



**College of Education and Human Development  
Division of Special Education and disAbility Research**

Spring 2014

EDSE 623 ML1: Applied Behavior Analysis: Assessments and Interventions  
CRN: 20739, 3 - Credits

<b>Instructor:</b> Dr. Christine Hoffner Barthold	<b>Meeting Dates:</b> 01/21/14 - 05/14/14
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Meeting Day(s):</b> Synchronous: Wednesday, 2/5, 2/12, 3/5, 4/2, 4/16, 4/23, & 4/30
<b>E-Mail:</b> choffner@gmu.edu	<b>Meeting Time(s):</b> 5:30 pm-6:30 pm
<b>Office Hours:</b> T-W 1-3 & by appointment	<b>Meeting Location:</b> NET NET

***Note:** This syllabus may change according to class needs. Students will be advised of any changes immediately through George Mason e-mail and/or through Blackboard.*

**Course Description**

Further expands on basic content of applied behavior analysis and teaches how to implement behavioral procedures and develop behavioral programs for clients with fundamental behavioral needs.

**Prerequisite(s):** EDSE 619

**Co-requisite(s):** EDSE 619

**Advising Contact Information**

Please make sure that you are being advised on a regular basis as to your status and progress through your program. Mason M.Ed. and Certificate students should contact the Special Education Advising Office at (703) 993-3670 for assistance. All other students should refer to their faculty advisor.

**Nature of Course Delivery**

Learning activities include the following:

1. Synchronous and Asynchronous class lecture and discussion
2. Application activities
3. Small group activities and assignments
4. Video and other media supports
5. Research and presentation activities
6. Electronic supplements and activities through Blackboard

### **Learner Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe and identify ethical standards regarding behavior analytic assessment, instruction, and intervention.
- Describe the rationale for conducting a functional analysis and a functional assessment.
- Describe, identify, and demonstrate procedures for conducting a functional assessment.
- Describe and identify procedures for conducting a functional analysis.
- Interpret functional assessment and functional analysis data.
- Select and develop function-relevant instructional and intervention procedures on the basis of functional assessments or functional analyses.
- Write well-composed, parsimonious instructions for implementers of behavior analytic instructional and intervention procedures.
- Describe and develop procedures for competency based training of others who will implement behavior analytic instructional and intervention procedures.
- Incorporate interobserver agreement, procedural fidelity, and implementer behavior management procedures into written behavior analytic instructional and intervention procedures.
- Describe conditions relevant to development and success of behavior analytic instruction, training sessions, workshops, seminars, and staff management.

### **Required Textbooks**

Cooper, J.O., Heron, T.E., & Heward, W.L. (2007). *Applied behavior analysis*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson-Merrill-Prentice Hall. ISBN: 0-13-142113-1

Sidman, M. (2001). *Coercion and its fallout*. Boston, MA: Authors Cooperative. ISBN 1-888-83001-8

### **Digital Library Option**

The Pearson textbook(s) for this course **may be** available as part of the **George Mason University Division of Special Education and disAbility Research Digital Library**. Please note that not all textbooks are available through this option. Visit the links below before purchasing the digital library to ensure that your course(s) text(s) are available in this format. The division and Pearson have partnered to bring you the Digital Library; a convenient, digital solution that can save you money on your course materials. The Digital Library offers you access

to a complete digital library of **all Pearson textbooks** and MyEducationLabs used across the Division of Special Education and disAbility Research curriculum at a low 1-year or 3-year subscription price. Access codes are available in the school bookstore. Please visit <http://gmu.bncollege.com> and search the ISBN. To register your access code or purchase the Digital Library, visit:

<http://www.pearsoncustom.com/va/gmu/digitallibrary/education/index.html>

- 1 year subscription \$200 ISBN-13: 9781269541411
- 3 years subscription \$525 ISBN-13: 9781269541381
- Individual e-book(s) also available at the bookstore link above or at <http://www.pearsoncustom.com/va/gmu/digitallibrary/education/index.html>

### **Recommended Textbooks**

None

### **Required Resources**

Students are expected to have the technology to support online instruction. This includes capability to receive video and audio, transmit via video and audio, and open and read supplementary materials.

### **Additional Readings**

Additional readings will be posted to Blackboard throughout the semester.

