

EAB 4714C: Laboratory in Applied Behavior Analysis Syllabus, Fall 2023

General

Undergraduate lab meetings (EAB 4714C) (room 130 Psychology): Mondays, 11:45 pm ~ 1:30 pm (plus other lab activities: approximately 2-4 hours/week, see below)

Other Lab Activities

You will be assigned to one of six groups. Students will participate in the following activities throughout the semester. Each week we will announce these activities by assigned group, sometimes you will have a choice of which to attend. Each week you are likely to do **ONE** of these types of activities (**not the entire list!**).

1. Applied research/clinical apprenticeship. Duties will include but are not limited to: behavioral observation, data analysis, scoring videos, literature reviews, etc. These could take place at UF CAN (center for autism and neurodevelopment) or on campus, or as independently assigned work.
2. Specialty clinic rounds. Duties will include attending clinical case reviews for specialty clinics in pediatric feeding, severe behavior, and early learning. These could involve zoom or in-person meetings at UF CAN.
3. Flex lab. Duties will include attending BARC (third floor of psychology building) to complete lab-related assignments or to meet with research team members or TAs. The time you select is largely “flexible,” but from a choice among available scheduled times. This is in room 375 Psychology.
4. Graduate student lab meeting. Duty will be to attend lab meeting on Monday (4-6 PM), and to carry out assignments discussed at that meeting. This takes place on campus or via zoom.
5. Monthly lab meeting. Duty will be to attend monthly larger lab meeting that includes professors, post-doctoral associates, and graduate students. This takes place at UF CAN or via zoom.
6. Presentations. Duty will be to attend announced presentations in various forums (seminars, undergraduate clubs, guest presenters).
7. Independent activity. Duty will be to carry out an independent activity such as an on-line training, data analysis, lab exercise, etc.

Flex lab hours: Tuesdays 1-2:30 (Janae’); Mondays 10:30-11:30 (Angie)

Professor: Timothy R. Vollmer, Ph.D., BCBA-D (vollmera@ufl.edu, Office: PSY 331)

Graduate Teaching Assistants: Angie Van Arsdale, M.A., BCBA; Janae’ Pendergrass

Dr. Vollmer’s Student Hours Monday 1:30-3:30 PM

TA student hours: During Flex Lab

Description

This is a course on research methods and applications in behavior analysis. It is designed around a working laboratory so that advanced undergraduate students can experience conditions similar to those encountered in graduate school. Thus, course content changes somewhat from semester-

to-semester based on current research in progress. General topics to be covered include but are not limited to observation of human behavior in applied settings, assessment of interobserver agreement, data graphing and analysis, reinforcer assessments, functional analysis of behavior disorders, ethics, and intervention strategies. Although most of the assigned readings and lab work focus on specialized topics, the skills taught are general in nature and provide you with a strong empirical background for graduate study in a range of different areas (e.g., psychology, public health, rehabilitation, special education).

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Perform research activities and clinical behavior analysis skills, including but not limited to collecting data, calculating interobserver agreement, graphing, and conducting preference assessments.
2. Discuss and critique published research.
3. Discuss and answer questions about current research projects and behavior analysis ethics.
4. Display an ongoing lab log of lab activities.

Text

All course-related information including reading assignments will be posted on the Canvas website. You can access the site by logging in at: <https://ufl.instructure.com> with your username and password (the same as your UF account). Please check the site frequently because assignment changes will be posted there.

Lab Meetings

The weekly on-campus lab meeting is held on Mondays from 11:45 AM until about 1:30 PM. Most weeks, the meeting will include a) a quiz over the reading assignment and the prior meeting's discussion, b) announcements and introductions from Dr. Vollmer and Angie, c) a review of the reading assignment, and its relation to one of our lab's research programs, d) a summary of new or recent research in the lab or work being done by one of the groups in our lab, e) group discussion, and f) introduction to your weekly lab assignment.

Lab Activities

- a) You will attend on-campus Monday lab meeting
- b) You will attend your assigned lab activity (see list above). These activities will vary but will be announced weekly.
- c) Reading assignments will be provided to you the week prior to the due date. We do not know the exact order of readings yet, due to fluctuating activities of the lab, but you will be provided with a complete list of readings that you will have accomplished by the end of the semester and a "moving" list each week.

