BEHV 5900: Professional and Ethical Issues

Spring 2019 Course Syllabus

Course Description
This course has been designed to be an introduction to basic ethical issues in the practice of applied behavior analysis. The purpose is to provide a professional context for understanding the history, content, and complexities of ethical behavior. A majority of the information discussed falls under the scientific discipline of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Students will benefit most from the course if they have training and experience in behavior analysis.

The course is divided into four modules: 1) Foundational Perspectives, Principles, and Considerations, 2) Clients and Assessment, 3) Behavior Change and Human Rights, and 4) Issues Relating to Non-consumers. Student activities include answering study questions over articles and chapters, answering application questions at the end of modules, and answering questions on a final exam. Students will also complete a final project in which students will read a scenario and discriminate ethical and unethical behaviors, as well as providing relevant citations from the Behavior Analysis Certification Board’s Professional and Ethical Compliance Code.

Course Prerequisites
BEHV 5130 Basic Behavioral Principles
BEHV 5150 Techniques

Instructor Information
Brook Wheetley, M.S., BCBA, is the course instructor. To learn more about your instructor, please see the Home page in your course. Brook will answer questions about course content and technology, and provide requested tutoring. All correspondence should be sent to behv5900@unt.edu. Include your EUID and the activity name in the subject field of your email when you are asking about a specific activity. Students can expect a response within 24 hours during business days.

BACB Course Hours
Content is based on the 4th edition BACB Task List. This course specifically covers the following academic requirements for the BCaBA certification exam: 15 hours of ethical and professional conduct. For more information on the Verified Course Sequences distribution, consult the VCS grid.

Instructional Allocations
A typical college graduate course requires allocations of 3 hours of contact time (e.g., course lectures and/or engagement activities) per week and 3-6 hours of additional effort (e.g., reading, writing, researching, studying). This totals 15 hours of instructional time and about 30 hours of additional activities. In this course, contact time includes answering study guide questions on the course menu and additional effort includes reading textbooks, journal articles, and preparing written assignments.
5900 Ethics Course Objectives and Learning Competencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Task List Items</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Component Assessment Activities</th>
<th>Integration and Application Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Establishing foundational perspectives, principles, and considerations related to ethics and the behavior analyst</td>
<td>G-07, H-01, J-04, K-02, Sections G-K</td>
<td>Describe historical and contemporary perspectives regarding ethics, morality, and malpractice and how those perspectives relate to delivery of human services, especially behavior analysis.</td>
<td>Study questions</td>
<td>Module 1 Application Scenario Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ethical conduct of behavior analysts, related to clients and assessment</td>
<td>G-02, G-03, G-04, G-05, G-07, H-01, H-03, I-03, I-04, I-05, I-07, J-02, J-06, K-01, K-02, K-07, K-08, K-09, K-10</td>
<td>Describe and identify components of the BACB Professional and Ethical Compliance Code, relating to the conduct of behavior analysts, responsibility to clients, and assessing behavior.</td>
<td>Study questions</td>
<td>Module 2 Application Scenario Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ethical conduct of behavior analysts, as related to behavior change and human rights</td>
<td>B-01, C-01, C-02, D-02, D-15, D-16, D-17, D-19, E-08, F-06, F-07, G-03, G-07, G-08, I-03, I-07, J-01, J-02, J-04, J-05, J-06, J-07, J-08, J-10, J-13, K-02, K-06, K-07, K-08, K-09, K-10</td>
<td>Describe and identify components of the BACB Professional and Ethical Compliance Code, relating to behavior change. Describe and identify general principles and considerations guiding ethical behavioral treatment, especially in terms of human rights.</td>
<td>Study question</td>
<td>Module 3 Application Scenario Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ethical conduct of behavior analysts, as relating to interactions with individuals other than consumers</td>
<td>B-01, G-06, G-07, H-01, H-03, J-02, J-06, J-09, K-02, K-03, K-04, K-05, K-06</td>
<td>Describe and identify components of the BACB Professional and Ethical Compliance Code, relating to supervision, ethical responsibility to colleagues, public statements, research, and the responsibility to the BACB.</td>
<td>Study questions</td>
<td>Applying the BACB Professional and Ethical Compliance Code to one of three available scenarios. Final Exam</td>
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</table>