### **Course Relationships to Program Goals and Professional Organizations**

This course is part of the George Mason University, Graduate School of Education (GSE), Special Education Program for Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate. This program complies with the standards for teacher licensure established by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the major special education professional organization. The CEC Standards are listed on the following website:

<http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/ProfessionalStandards/>. The content of the courses in this program is derived from the Task List published by the national Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) as well as the Board's Guidelines for Responsible Conduct. The BACB Standards are listed on the following website: For more information on the Board and the examination, please visit the Board's website at [www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com). The CEC standard that will be addressed in this class is Standard 8: Assessment.

### **GMU POLICIES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS:**

a. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/>].

- b. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].
- c. Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- d. The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- e. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- f. Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- g. The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].

## **PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITIONS**

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

## **CORE VALUES COMMITMENT**

The College of Education & Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles. [See <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>]

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>]

## **Course Policies & Expectations**

### **Attendance.**

Students are expected to attend all class meetings (synchronous and asynchronous). It is the student's responsibility to make up all missed work if they are absent for any reason.

Presentations on course materials are available on Blackboard for those who either missed class or need additional time with the materials. Attendance will be assessed

through a virtual index card (described under “course requirements”) and quiz within the week of each scheduled class, unless arrangements are made in advance with the instructor. During synchronous instruction, cell phones must be turned off and/or set on vibrate.

#### Late Work.

Work is considered on-time if it is submitted by 11:59pm on the date that it is due. Work submitted after the assigned due date will be assessed a 10% possible point penalty. Discussion Board Item responses entered after the due date will be assessed a 50% point penalty. No work will be accepted after the final examination has been submitted.

Students are responsible for following these guidelines for grading:

- All assignments must be submitted through Blackboard. Emailed and hard copies of assignments will not be graded unless approved in advance by the instructor, as these methods of submission lead to a high probability of lost student work.
- Assignments, whenever possible, should be in Word format and in one continuous file.
- With the exception of the index card and the discussion board, all work must be accompanied by a self-evaluation of your work. You can self evaluate by grading yourself using the rubric for the assignment. You do not have to justify your choice. The instructor will not track down missing self evaluations. Any assignment without a self evaluation submitted with it will be immediately assigned a grade of 0.
- A self evaluation must accompany your revisions.
- Questions about assignments should be posted on the Forums in Blackboard, so that everyone has the benefit of your questions.
- Detailed information about each assignment, including grading rubrics and a task analysis, is posted on Blackboard.

#### **TaskStream Submission**

Every student registered for any Special Education course with a required performance-based assessment is required to submit this assessment, *Functional Relevant Treatment and Instruction Project* to TaskStream (regardless of whether a course is an elective, a onetime course or part of an undergraduate minor). Evaluation of the performance-based assessment by the course instructor will also be completed in TaskStream. Failure to submit the assessment to TaskStream will result in the course instructor reporting the course grade as Incomplete(IN). Unless the IN grade is changed upon completion of the required TaskStream submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester.

If you have never used TaskStream before, you **MUST** use the login and password information that has been created for you. This information is distributed to students through GMU email, so

it is very important that you set up your GMU email. For more TaskStream information, go to <http://cehd.gmu.edu/api/taskstream>

**Grading Scale**

Point values are assigned to exams and assignments. Letter grades will subsequently be assigned on the basis of overall class performance. That is, percentages will be determined by dividing the TOTAL number of points earned by the total possible points.

**Grading Criterion:**

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A+	97-100%	A	96-93%	A-	92-90%
B+	87-89%	B	83-86%	B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%	C	73-76%	C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%	D	63-66%	D-	60-62%
F	59% and below				

Assignment	Points Possible
Discussion Board	210
Attendance Index Cards	28
Discussion Boards	210
Quizzes	140
Functional Behavior Assessment Project	84
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>672</b>

**Assignments**

**Performance-based Assessment (TaskStream submission required).  
Observation, Data Recording, and Functional Assessment**

**For all assignments, you will be assigned a group. Please see guidelines and tips in Blackboard for working and problem solving within groups.**

**Group Project 1: Written FA Interpretation and Intervention Procedures.** You will be provided with a completed functional assessment consisting of at least four of the following: ABC Data, Scatterplot, Interview, Checklist, Functional Analysis Data Set, Medical Record, Incident Reports, and Adaptive Behavior Assessment. You will do the following:

