SYLLABUS BEHV 5900 - Functional Analysis in School Settings

Course Objectives and Format

The goal of this course is to teach you how to discover the function of problem behavior occurring in public school classrooms, using direct observation to obtain baseline data, then conducting a functional analysis to determine the antecedents that evoke and consequences that maintain that problem behavior. Next, we design and implement effective interventions based on the outcome of the functional analysis. You will be observing behavior--via movies--depicting an example of problematic classroom behavior that prompts the classroom teacher to request behavior analytic services. The course is divided into 4 modules (weeks). Students should plan to spend about 10 hrs a week on the coursework (more for some students, less for others).

Course Readings : Available on the course web page. Used with permission of publishers.


BATSS Handout: Behavioral Assessment and Technology Support System. Copyright Janet K. Ellis.

Course Components and Student Activities

* See Course Instructions (on web page) for HOW TO DO each kind of course activity!

The course is divided into modules, with two readings or movies and corresponding questions per module. It is important that you complete the assignments for each week before proceeding to the next week's assignments. The activities and the grading method are as follows:

Journal Readings - The journal articles are an integral part of the course. They are available on the course web page in Adobe Reader pdf format.

Review Activities - These activities are designed to further your understanding of the applied literature. These activities are available to enhance learning and retention through interactive responding. Your answers to questions are recorded automatically in a database. You will receive points for these activities based on your correct answers. You are allowed two attempts to achieve mastery for each analysis activity.

Interactive and Demonstration Movies - Streaming movies are provided on the course web page to demonstrate or simulate behavior analytic procedures not easily taught by text-based instruction. You may review these movies at any time during or after the course. In the Take-Data activities, you will record data on supplied data sheets while viewing these movies, and then send your data to be evaluated for reliability.

Tests covering FA material - Test 1 consists of 25 multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank questions related to Iwata's Standard Functional Analysis procedures. Test 2 consists of 13 multiple-choice questions related to the Final BATSS FA Report. When you are ready to take a test, select the test from the course menu. Your results will be recorded automatically in the database. You are allowed one attempt for tests, and earn points based you correct answers.
Final Report: The second component of the Final for this course is a web-based assignment giving you the opportunity to write parts of a Functional Analysis report based on data and provide recommendations to school personnel.

Course Grades

A grade of B or better is required in this course in order to proceed to the next course in the sequence. 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. Total points are what ultimately determine your grade. Points necessary for each letter grade are posted on the course web page.

Course Calendar and Topics

The calendar on the course home page lists the topics that will be covered in the course and specifies the dates students should begin working on each topic in order to be progressing at a satisfactory rate. Complete the first module of the course in the first week of the semester. If you have any technical difficulties getting started or completing any of the different types of activities, email behv5900@unt.edu and let us know. After the first week of the course, technical help will be very delayed. Students can use the calendar at any time to see whether they are on schedule, ahead of schedule or behind schedule.

Course Credit and Timelines

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. Students may work as fast as they wish, but students must have completed the course within the 4-week time span set for the course during any regular semester. There are no incompletes given. 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.

Course Personnel

Course Manager: The course administrator is Brook Wheetley who has a master's degree in Behavior Analysis and is a BCBA. She will be keeping track of your progress in the course. Please contact her at Behv5900@unt.edu if you have any questions about the course content or if you run into any technical problems with the software. This is also the email you should send your final assignments to. Your course instructor is Sandy Magee who has a master's degree in Behavior Analysis and is a BCBA. She can be contacted at sandy.magee@tx.rr.com.

Administrative Personnel: If you run into a problem pertaining to registering, receiving your course grade, or other administrative matters, you should contact Laura Davis by email (Laura.Davis@unt.edu). She will either help you resolve the problem 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.

Course Designer: Dr. Janet Ellis is the designer of this course. Any comments you would like to make regarding the design of the course or the materials included in the course are welcome.

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The test and Analysis questions as well as BATSS material are copyrighted by Janet K. Ellis and may not be printed or copied without permission of the author.

Video demonstrations and simulations in this course are original material developed by Janet K. Ellis and Leslie S. Burkett, (c) 2001. No part of this material may be reproduced by any means, electronic or mechanical, without permission of the copyright owners.

**Course Instructions**

The Course Administrator has developed a set of Course Instructions about the course components and technology, including problems and solutions. Click the Course Instructions link on the course home page and read the instructions before you start the course and whenever you have questions about course content or how to do something. If reading the Course Instructions doesn't help, email your question to Behv5900@unt.edu.

**Feedback from Students**

Your feedback is very important to us. We know there will be things we will want to change and you can help us identify those things. If you have an idea about how to improve the course, ways to make it more interesting or more informative for students, please email Sandy Magee at sandy.magee@tx.rr.com. You will be asked to evaluate the course content, instruction, and other aspects of the course at the end of the semester.