**Required Textbook**

**Course Activities for BEHV 5900: Professional and Ethical Issues**

**Readings, Lectures and Study Guides**
The four modules contain lectures, journal articles, and book chapters selected by the course designer/instructor. Many of the assigned readings cover content from the BACB Professional and Ethical Compliance Code and the BACB Task List (4th ed.). These are required readings. Readings are available in the assigned textbook or on the Course Menu. References for the readings are listed at the end of this syllabus.
You will read each article or chapter or watch a lecture and answer the corresponding multiple-choice study guide questions. The questions are designed to facilitate and demonstrate comprehension of the content and are not tests. You can refer to the assigned readings and lectures when answering the questions. Each Study Guide allows three opportunities to respond correctly. The highest score you earn will be applied to your grade.

The Study Guide questions may have multiple correct answers, only one correct answer, and/or be fill-in-the-blank. On all multiple-choice or fill in the blank activities, for each question, Canvas assigns points by dividing the number of points that question is worth by the number of correct answers and then assigning partial credit for each correct answer chosen and subtracting partial credit for each incorrect answer. For example, if a question is worth 1 point and has five possible answers, but only three are correct, each correct answer is worth 0.33 points. If a student selects an incorrect answer, 0.33 points are deducted from the total earned. Using this example, if a student chose two of the three correct answers and one of the incorrect answers, a total of 0.33 points would be awarded for the question. This reflects 0.66 points earned for selecting two of the three correct answers and 0.33 points being lost/subtracted for selecting one of the incorrect answers.

**Application Scenarios**

At the end of each module, you will complete Application Scenarios which include questions requiring you to integrate and apply the information presented. Each question is comprised of a paragraph-long description of a situation. You are to carefully read the question and then identify the ethical dilemmas and possible solutions presented by the scenario.

**Application Assignment**

At the end of the course, you will complete a written assignment in which you will discriminate ethical and unethical behaviors described in a chosen scenario. You will also choose the codes relevant to those behaviors and, for the unethical behaviors, describe what the behavior analyst should have done instead. Directions and a template are provided for this assignment. You will submit your Application Assignment through Turnitin on Canvas. *Assignments will not be accepted after the specified deadline.*

Grading will begin on the due date. Grades will be posted to the course page within one week after the due date. Grading will be based on the degree to which the student follows instructions, the accuracy of responses, supporting citations, and the clarity of the answer. Students must work independently and use your own thoughts and words.

**Course Etiquette**

_Collaboration and civility are core values in the practice of behavior analysis._

Completing courses is part of your graduate education. _How_ you engage in those courses is also part of your graduate education – because of that we emphasize professional etiquette as part of your preparation as a behavior analyst.

- Be kind, polite, and respectful. Sometimes the impersonality of the computer makes it hard to remember that we are all humans trying to teach, learn, and make the world a better place. That is why we went into behavior analysis. Be patient with yourself, the process and us!
- Be a problem solver and contributor to improvement of situations. Communicating online is not always as easy because of time differences, technology challenges, and lack of context. Try to approach problems from a behavior analytic perspective and then work on solutions by changing
the environment. For general “netiquette” rules, you can refer to sources such as this: Core Rules of Netiquette

- Seek help when you are not able to resolve something on your own. Collaboration is an important skill in behavior analysis. Learn to know what you don’t know and when you need to ask for help. Respond to feedback and suggestions in a professional manner. BAO is designed to help you succeed. That is why we exist.
- Remember the big picture and let that help you behave civilly when you feel discouraged. You are doing this because you will learn skills to help people. That is a goal worth all the hard effort you are putting into it.

**Academic Integrity**

*Honesty is a core value in the practice of behavior analysis.*

Progress depends on honesty in data collection, reporting and documenting. For that reason, plagiarism is especially troublesome for behavior analysts in training.

