

EAB 4184: Behaviorism and Contemporary Society

Spring, 2024

Class

Tues Periods 5-6, 11:45 AM - 1:40 PM

[FAB 0103](#)

Thurs Period 6, 12:50 PM - 1:40 PM

[LIT 0113](#)

Professor

Jesse Dallery, Ph.D.

Office Hrs: T 2-3:00

Psychology 92 or <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/96214740510>

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Teaching Assistants

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Overview

Most challenges we face in society are behavioral in nature. Consider: addiction, crime and delinquency, overconsumption, corruption, domestic violence, child abuse, climate change, prejudice, terrorism. This course will explore how a behavior analytic perspective may help us face these challenges, and understand and change the world in which we live. During the first part of the course we will analyze the philosophy of behaviorism, and become familiar with core concepts and terms that will guide our later discussions. During the next part of the course, we will ask how a science of behavior might shed light on our social ills, and whether these insights might be useful in generating treatments targeting individual behavior change, and public policies and collective action targeting broad social change. Like all courses I teach, my more ambitious goal for the course is to change your life.

Format

Class will be held in-person on the specified dates and times. We will use a variety of activities to analyze and digest the challenging and provocative issues raised during this class. We will use class discussion, collaborative projects, small group discussion, and interactive lectures.

A behavioral approach to teaching and learning will be used in this class. You will be provided with study guides each week, quizzed frequently, and receive immediate feedback on your performance.

Readings

The required text is Johnston's Talking about Behavior: Radical Behaviorism for ABA Practitioners, Second Edition. Buy it asap. And don't worry, you don't need to be an ABA practitioner. I define "practitioner" as someone interested in understanding and solving behavior problems. That's everybody in this class. Note: the course is structured based on the **second edition**. You can buy the [ebook](#) or hard copy. In general I recommend the hard copy, and in particular if you plan to pursue advanced academic study or a career in behavior analysis.

Articles in pdf format will be available in Canvas. The readings should be done carefully. To help focus your reading and comprehension I will provide study guides for the readings. *The amount of reading for each class may be more than you are used to. It will be extremely difficult to procrastinate and digest the material in one sitting.*

Course Communications

Please use Canvas to message me or the TAs. Expect us to respond within 24 hrs during the week and 48 hrs during the weekend. You should check Canvas and your email for any updates on a daily basis during the week.

How You'll Be Graded

Study Guides: I will provide study guides for all readings. During the first half of the semester, you will submit the completed study guide online before Tuesday's class (i.e., by 11:45am). It will be worth 5 points. A completed study guide with answers that are in your own words and reflect the material from the body of the chapters will receive full credit. Do not use online or passed down versions of the study guides. Some guides contain incorrect information. Your study guide needs to be completed based on your own reading of the chapters. This is an honor code issue.

I will provide a completed study guide each week. It will be released in the "Discussions" at 11:45am on Tuesdays and you can (and should) post any questions, confusions, clarifications, whatever, in the discussion forum. Posts should be made in advance of the quiz on Thursdays (i.e., if you post a question right before class it is likely I will not be able to get to it in time.)

Discussion Posts: During the second half of the semester, you will provide an insight and/or counterpoint (a so called "TAMI", you'll see why later) based on the readings in an online

discussion post. The TAMI will be worth 5 points. I will provide a rubric and more details, but the TAMI should present specific material from the reading and reflect considered thought about the readings (e.g., by linking it to readings/content from the first half of the semester). TAMIs are due on the first date listed for each week's topic by **11:45 am**, which will always be a Tuesday.

Quizzes: Each Thursday there will be a short quiz that will cover material from the classes since the last quiz, and the assigned readings for that week. Quizzes will be worth 5-10 points. Quiz questions may come from the study guides, but they will cover all readings and all class content. The format will be multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and some short answer may be included. Quizzes will be taken either by students individually (5 min time cap), or in small groups (variable time cap). I will let you know the format the day of the quiz. Quizzes will be collected at the end of class, and students must be present to submit the quiz. The quizzes will be scheduled on the second date listed for each week's topic.

Remedial/Make Up: At the end of the course you will have the opportunity to take a remedial/make-up quiz. The remedial can replace a missed quiz or a poor grade. I will simply drop your lowest quiz score to compute your grade.

Midterm and Final: The midterm and final will be worth 40 points each. Each will consist of 20 multiple choice questions (1 pt each) and two essays (10 points each). I will give you the essay questions ~2 weeks before the test. The midterm will be held in class 10/13, and the final is scheduled for 12/15 5:30-7:30.

Participation: Participation will be worth 60 points. You will have the opportunity to self-evaluate your participation at 2 timepoints during the semester (midterm and at the end of the course). I will provide a rubric, and you will submit your grade at each timepoint. We will review your self-evaluation and either concur, or we will provide feedback and enter a lower or a higher number.

In-class activities: Activities will occur in-class, and when they do occur and a [permanent product](#) is collected they will be worth 2 points. (If you miss the class for the activity, you may request an alternate activity within 7 days of the class. The alternate activity will be a 1 page, single-spaced review of a journal article. Email Dr. Dallery for the article. It is your responsibility to email Dr. Dallery if you are absent. The summary will be due 7 days after you make the request (by 11:59pm).

Grading

Tests	Points	Grade	Percentage Range
Quizzes (~12xTBD)	~90	A	93-100
Study Guides & Discussion Posts	60	A-	90-93
Midterm	40	B+	87-90

Final	40	B	83-87
Participation	60	B-	80-83
In-class activities	~20	C+	77-80
		C	73-77
		C-	70-73
		D+	67-70
		D	63-67
		D-	60-63
		E	<60

Note: There is no rounding.

Specialization Track in Behavior Analysis

The Department of Psychology offers a specialization track in Behavior Analysis. The curriculum includes coursework in behavior analysis, psychology, statistics, mathematics, and biology. Please click [here](#) for more information.

COURSE POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

1. Do not post or share any material from this course to any online platform, or share it in any way electronically (e.g., groupme). Do not use material from previous courses posted online (some of it is incorrect).
2. Use of electronics during class is prohibited. Exemptions may be granted.
3. All interactions with instructors and among class members are expected to be professional and appropriate.
4. Announcements will be made periodically about class issues (such as reminders about upcoming assignments). These will be visible on our course's home page. Students are responsible for all announcements made there.
5. Extension of deadlines may be requested for assignments and quizzes. Any requests for an extension must be based on University approved [reasons](#) and must include proper documentation as per University guidelines. 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.
6. This course adheres to all University Policies. See <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/> for useful information at the Dean of Students Office webpage.
7. Academic Honesty. This course uses the definitions and guidelines for academic honesty as described by the Dean of Students Office. <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/> The following is text that is required in every course syllabus regarding academic honesty: "Cheating is defined in the UF Handbook, and it is the student's responsibility to be familiar with its many forms (including plagiarism). If a student is caught cheating, the first offense will result in a zero for that exam or assignment and a record of the event will be placed in a temporary file with the Office of Student Affairs. The second offense will result in an 'E' for the course, and the student will go before the Honor Court. As a result of completing registration at UF, every student has agreed to the following statement: I understand that UF expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

8. Students with disabilities requesting accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. See <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/> for details.
9. Religious Observances. Please check your calendars against the course syllabus. If you have a conflict due to religious observance you should contact me as soon as possible so that we can make any necessary arrangements.
10. 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>.
11. Sickness policy: If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated. Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
12. 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/>. You can also complete a Sexual Harassment Report online (Title IX) at: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/title-ix-reporting-form/>.
13. Syllabus Change Policy. Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change.