

**EAB 4930: Advanced Seminar in Behavior Analysis:  
Advanced Topics on Behavioral Processes, Spring 2023**

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**Office:** 320 Psychology Building

**Office hours:** By appointment

**Time/Location:** McCarty Hall A (MCCA 1142)

Tuesday 3:00-4:55pm

Thursday 4:05-4:55pm

**Graduate Teaching Assistant:** Kyleigh Montague, kyleighmontague@ufl.edu

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**Course Description:** Behavior results from fundamental processes that translate experience into action. This course will cover a range of experimental and theoretical approaches to understanding behavioral processes relevant to major concepts in behavior analysis, including reinforcement, punishment, conditioning, stimulus control, etc. Understanding the processes potentially underlying behavioral phenomena equips researchers and clinicians with frameworks and principled approaches to asking research questions and implementing interventions. The goal of this course is to provide students of behavior analysis with additional tools for understanding and explaining behavior.

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

- Identify the simple and more complex forms of behavior and learning
- Describe how fundamental research on reflexes and classical conditioning provide insight into the relation between learning and biological processes
- Describe different theoretical approaches to understanding classical conditioning
- Describe how fundamental research on stimulus control provides insight into complex discriminations and concept formation
- Identify how economic approaches to understanding operant behavior conceptualize reinforcers and their effectiveness
- Describe the different types of aversive control, its importance for survival, and the variables influencing its effectiveness
- Evaluate how extinction affects both operant behavior and induces other patterns of behavior
- Explain how reinforcement contingencies directly and indirectly contribute to the variability in behavior
- Describe how choice is fundamental to understanding operant behavior generally and ways of conceptualizing how consequences affect choice
- Identify different interpretations of how events described as conditioned reinforcers influence operant behavior
- Explain how concepts of induction, allocation, and contingency can explain concepts such as stimulus control, misbehavior, and extinction
- Identify how a contextual account of relapse conceptualizes how environmental events influence the elimination and return of behavior
- Describe how narrative and quantitative theories differ in accounting for the influence of environmental variables on behavior

**Course Material:** There is no textbook. Instead, all articles and book chapters are available within Files through Canvas. Reading Guides are available for all required readings within Files through Canvas. Completing these guides while reading will assist you in applying and evaluating concepts from the readings more effectively than would a passive read. As with any course material, engaging actively with the material in as many ways as possible (e.g., flash cards) leads to better learning.

**Course Format:** Classes generally will involve a guided discussion with formal and informal opportunities to ask and answer questions throughout my lecture. 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 sometimes be completed for extra credit but only for those in attendance.

**Attendance Policies:** Attendance is a strong predictor of course performance. If you are unable to attend class, be sure to collect notes for any missed classes from a peer. Students must take all exams and submit assignments at scheduled times, unless you have formal documentation of a university-approved excuse (e.g., university-sanctioned event, illness). If missing an exam, contact me as early and as soon as possible, send me formal documentation, and arrange with the graduate teaching assistant to take the exam early or a makeup as close to the scheduled exam time as possible. For all attendance rules, we will follow the university attendance policies (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>).

**Reading Guides:** 20% 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. Reading guides will be checked for completion, as well as relevance and thoroughness of your answer. Your answers should not be identical other students', online resources, or the readings. Identical or incomplete answers will not be counted.

If reading guides require you make graphs or would be helpful for answering a question, either draw these by hand to take a picture or use graphing software – embed any graphs within the text. 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 of the semester. It is your responsibility to ensure the file(s) you upload to Canvas saved properly (e.g., refreshing the screen, opening uploaded file(s), screen shot).

**Exams:** 80% of grade. Four exams will comprise the largest evaluation for this course. The format for each exam could be mixed, including fill in the blank, multiple choice, true/false, and longer written answers. I will provide any scantrons needed but please bring pencils and your UFID to all exams. I will provide a Study Guide to accompany each exam, which will be available within Files through Canvas.

Exams 1-4 are not cumulative, and each will include material covered in the weeks since the previous exam. The final Exam 5 is both cumulative and optional. If your score on the final Exam 5 is greater than your lowest score, your Exam 5 score will replace your lowest exam grade. If your score on the Final Exam 5 is lowest, it will not count against you. I will provide a separate study guide for the cumulative final, generally consisting of a selection of study objectives from Exams 1-4. After each exam, you will have the opportunity to see and ask questions about your exam at the beginning of a subsequent class in which we go over the exam, as well as by making an appointment through the graduate teaching assistant.

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

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A	92-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
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 or the course listserv. If a class is canceled (e.g., due to inclement weather), be prepared to cover the material or take the exam during the next scheduled class meeting.

**University Policy on 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.

**University Honesty Policy:** 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.”

**University Policy on 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 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.

**University Policy on Course Evaluation:** 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/>

You can also complete a Sexual Harassment Report online (Title IX) at: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/title-ix-reporting-form/>

## Campus Resources

### Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
- University Police Department: 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).  
<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

### Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>, Call: 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)
- Career Resource Center: <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.
- Library Support: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>, Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center: <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- Writing Studio: <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Student Complaints Campus: [https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF\\_Complaints\\_policy.pdf](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf)  
On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>