

PSYC 3347, Behavior Modification, Spring 2025

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday by appointment

Course: PSYC 3347, Behavior Modification, CRN 21674

Mode of Instruction: In-person

Class Days/Times: Monday/Wednesday: 3:00pm-4:20pm

Location: Psychology 308

Term: Spring 2025

Prerequisites: PSYC 1301, PSYC 3201, PSYC 3101

Course Description

This course will provide an introductory overview of the principles of behavior modification. The course will introduce students to research methods used in the field of behavior modification, the fundamental principles of behavior change, and the application of these principles across a variety of contexts.

Course Goals/Student Learning Objectives

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the basic principles and procedures of behavior modification.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the basic components of a behavior modification program/protocol
- Discuss the application of behavior modification principles to increase and decrease target behaviors
- Discuss the application of behavior modification techniques across different contexts
- Describe approaches to collecting and working with behavioral data in the context of behavior modification
- Demonstrate understanding of how basic principles of classical and operant conditioning are applied in behavior modification.
- Think critically about modifying your own behaviors

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

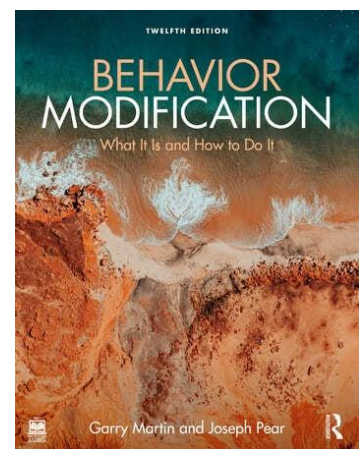
Behavior Modification: What It Is and How to Do it (12th Edition)

Garry Martin & Joseph Pear, Routledge.

ISBN-9781032233154 (Paperback)

ISBN-9781032233147 (Hardback)

Additional course materials will be announced and posted on Blackboard.



Course Schedule

WEEK			CLASS TOPIC(S) FOR THE WEEK	READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS
			Introduction to the course; What is behavior? What is behavior modification?	
1	W	1/22/2025	Historical Highlights in the Field of Behavior Modification	Syllabus; Chapter 1
2	M	1/27/2025 &	Behavior Modification: Applications	Chapter 2; Quiz 1
	W	1/29/2025	Defining and Measuring Behavior	Chapter 3
3	M	2/3/2025 &	Research Methods in Behavior Modification	Chapter 4; Quiz 2
	W	2/5/2025		
4	M	2/10/2025 &	Classical (Respondent) Conditioning	Chapter 5; Quiz 3
	W	2/12/2025		
5	M	2/17/2025 &	Increasing Behavior: Positive and Conditioned Reinforcement EXAM 1: 2/19/2025	Chapters 6, 7; Quiz 4
	W	2/19/2025		
6	M	2/24/2025 &	Decreasing Behavior: Extinction and Punishment	Chapters 8, 15; Quiz 5 (2/26) - Last day for approval of research article
	W	2/26/2025		
7	M	3/3/2025 &	Schedules of Reinforcement Negative Reinforcement (Escape Conditioning) and Avoidance Conditioning	Chapter 10; Quiz 6 Chapter 16
	W	3/5/2025		
8	M	3/10/2025 &	SPRING BREAK SPRING BREAK	Get Some Rest Get Some Rest Part II
	W	3/12/2025		
9	M	3/17/2025 &	Shaping and Fading Operant Stimulus Discrimination and Generalization	Chapters 9, 12; Quiz 7 Chapter 11; (3/19) Summary Sheet (Part 1) Due
	W	3/19/2025		
10	M	3/24/2025 &	Chaining Interactions of Operant and Respondent Conditioning	Chapter 13; Quiz 8 Chapter 17
	W	3/26/2025		
11	M	3/31/2025 &	Generality of Behavior Change Antecedent Control	Chapter 18; Quiz 9 Chapters 19, 20, 21
	W	4/2/2025		
12	M	4/7/2025 &	Antecedent Control (continued) EXAM 2: 4/9/2025	Quiz 10
	W	4/9/2025		
13	M	4/14/2025 &	Functional Assessment of Problem Behaviors Application of Behavioral Programs	Chapter 22; Quiz 11 Chapter 23; (4/16): Paper (Part 2) Due
	W	4/16/2025		
14	M	4/21/2025 &	Token Economies and Developing Self-Control	Chapters 24, 25; Quiz 12
	W	4/23/2025		
15	M	4/28/2025 &	Behavioral Approaches to Psychotherapy	Chapter 26; Quiz 13
	W	4/30/2025		
16	M	5/5/2025 &	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 27; Quiz 14 Last day of class/lecture
	W	5/7/2025		
17	M	5/12/2025 &	EXAM 3 (FINAL EXAM): 5/12/2025	

**Please note that the instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule. Students will be notified as early as possible in the event that modifications to the schedule will be made.*

Course Evaluation: Assignments and Requirements

Quizzes

There will be a total of 14 quizzes over the semester. Quizzes will be made available on Blackboard each Thursday following our Wednesday class meeting and they will be due on the following Monday before the start of our next class meeting (due by 2:59pm). Quizzes will include questions related to the material that will be covered over the next week (i.e., a quiz due Monday before class will cover material that will be reviewed that Monday and Wednesday. The quizzes are meant to help you review the material for the upcoming week. Quizzes are worth a total of 2.5 points each (14 x 2.5 = 35 points).

