BEHV 4010

FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS AND TREATMENT OF PROBLEM BEHAVIOR

Spring 2012

TR 11:00 am - 12:20 pm Wooten 113

Instructor: **Sandy K. Magee, M.S., BCBA**

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Background: This course will introduce students to function-based treatment approaches for problem behavior. Topics include anecdotal assessment, descriptive assessment, experimental analysis, and various courses of treatment derived from functional assessment, with an emphasis on the importance of consistency between procedures and functional properties of problem behavior.

Essential Academic Competencies:

* Describe operant mechanisms involved in producing and maintaining problem behaviors
* Describe ways to assess the functional properties of problem behaviors
* Describe treatments for behavior maintained by social positive reinforcement
* Describe treatments for behavior maintained by social negative reinforcement
* Describe treatments for behavior maintained by nonsocial mechanisms
* Describe some special issues in the assessment and treatment of problem behaviors

Course Materials:

Reading Packet: **Smith, Vollmer, & St. Peter -Ch 7** (available at Copypro, 1300 N. Hickory, 566-1151)

Electronic copies of other assigned readings are available on Blackboard.

Performance Contingencies:

1. Homework: A set of study questions (SQ’s) will be made available corresponding to each reading assignment. These will consist of thought and content questions that you will be expected to answer (answers will typically be 3-4 sentences). Assignments are to be submitted via Blackboard and will be due BEFORE the beginning of each class. Late submissions will not be accepted (i.e., you must complete your study questions *before* coming to class). Your answers to the study questions will be graded on a 10-pt scale.
2. Participation as Observer in Assessment & Treatment: Students are required to successfully complete 1 lab section to pass this course. The lab section of BEHV 4010 provides students with hands on experience in the function based treatment of problem behavior. Students work with senior graduate students, Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) and faculty in a clinical setting at the Behavior Analysis Resource Center (BARC) located on the campus of the Denton State Supported Living Center (DSSLC). During the lab, students gain experience in the measurement and data collection of problem behavior. Students are supervised while they are trained to perform anecdotal assessments and employ descriptive assessment methods with individuals with intellectual disabilities. Students also observe multiple conditions of a functional analysis. **No points will be awarded for this activity; however, students must complete their hourly requirement to receive credit for this course.**
3. Tests: Three exams will be administered. Each exam will cover material only for that section of the course (the final exam will not be cumulative). Test study guides are available online.

Grades: Homework assignments and tests are listed on the grade sheet/course activity schedule which can be found on the course website (Blackboard Learn). This document (Excel Spreadsheet) lists points possible for each assignment/activity & will calculate your semester average. You are expected to record your assignment scores and keep track of your own grade for the class using this grade sheet.

**Grading Scale:** 90%-100% = A 80%-89% = B 70%-79% = C 60% -69% = D < 60% = F

ADA Statement

The Department of Behavior Analysis, in cooperation with the Office of Disability Accommodation, complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request to me before the 4th class meeting.