Flex Lab

There will be two 1.0-1.5-hour periods when the Behavior Analysis Research Clinic will be open, Flex lab may be used for assistance, completing lab assignments, or getting advice from the teaching assistants or Dr. Vollmer.

Writing Requirement

The course includes a significant writing component (at least 6000 words). We have included several writing aids, and a template. Grammar instructions are posted on the course website, and you are encouraged to review these materials *before and while* preparing article summaries. You will usually be given feedback on writing assignments within one week.

Attendance and Make-up Work

Requirements for lab meeting attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Grading

- a) Lab Activities. There will be weekly lab assignments (60 points). You will receive a 5-point grade 12 times during the semester. Note: each week that there is a quiz, there will also be a lab activity grade.
- b) Lab Reports: You will submit lab reports 12 times during the semester, using a template/rubric that will be provided on Canvas (5 points per segment, 12 times per semester= 60 points). Note: each week that there is a quiz, there will also be a lab report due too.
- c) Final lab report (20 points). As your final project, you will turn in an edited lab report based on weekly suggestions.
- d) Weekly quizzes: Quizzes (5 pts each) will cover the current reading assignment plus the prior meeting's discussion. There will be 12 such quizzes (60 points)

186-200 = A

180-185.9 = A-

174-179.9 = B+

166-173.9 = B

160-165.9 = B-

154-159.9 = C+

146-153.9 = C

140-145.9 = C-

134-139.9 = D+

126-133.9 = D

120-125.9 = D-

Below 120 = does not pass

You can see current UF grading policies at

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Lab Meeting</i> | <i>Laboratory Assignments</i> |
|-------------|--|--|
| 8-28 | Syllabus (Dr. Vollmer) Lab overview (Dr. Vollmer) HIPAA etc. (Angie) | Lab: HIPAA, IRB, safe and respectful campus training Reading assignment for next week |
| 9-4 | No lab meeting: Labor Day | |

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| 9-11 | Quiz 1 and Lab Report 1 Overview of UF CAN (Dr. Peters) | Lab: to be assigned in class Reading assignment for next week |
| 9-18 | Quiz 2 and Lab Report 2 Overview of functional analysis (Dr. Vollmer) | Lab: to be assigned in class Reading assignment for next week |
| 9-25 | Quiz 3 and Lab Report 3 Overview of behavioral treatment (Dr. Vollmer) | Lab: to be assigned in class Reading assignment for next week |
| 10-2 | Quiz 4 and Lab Report 4 Overview of pediatric feeding (Angie VanArsdale) | Lab: to be assigned in class Reading assignment for next week |
| 10-09 | Quiz 5 and Lab Report 5 The role of NCR in pediatric feeding interventions (Angie VanArsdale) | Lab: to be assigned in class Reading assignment for next week |
| 10-16 | Quiz 6 and Lab Report 6 Evaluating the role of pain and discomfort during behavioral treatment (Janae' Pendergrass) | Lab: to be assigned in class Reading assignment for next week |
| 10-23 | Quiz 7 and Lab Report 7 Social Preference in Autism (Stephanie Gonzalez) | Lab: to be assigned in class Reading assignment for next week |
| 10-30 | Quiz 8 and Lab Report 8 Pediatric feeding study (Nikki Perrino) | Lab: to be assigned in class No reading assignment |
| 11-6 | Quiz 9 and Lab Report 9 Functional analysis research (Justin Han) | Lab: to be assigned in class Reading assignment for next week |
| 11-13 | Quiz 10 and Lab Report 10 Pediatric feeding study (RJ Clark) | Lab: to be assigned in class Reading for next week |
| 11-20 | Quiz 11 and Lab Report 11 Severe behavior research (Kacie McGarry) | No lab duties Reading for next week |
| 11-27 | Quiz 12 and Lab Report 12 Toilet training research (Brandon Perez) | Lab: to be assigned No reading for next week |
| 12-4 | No quiz Final Lab Report Semester summary (Dr. Vollmer) | Final (revised) lab report is due |
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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 Policy

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/>

Student Considerations

Should any unforeseen problems arise during the term, please contact Dr. Vollmer or Savannah Tate. Students needing special consideration should contact the Disabilities Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc) for appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.