The purpose of the course is to introduce students pursuing advanced study in behavior analysis to the foundations of the techniques that comprise the tool kit of modern day behavior analysts. The origins of most, if not all, techniques have been in laboratory research attempting to understand something fundamental about behavior and its interaction with the environment. The fact that behavior analytic laboratory research has led to such robust behavioral technologies serves as an indication of the power of the analysis. At the end of the course, students can expect to have a familiarity with a sample of the variety of research methodologies that comprise EAB. It is also hoped that students will develop an appreciation of the contribution of research to application. Finally, It is hoped that the students will gain a sense of the generic features that characterize behavior analytic research to allow them to define, develop, and pursue their own research interests.

Performance contingencies

Discussion questions: One discussion question from each assigned reading. Factual questions will receive no credit. The questions must be broad in nature and address fundamental issues. The assignment is worth 10 points each class day. Your questions should be submitted via Blackboard by 5:00 PM Wednesday afternoon. No exceptions.

Reading Quiz: Contingencies include being present and ready to discuss material. Your preparation will be assessed via a small quiz presented at the beginning of some of the classes. Each quiz will be worth 10 points and will cover the general information or main points of a set of readings (5 quizzes).

Summaries: At two different points in the semester, I’d like you to summarize a paper that we are reading in class. There are 20 papers assigned before spring break and each of you will be randomly assigned one paper to read and summarize. The second one is more open ended and will involve you submitting a written paper. Each reaction will be worth 20 points and will be due at the beginning of class. There is no page limit on the written assignment but please try to be reasonable.

Research Idea: You will make a brief presentation to the class about an idea for a research project. We will assign a canned experimental problem for you to address and your job will be to find the methods by which you can answer the question to yours and your peers' satisfaction. This assignment should serve as an opportunity to exercise your skills in 'how' one asks an experimental question. A rudimentary review of the literature is a good way to see whether or not the problem has been addressed in some way already. The presentation is worth 30 points. Due Mar. 15, 2012

Research proposal: One, 10-13 page, research proposal will be due on May 3, 2012. The proposals should be based on a selective review of the relevant literature and address an issue that is important based on the review. Direct replications may not be submitted as proposals. Systematic replications based only on changes in the subject population must be well justified by your review.
The maximum possible points for each section are:

- Introduction and Review: 20 points
- Method Section: 30 points
- Expected results: 25 points
- Interpretation: 25 points

**Oral Presentation of proposal:** The research proposals will be presented to the class in a conference-presentation format (i.e., with transparencies or power point presentations). The duration of the talk will be based on the number of people in the class. Each talk will be followed by a question-answer session. To be delivered on May 5 or May 12, 2010.

Your oral presentation will be graded according to the following criteria:
- Clarity: 10 points
- Figures and schematics: 10 points
- Staying within the time limit: 10 points

**Assignment Categories, Total Points Available and Grade Assignment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Category</th>
<th>Maximum Points Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Questions / Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summaries (spoken and written)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods Exercise</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research proposal</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral presentation of proposal</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionalism and participation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total points available:</strong></td>
<td><strong>400 pts.</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Letter Grade Assignment**

- Points required for "A": 361 – 400
- Points required for "B": 321 – 360
- Points required for "C": 281 – 320
- Points required for "F": Below 280

**Key for references and readings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JEAB</td>
<td>Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JABA</td>
<td>Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JEP: ABP</td>
<td>Journal of Experimental Psychology: Animal Behavior Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AJMR</td>
<td>American Journal of Mental Retardation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>American Psychologist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jan. 19, 2012  Introduction to the course

Jan. 26, 2012  Introduction to terminology and basic concepts

Readings  ~ Catania Chs. 1 & 2

Feb. 02, 2012  The acquisition of behavior via reinforcement

Readings  ~ Catania Ch. 5

Feb. 09, 2012  Behavior reduction via punishment

Readings  ~ Catania Ch. 6
~ Azrin & Holz (1966). First part = pg. 381 – 409

Feb. 16, 2012  No class due to TxABA

Feb. 23, 2012  Simple Stimulus Control

Readings  ~ Catania Ch. 8

Mar. 01, 2012  Complex Stimulus Control

Readings  ~ Catania Ch. 9

Mar. 08, 2012  Delayed matching to sample and remembering


Mar. 15, 2012  Brief presentations

Mar. 22, 2012  Spring Break
Mar. 29, 2012  **Stimulus Equivalence**


Apr. 05, 2012  **Verbal Behavior**

Readings  ~ Catania Ch. 14
~ TBA

Apr. 12, 2012  **Instructional Control**

Readings  ~ Catania Ch. 15

Apr. 19, 2012  **Choice and Self-control**

Readings  ~ Catania Chs. 10 & 11

Apr. 26, 2012  **Behavioral Neuroscience**

Readings  ~ Catania Chs. 18 & 19

May 03, 2012  Presentations

May 10, 2012  Presentations