BEHV 3770: Building Skills with Behavior Technology
Fall 2017

Instructor:  
Mary Hunter, M.S.
Chilton 360G
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Teaching assistant:  
Grayson Butcher
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Time and place:  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 1:00 — 1:50 pm in SAGE 354

Office hours / tutoring:  
Chilton 360G: Thursdays from 3:00 - 4:30 pm AND by appointment
Second floor of Sage: Wednesdays from 2:00 - 2:45 pm
Sage: Fridays from 2:00 - 2:45 pm

In this class, you will learn a behavior analytic approach to building skills.

After taking this course, you should be able to:
• Describe principles of effective instruction.
• Compare different learning paradigms, including programmed instruction, errorless learning, and trial and error learning.
• Use the constructional approach model when designing and evaluating programs.
• Write behavioral objectives and conduct task analyses.
• Pick a logical starting point for instruction based on the learner’s current repertoire.
• Describe techniques for establishing new behaviors.
• Design and implement shaping programs to teach new skills to people and animals.
• Select effective reinforcers and design reinforcement delivery systems.

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<th>To earn an A:</th>
<th>To earn a B:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master 15 unit quizzes</td>
<td>Master 13 unit quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make at least an 80% on the final exam</td>
<td>Make at least an 80% on the final exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master all 6 parts of the teaching project</td>
<td>Master 5 parts of the teaching project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attend at least 9 of 10 PORTL days</td>
<td>Attend at least 8 of 10 PORTL days</td>
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<th>To earn a C:</th>
<th>To earn a D:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Master 11 unit quizzes</td>
<td>Master 9 unit quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make at least a 70% on the final exam</td>
<td>Make at least a 60% on the final exam</td>
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<td>Master 4 parts of the teaching project</td>
<td>Master 3 parts of the teaching project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attend at least 7 of 10 PORTL days</td>
<td>Attend at least 7 of 10 PORTL days</td>
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Textbook: A reading packet is available at CopyPro. Ask for BEHV 3770.

Student activities
You will have four types of graded activities in this class:

Final exam
The final will cover concepts learned during the entire course. You will have the option to take your final early IF you have mastered all 15 unit quizzes by Thursday, Nov. 16.

Early final exam: Friday, Nov. 17 from 1:00 - 1:50 pm in TBD.
Regular final exam: Saturday, Dec. 9 from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm in SAGE 354.

Unit quizzes
This class will use a format called the “Personalized System of Instruction” (PSI). You will likely find this to be quite different from most other college courses you have taken in the past! You will learn much more about PSI in the first unit of the course.

The main content for this course has been divided into 15 self-paced units. This means you can work through the units at your own speed. Be warned, however, if you work too slowly you will not have time to finish all of the units before the end of the semester!

After you complete the readings and activities for each unit, you will take a unit quiz. The objectives in each unit will help you determine when you are ready to take the quiz.

Quizzes can be taken during class on Mondays and Fridays and during scheduled tutoring times. Immediately after you take a quiz, the professor or a teaching assistant will grade your quiz and discuss your answers with you. You will need to master each quiz with a score of at least 90% before you can move on to the next unit.

If you do not master the quiz, we will help you identify which concepts you need to review. You will need to review for at least 20 minutes before attempting the quiz again.

You can take each unit quiz as many times as you wish, and you will not be penalized for retaking a quiz. In fact, you will often find it beneficial to retake a quiz, as the additional study time and tutoring will help clarify concepts you did not quite understand.

Class periods on Mondays and Fridays will be used as a study hall, although this term is used loosely. You can read and study on your own, discuss concepts and go over practice questions with your peers, ask questions to your professor and the teaching assistant, and take unit quizzes when you are ready.

Mary Hunter
08/17
**PORTL lab days**

It is very difficult to learn good teaching skills from just reading a textbook or listening to a lecture. You also need hands-on practice! This will be accomplished during the teaching project (see below) and during the PORTL lab days.

The PORTL lab days will be held during the regularly scheduled Wednesday classes. Please plan to attend these 10 class periods. *(Note: You will only need to attend the make-up days if you miss one or more of the regularly scheduled PORTL days.)*

**PORTL lab day schedule:**

|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|

**Teaching project**

You will teach several behaviors to a dog, cat, hamster, fish, etc. Students in previous classes have said this is one of their favorite parts of the class. You will find this project challenging, but also enjoyable and a great way to improve your teaching skills.

If you do not have a pet, find a friend, neighbor, relative, etc. who has a pet that you can use for the project. You will want to have access to the animal at least once a week.

In each part of the project, you and your pet will learn new skills that will help you teach the behaviors required in the next part of the project. Therefore, you will need to master the skills in each part of the project before moving on to the next part of the project.

You should complete each part by the date listed below. If you are not working at this pace, you may have a difficult time completing all parts of the project by the end of the semester. Instructions will be posted on BlackBoard and discussed in class.

- **Part 1:** Finding reinforcers. Turn in by Sept 15
- **Part 2:** Reinforcer delivery. Turn in by Oct 2
- **Part 3:** Touch a target. Turn in by Oct 18
- **Part 4:** Raising criteria. Turn in by Nov 3
- **Part 5:** Teach a new behavior. Turn in by Nov 22
- **Part 6:** Final report. Turn in by Dec 1

**Academic dishonesty:** Cheating or plagiarizing will result in a “0” for that assignment, quiz or exam. The incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty. Visit the UNT catalog for more information.

**ADA statement:** In cooperation with The Office of Disability Accommodation, reasonable academic accommodations will be made for students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request to me.

Mary Hunter

Page 3 of 3