SYLLABUS

Course Information: PSYC 5361: Behavior Modification
Fall 2014

Instructor Information:
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Course Catalog Description: An exploration of behavioral learning principles and application of these learning principles for children and adults. Both research and effective intervention and treatment planning is emphasized. Prerequisite: PSYC 3225/3125 or equivalent and consent of instructor.

Learning Objectives: After successfully completing this course students will be able to:

1) Explain the history and development of the behavior modification approach.
2) Describe the application of behavior modification procedures in a variety of applied settings with a variety of clinical problems.
3) Use positive reinforcement to increase behavior.
4) Decrease behavior using extinction.
5) Incorporate stimulus discrimination and stimulus generalization in behavioral interventions.
6) Use shaping, fading, and chaining to modify behavior.
7) Eliminate inappropriate behavior using punishment.
8) Establish behavior using escape and avoidance conditioning.
9) Capitalize on antecedent control procedures.
10) Explain the steps in a functional behavioral assessment.
11) Demonstrate entry level skills in applying common clinical behavioral techniques (e.g., relaxation training, systematic desensitization).
12) Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical application of behavioral techniques.

Evaluation and Grading:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING CRITERIA: Your grade in this class will be determined by your performance in the following areas:

1) Quizzes (5% each / 30% total) (Note: Quiz 1 will not count towards your course grade and serves to allow you practice with the online test format).
2) Tests 1 & 2 (20% each / 40% total)
3) Relaxation Tape (5%)
4) BlackBoard Discussion Participation Bonus up to 5% 
5) Final Exam (25%)

Required Text, Materials/Supplies, and Related Readings:
- Special Readings (BlackBoard.com)
College & Departmental Statements

College of Education and Psychology Mission Statement: The mission of the College of Education and Psychology is to provide a positive environment that fosters the acquisition of knowledge and skills. The mission is individually and collectively realized through a community of scholars that contributes to knowledge through scholarly inquiry; organizes knowledge for application, understanding and communication; and provides leadership and service.

Vision: The College of Education and Psychology is nationally recognized and respected for its academic programs and opportunities. It is a center of excellence in scholarly inquiry and public service, as well as an agent for improving the cultural and economic conditions in the region.

Psychology B.S./B.A. Program Mission Statement: The mission of the undergraduate program in Psychology is to provide students with a demonstrable knowledge and understanding of the science of behavior and the mind, including content in Memory and Thinking; Sensory and Behavioral Neuroscience; Developmental Psychology; Clinical and Abnormal Psychology; Social Psychology; Psychological Measurement and Methodology. We seek to prepare students for either postgraduate education or a wide variety of employment settings and careers. Psychology B.S./B.A. Program Learning Outcomes may be found at: http://www.uttyle.edu/psychology/BSBAPsychPLO

Selected University Policies

Students Rights and Responsibilities
To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www.uttyle.edu/wellness/StudentRightsandResponsibilities.html

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness
If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file an intent to receive grade forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class. Failure to do so will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three course repeats; graduates, for two course repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler.

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy
Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the 12th day of class (See Schedule of Classes for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Registrar's Office if you have any questions.

Disability Services
In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. If you have a
disability, including a learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office in UC 282, or call (903) 566-7079.

**Student Absence due to Religious Observance**
Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

**Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities**
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

**Social Security and FERPA Statement:**
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

**Emergency Exits and Evacuation:**
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do Not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.
I value your feedback about this course. While we complete formal course evaluations near the end of the semester I appreciate your feedback throughout the course. If you have any suggestions for how I can make this a better learning experience, please share them with me. This can be done in person or you can provide your suggestions anonymously through this form (or an informal note).

1) What do you like about this course?

2) What do you dislike about this course?

3) What can the instructor do to make the course better?

4) Please provide any additional feedback you have for the instructor.