Exams

There will be a total of 3 exams, including the final exam. Exams may include multiple choice, true/false, open questions, short answer, or any combination of these. Exams will be administered through Blackboard and will be available ONLY on the specified date and within the specific time. Exam 1 will be worth 30 points. Exams 2 and 3 (Final exam) will each be worth 40 points (30+40+40 = 110 points).

Research Paper Review and Summary

You will choose a published research article on a topic relevant to the field of behavior modification. The assignment will consist of 2 parts. Part 1 (15 points) + Part 2 (40 points) = 55 points.

Part 1: You will submit your selected research article for approval. Articles must be approved by the indicated due date. Please submit your article early so that you may have time to select a different article in the event that your first selection does not meet criteria for approval. If many students submit at the last minute, the inspection of articles may be delayed, and students risk not getting their paper approved on time. Once approved, you will complete a Research Article Summary Sheet document. A template of this document will be provided to you. This document will require you to collect and report information about your selected article (purpose of the study, methods, main findings reported, relevance to the field of behavior modification, etc.) using the specific format provided to you.

Part 2: You will write a short (~2-3 pages, excluding references page) summary and review paper on the article that you selected using the information that you collected in Part 1. The paper should provide a brief background about the topic of the study, the purpose of the study, a description of the methods, the main findings, and a critical assessment. Any work (e.g., articles, books, other literature, etc.) used for writing your paper must be included in the references. We will go over the assignment in more detail during class.

Course Evaluation

Course requirement	Possible Points
Quizzes (14)	35
Exam 1	30
Exam 2	40
Exam 3	40
Research Paper Assignment Part I	15
Research Paper Assignment Part II	40
TOTAL	200

Grading Scale

Points	Grade
180-200	A
160-179	B
140-159	C
120-139	D
119 or below	F

Technology Requirements and Course Access

Computer Access and Internet

Announcements, slides, and occasional supplementary material will be shared through Blackboard. Assignments, quizzes, and exams will be given through Blackboard; therefore, access to a computer and internet access are required. You are encouraged to bring a laptop/ computer to class to access lecture material and the iClicker platform during in-class discussions and material review. You must be able to access Blackboard in class on scheduled exam days.

iClicker

We will be using iClicker for some in-class activities and discussions. To make a student account, go to <https://student.iclicker.com/#/login> and click on Sign Up. Select UTEP as your institution and complete the form to activate your account.

Blackboard

Course content, such as lecture slides, helpful videos, and additional reading material, will be made available through Blackboard learning management system. Additionally, quizzes and exams will be given through Blackboard.

Course Communication

E-mail

UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student e-mail account. Please indicate the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, make sure that you clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, please be sure to state your first and last name, and your university identification number.

Announcements

Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages. Under some circumstances, I may need to contact you directly via e-mail; therefore, please check your e-mail frequently.

Office Hours

My office hours are by appointment only. I am available to meet in-person, or you may request a virtual meeting via Zoom.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend classes regularly. In-class activities are designed to contribute to your learning experience by giving you early opportunities to identify areas where you may need improvement, and by allowing you to engage in discussions with your peers and the instructor to enhance your understanding concepts related to the course material. There are no make-ups for in-class activities.

Etiquette

Students are required to be polite and respectful to others during class. This includes, but is not limited to, not being disruptive to others, not having other conversations during lecture or class discussions, not attending to non-class related materials during meetings (texting, playing games, watching movies, listening to music, etc.), and not engaging in any inappropriate activities. Professional e-mails should include the course number (e.g., PSYC 3347) in the subject line. Starting e-mails with the proper salutations (Dear Dr. _____) is a good idea in general when reaching out professionally, not just in this class. Additionally, please remember to identify yourself with your full name and student number.

Late Work/Make-Up Policy

Make-up work will not be given, except for work that was missed due to a documented emergency. Assignments missed due to reasons other than excused emergencies cannot be made up and will receive a score of zero. It is important to reach out to me as soon as possible after you have missed a requirement to determine the reasons for you missing the deadline. If possible, reach out to me in advance if you think you may miss an assignment due to an emergency.

Course Drop Policy

I will not drop you from the course. If you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, it is your responsibility to let me know and to contact the Registration and Records Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

Accommodations Policy

Students who require reasonable accommodations related to documented disabilities as well as students who become pregnant may register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) to make a request for reasonable accommodations by contacting CASS at 915-747-5148, emailing CASS at cass@utep.edu, or applying for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic dishonesty violates the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. Academic dishonesty is prohibited by the University, and it will not be tolerated. Examples of academic dishonesty include cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, providing information and/or answers to another student to use for an assignment that requires a student to provide information and/or answers that the student should have acquired on their own, and providing or receiving answers for a quiz or an exam. Plagiarism occurs when the ideas or words of another person, even a peer, or a web site, are knowingly used as if they were your own. Work that you submit is assumed to be original unless your source material is documented appropriately, such as by reference in a Works Cited page. Collusion is when one person collaborates with another to commit an act of academic dishonesty. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Community Standards](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

Use of Artificial Intelligence

You are welcome to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT, as tools for brainstorming to help you develop your ideas as well as to check for proper grammar to help you improve your writing. You are not, however, allowed to use AI tools to generate answers to prompts or material to submit for your assignments. Submitting AI-generated content rather than taking the time to generate your own work robs you of the processes that help you develop as a critical and creative thinker. Turning in AI-generated content to answer a prompt or complete an assignment, even when cited, is prohibited in this course. Submitting any AI-generated content as your own is prohibited and will be reported to the [Office of Community Standards](#) as plagiarism.

Course Resources

There are a variety of student and support services provided at UTEP:
https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html.