes will come from both the lectures and material covered in the textbook and generally cover 2-3 chapters/topics per quiz. Each quiz will be available on the day indicated in the Course Schedule from 12am to 11:59pm. The format for each exam could be mixed,

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including fill in the blank, multiple choice, matching, or true/false. **Quizzes will be taken through Honorlock via Google Chrome**, which you will need to download. See these Honorlock instructions for help installing and troubleshooting: <https://pfs.tnt.aa.ufl.edu/media/dceufledu/pdfs/Honorlock-Student-Guide-UF-Update.pdf> Launch your quizzes via the Honorlock link in Canvas, not the Quizzes link. Please take the Practice Quiz before Quiz 1 to sort out any problems. If you have any problems during a quiz, please make use of the chat bubble at the bottom-right of the screen for help.

Final Exam: The Final Exam will be cumulative and optional. The format for each exam could be mixed, including fill in the blank, multiple choice, and true/false. Use the Reading Guides, lecture slides, and your course notes to study for quizzes. If your score on the Final Exam is greater than your lowest quiz score, your Final Exam score will replace your lowest quiz score. If your score on the Final Exam is lower than all quiz scores, it will not count against you.

Grades: This course follows standard university grading policies (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>):

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A	92-100%	Reading Guides	25%
A-	90-92%	In-Class Activities	20%
B+	87-89%	Psychology Research Experience	5%
B	83-86%	Quizzes	45%
B-	80-82%		
C+	77-79%		
C	73-76%		
C-	70-72%		
D	60-69%		
E	<60%		

Course Schedule: Please note there is some chance I might modify the schedule and/or readings but I will let you know ahead of time. Any changes will be announced via Canvas. If a class is canceled (e.g., due to inclement weather), be prepared to cover the material or take the quiz during the next scheduled class meeting.

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Date	Day	Chapter Due or Exam	In-Class Assignment
14-Jan	Tue	Syllabus & Course Overview	
16-Jan	Th	01 An Introduction to Behavior Analysis	#1
21-Jan	Tue	02 Understanding Behavioral Research	#2
23-Jan	Th	03 Experimental Designs in Behavior Analysis	#3
28-Jan	Tue	04 Phylogenetic Behavior and Pavlovian Learning	#4
30-Jan	Th	continue; Quiz 1: Ch 1-3	#5
4-Feb	Tue	05 Operant Learning I: Reinforcement	#6
6-Feb	Th	continue	#7
11-Feb	Tue	06 Operant Learning II: Positive and Negative Reinforcement	#8
13-Feb	Th	continue; Quiz 2: Ch 4-5	#9
18-Feb	Tue	07 Extinction and Differential Reinforcement	#10
20-Feb	Th	continue	#11
25-Feb	Tue	08 Primary and Conditioned Reinforcement and Shaping	#12
27-Feb	Th	continue; Quiz 3: Ch 6-7	#13
4-Mar	Tue	09 Motivation, Reinforcer Efficacy, Habit Formation	#14
6-Mar	Th	continue	#15
11-Mar	Tue	10 Punishment	#16
13-Mar	Th	continue; Quiz 4: Ch 8-9	#17
18-Mar	Tue	No Class - Spring Break	
20-Mar	Th	No Class - Spring Break	
25-Mar	Tue	11 Complex Contingencies of Reinforcement	#18
27-Mar	Th	continue	#19
1-Apr	Tue	12 Antecedent Stimulus Control	#20
3-Apr	Th	continue; Quiz 5: Ch 10-11	#21
8-Apr	Tue	13 Choice	#22
10-Apr	Th	continue	#23
15-Apr	Tue	14 Verbal Behavior, Rule-Following, Clinical Behavior Analysis	#24
17-Apr	Th	continue; Quiz 6: Ch 12-13	#25
22-Apr	Tue	continue; Quiz 7: Ch 14; Option 2 papers due	#26
24-Apr	Th	No Class - Study Day	
2-May	Fri	Final Exam, 7:30-9:30am	

Communication:

- If you have a general question about the course, post it on the general Discussion board in Canvas. If it is something you would raise your hand to ask in class, it belongs on this board. Feel free to use this board to communicate with each other, set up study groups, etc. Please do not post material that is inappropriate and/or not relevant to the course.
- You will be assigned an undergraduate TA. This will be the person to contact first if you have any issues or questions too personal or not appropriate for the General Discussion board.
- If you have a question about your grade, **message your TA**. DO NOT post information about your grade on the General Discussion board.
- Only use your **UFL email address** when communicating about this course via email.
- All interactions with instructors and among class members are expected to be professional and appropriate.

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Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Honesty/Misconduct: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.”

A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
2. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student."

Regulations of the University of Florida, 6C1-4.047 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code: <https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/4-040/>

For a violation or violations of the Honor Code, a student may receive any of the sanctions that can be imposed for Student Conduct Code violations, including but not limited to conduct probation, suspension and expulsion as well as any educational sanctions. In addition, students may receive the following:

1. Assignment grade penalty. The student is assigned a grade penalty on an assignment including but not limited to a zero.
2. Course grade penalty. The student is assigned a grade penalty in the entire course including but not limited to an 'E'."

In-Class Recording: Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a

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University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Sexual Harassment: Sexual Harassment is not tolerated in this class, in the Department of Psychology, or at the University of Florida. Sexual harassment includes: the inappropriate introduction of sexual activities or comments in a situation where sex would otherwise be irrelevant. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and a violation of state and federal laws as well as of the policies and regulations of the university. All UF employees and students must adhere to UF’s sexual harassment policy which can be found here: <https://hr.ufl.edu/forms-policies/policies-managers/sexual-harassment/>

Please review this policy and contact a university official if you have any questions about the policy. As mandatory reporters, university employees (e.g., administrators, managers, supervisors, faculty, teaching assistants, staff) are required to report knowledge of sexual harassment to UF’s Title IX coordinator. For more information about UF’s Title IX office see: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/>

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

- *U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care [website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center:* Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center [website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

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- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center [website](#).
- *University Police Department*: Visit UF Police Department [website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center [website](#).
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell [website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu, [website](#).
- Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. [Website](#). Career assistance and counseling services.
- Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- Teaching Center: 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. [Website](#). General study skills and tutoring.
- Writing Studio: Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). [Website](#). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; Visit the Complaint Portal [website](#) for more information.
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): View the Student Complaint Procedure [website](#) for more information.