Please note that all work must be completed independently and must be your own work in your own words. Plagiarism, including submitting content identical or highly similar to other student’s papers and copying content from journal articles, websites or other sources is strictly prohibited. Using your own previous work without citation is also considered plagiarism.

Turnitin will systematically detect any plagiarism. If plagiarism is detected, you will not receive points for the activity. If more than one assignment is plagiarized, you will receive an “F” in the course. If you plagiarized in more than one course, you will be dropped from the program.

****You are responsible for reading and understanding the Academic Integrity Policy (found in the Preparatory module of the course) and the UNT Student Academic Integrity Policy****

**Course Calendar and Timelines**

The Syllabus link on the Course Menu lists the dates when each assignment in the course is due. The Calendar in the Global Navigation Menu on Canvas will also show you all the assignments due on each day.

- **Please complete the first module of the course, Preparatory Activities** – which includes the Student Attestation and the Syllabus quiz – during the first week of the semester. You must complete this module in order to unlock the rest of the modules in the course.
- **This course has weekly deadlines.** We understand that circumstances may sometimes prevent you from meeting a deadline. Therefore, we have a one-week grace period after each deadline. That means that each activity will be available for one week after the deadline on the calendar. After the one-week grace period ends, the activity will be deactivated and students will no longer have access to it. There will be no exceptions to this. Therefore, to do well, it is crucial to not only keep up with the course calendar, but to work ahead as much as possible in case of emergencies or other events.
- **Students must turn in the written Application assignment by the deadline AND must have completed the entire course by the course deadline.** Again, it is best to work ahead of schedule whenever possible in case of emergencies or other events that might make it difficult to meet a deadline.
- **No incompletes will be given.**
Course Grades
The grading system and feedback are designed for student success if you complete the activities in order and as instructed. A grade of “B” or better is required in this course in order to proceed to the next course and to fulfill the requirements for the UNT Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis.

- **No credit is given for late assignments.**
- You will have immediate feedback on all online activities and will have feedback within one week on the Turnitin activity.
- Each activity in the course has a given number of points that can be earned. These points are indicated underneath each activity.
- The Grades link in your Course Menu will provide you with an up-to-date summary of points earned and the proportion and percentage conversions. Select “Calculate based only on graded assignments” if you would like to see how well you have performed on the assignments you have already completed. Or, deselect this option to see your current overall grade in the class.
- Grades for the course are based on the percentage of possible points that a student earns: 92-100%=A, 85-91.9%=B, 77-84.9%=C, below 77%=F.

Course Credit
Successful completion of this course earns the student 1 semester hour of graduate credit or 15 continuing education credits. To fulfill Graduate School and BEHV Continuing Education requirements, course grade must be a B or higher. At the end of the final week of the course, points will be tallied and each student will receive a course grade that is consistent with the number of points earned at that time. **No incompletes will be given.**

Course Design
Shahla Alai-Rosales, Ph.D., BCBA-D designed this course. Our awesome staff conduct testing and reliability on course activities.

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All activities in the course are copyrighted by UNT Behavior Analysis Online, and may not be reproduced or utilized by any means, electronic or mechanical, without permission of the copyright owners.

Accommodations
The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility.

If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new
letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class.

Since this is an online program, you may email accommodations letters and requests to the course instructor. Instructors have the authority to ask students to discuss accommodations letters with students during an arranged appointment time to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Assistance
If you need help receiving your course grade or other administrative matters, please contact the Course Administrator, Brook Wheelley at behvdlinfo@unt.edu. We will either help you or forward your request for help to the appropriate personnel at UNT.

Please ensure that you are receiving email from all "@unt.edu" addresses. Check your spam filters and your junk email folders. Change your email settings to allow emails from us to your inbox. We are not responsible for emails we send that you do not receive due to your email account settings. No extensions or exceptions will be granted based on this issue.
Important Notice for F-1 Students Enrolled in a UNT Degree Program


The paragraph reads: (G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student’s responsibility to do the following:

1. Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
2. Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

1/15/04  Rev. 7/22/2016
Course Reading and Lecture List

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