

EAB 4714C: Laboratory in Applied Behavior Analysis Syllabus, Spring, 2025

General

Lab meetings: Mondays, 11:45 pm ~ 1:30 pm (plus other project and activity time, see below)

Flex Lab: Flex lab is offered two times per week except for university holidays. The purpose of flex lab is to provide additional support for carrying out lab assignments and reports.

Lab meeting room: Weimer Hall, Room 1064.

Flex Lab meeting room: Third floor Psychology Building, Behavior Analysis Research Clinic, Room 375

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

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Nikki Perrino, (Office: PSY 375, nicoleperrino@ufl.edu)

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Laura DeZayas (Office: PSY 349, dezayasl@ufl.edu)

Dr. Vollmer's Student Hours: Monday 1:30-3:30 PM in PSY 331

Nikki's Flex Lab Hours: Monday 1:30-3:00 in PSY 375

Laura Flex Lab Hours: Monday 10:00-11:30 in PSY 349 or 375

Nikki and Laura's Student Hours: By appointment.

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, education, special education).

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

1. Evaluate and critique manuscripts and publications
2. Complete research proposals
3. Summarize and graphically display single-case data evaluations.

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. The meeting may include a) a quiz over the reading assignment, b) announcements and introductions from Dr. Vollmer, c) a review of the reading or one of our lab's research programs, or some combination of these, d) data presentation on one current study, e) a description of the upcoming lab assignment, f) work time for upcoming lab assignment, and g) a brief participation quiz.

Lab Activities

- a) You will attend on-campus Monday lab meeting.
- b) You will attend flex lab and/or work independently on weekly research-based activities.
- c) Reading assignments will be provided to you the week prior to the due date. We do not know the exact order 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.
- d) You will construct a research proposal as part of the 6,000-word writing requirement.

Flex Lab

There will be two 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 on your projects.

Writing Requirement

The course includes a significant writing component (at least 6,000 words). The writing will consist of a series of writing assignments, culminating in a complete research proposal based on your work in the lab class. You will be given feedback on writing assignments including grammar, punctuation, clarity, coherence, and organization within one week. The Writing Requirement ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning. Course grades have two components. To receive writing requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of C or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course. If you need assistance with writing, come to flex lab, student hours, or schedule an appointment with the UF [Writing Studio](#).

Focus on ethical application

Each week there will be a focus on ethical application threaded in the discussion. The meetings will center specifically around ethics via the reading assignment and via the in-lab discussion.

Attendance and Make-up Work

Any missed reading quizzes must be made up during flex labs within two weeks for excused absences. Participation quizzes can be made up by writing brief (1-2 page) article critiques, within two weeks for excused absences. The article critique should include a one-paragraph summary, one paragraph on potential contributions of the study, one paragraph on potential limitations of the study, and one paragraph on future directions for the particular line of research. Note: these are only done as make-ups for participation quizzes. Requirements for lab meeting

attendance and make-ups, 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) **Proposals (100 pts).** There will be five proposal writing assessments spread throughout the semester, which will ultimately produce a written proposal. Each segment is worth 20 points (see calendar for each segment).
- b) **Participation Quizzes (60 pts).** Attendance at lab meetings is mandatory, as is attendance at lab-related project appointments or flex lab when specified. There will be a brief participation quiz at the end of lab meetings (5 pts x 12 quizzes = 60 points). 1 point for attendance, 1 point for each correct answer (out of four).
- c) **Reading quizzes (35 pts).** Seven quizzes (5 pts each) will cover the current reading assignment.
- d) **Initial lab requirements (5 pts).** **Week one assignment will cover various ethical requirements.**

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>Lab Assignments</i>
1-13	Syllabus (Dr. Vollmer) Lab overview (Dr. Vollmer) Ethics and HIPAA etc. (Nikki Perrino)	Lab: HIPAA training, IRB training, and safe and respectful campus training due by 1-27 (5 points). Reading assignment for next week BACB ethical guidelines
1-20	No lab meeting: MLK holiday	
1-27	Reading Quiz 1/ Participation Quiz 1 Ethics: Overview of ethical practices in behavioral assessment and intervention (Dr. Vollmer). Sample data review	FA reading assignment for next week TBA
2-3	Reading Quiz 2/Participation Quiz 2 Article review (Dr. Vollmer) Social reinforcement (Laura DeZayas).	Social reinforcement reading assignment for next week TBA

	Sample data review	
2-10	Reading Quiz 3/Participation Quiz 3 Article review (Laura DeZayas) Ethics Practices in pediatric feeding assessment and intervention (Nikki Perrino). Sample data review	Reading assignment TBA
2-17	Reading Quiz 4/Participation Quiz 4 Article and data review (Nikki Perrino) Proposal assignment 1: Aim assignment	Proposal assignment 1: Aims (due 2/24)
2/24	No reading quiz Functional communication training study (Arielle Marshall) Participation Quiz 5	Reading assignment for next week TBA
3/3	Proposal writing assignment 2: Structured abstracts In-class work time Participation Quiz 6	Structured abstracts with revised aims due on March 10.
3/10	No reading quiz Grooming study (Janae' Pendergrass) Participation Quiz 7	Reading assignment for next week TBA
3/17	Spring break	
3/24	Reading Quiz 5 Article review Proposal writing assignment 3: Introduction and methods In-class work time Participation Quiz 8	Introduction and methods due on 3/31 along with revised structured abstract
3/31	No reading quiz Sociability study (Laura DeZayas) Participation Quiz 9	Reading assignment for next week TBA
4/7	Reading Quiz 6 Article review Proposal writing assignment 4: Results and discussion. In-class work time Participation Quiz 10	Results and discussion are due on 4-14 along with revised introduction and methods
4/14	No reading quiz Smith Magenis Syndrome Participation Quiz 11	Reading assignment for next week TBA

4/21	Reading Quiz 7 In-class work time Participation Quiz 12	Final project (with all revisions) due 4/29 at 5:00 PM (but accepted as early as end of 4/21 class period)
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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. 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.