1. Complete the Competing Behavior Model as described by O'Neill et al. (1997), (up to 3 points)
  2. Identify and write an operational definition for the competing behavior (e.g., the replacement behavior or alternative behavior) you will teach; (up to 1 point)
  3. determine the normative rate for the competing behavior you've selected; (up to 2 points)
  4. determine the normative rate for the problem behavior; (up to 2 points)
  5. write a behavioral objective for the terminal state of the competing behavior; (up to 2 points)
  6. write a behavioral objective for the terminal state of the problem behavior; (up to 2 points)
  7. name the contingencies currently maintaining the problem behavior; (up to 1 point)
  8. compose step-by-step instructions telling the reader how to make environmental modifications to decrease probability of the problem behavior (up to 3 points)
  9. compose step-by-step instructions telling the reader how to make environmental modifications that will increase the probability that the competing behavior will be evoked; (up to 3 points)
  10. compose step by step instructions telling the reader how to teach or accelerate the competing behavior; (up to 3 points)
  11. compose step-by-step reactive procedures to enact should the problem behavior happen; and (up to 3 points)
  12. compose step-by-step practical procedures to implement should the problem behavior occur under unfavorable conditions. (up to 3 points)
- Up to 28 points are possible for correct completion of this assignment.

**Group Project 2: Written Functional Analysis Interpretation and Intervention**

**Procedures.** You will be provided with a second completed functional assessment consisting of at least four of the following: ABC Data, Scatterplot, Interview, Checklist, Functional Analysis Data Set, Medical Record, Incident Reports, and Adaptive Behavior Assessment. You will complete each of the same procedures you completed for Project 1. Up to 28 points are possible for correct completion of this assignment.

**Group Project 3: Written Functional Analysis Interpretation and Intervention**

**Procedures.** Completed functional assessment consisting of at least four of the following: ABC Data, Scatterplot, Interview, Checklist, Functional Analysis Data Set, Medical Record, Incident Reports, and Adaptive Behavior Assessment. You will work with your group, and complete each of the same procedures you completed for Projects 1 and 2. Up to 28 points are possible for correct completion of this assignment.

Drafts of each of the components of the functional assessment project will be due as the class progresses. **Drafts must be submitted in order to receive a final grade, and must be self-evaluated using the rubric provided on Blackboard. Papers without a self-evaluation will receive an automatic "0".** The final paper (and grade) will be a culmination of the components and feedback. Each draft will be graded using the above point values, and a rubric will be provided on the first day of class. It is expected that

students will use the feedback to revise each component in their final paper. The quality of the revisions in the final paper will be reflected in the final grade. **(28 Points Per Assessment for a Total of 84 points).**

**Performance-based Common Assignments (No TaskStream submission required).**

**Weekly Discussion Boards.** Students will be divided into groups. Each week, a writing prompt will be developed for your group based upon readings, coursework, and field placement. Discussion Board prompts will start as “I wonder...” and be open-ended enough that there will be room for discussion. You are responsible for posting a response that answers the writing prompt as it relates to your experience in clinical and educational settings, the readings, class discussion, and your own personal experience. You must also leave a comment on the post of *at least* one of your group members. Any questions posted on your thread should be answered. Comments should build upon the blogger’s ideas, and connect to other ideas we have explored in class. A schedule of writing prompts and due dates will be posted in Blackboard (NOTE THAT DUE DATES DO NOT NECESSARILY CORRESPOND TO CLASS MEETINGS TO INSURE THAT THERE IS ENOUGH TIME TO FOSTER CONVERSATION). *No student or school personnel should be referred to by name.* When posting or commenting, it is important to stay on-topic, and to treat other individuals in the class with respect. Flames or other derogatory conversation will not be tolerated, and may result in a 0 for the poster. **(15 Points for 14 weeks or 210 Points)**

**Weekly Quizzes.** For each class session, students will be responsible for a 10 item Multiple Choice quiz. Quizzes will be delivered online through Blackboard. Students will have up to 3 chances to increase their grade, but note that questions will be randomized from a pool of questions. It is not possible to memorize answers to increase your grade. Students are encouraged to complete guided lecture notes, all activities and readings, and actively participate in study groups, as these are the basis for the weekly quizzes. **(14 Quizzes for a possible 140 points)**

**Other Assignments.**

**Attendance Index Cards.** Students are expected to complete a virtual index card and return it at within one week of the scheduled class that delineates at least two things that were learned in the day’s lecture (in their OWN WORDS - not copied from PowerPoints or verbatim from lectures). Asking questions for clarification about the day’s lecture is also acceptable. Each index card is worth two points, and will be graded on the following scale:



0 points – no index card

(considered an unexcused absence)

.5 point – points written verbatim from lecture

1 point – one statement or question in the student's own words

2 points – two statements or questions in the student's own words (**2 points apiece for 14 weeks = 28 points**)

### **Schedule**

Class Schedule, due dates, and readings are available as a separate document available on Blackboard as a Google Calendar or PDF. Students have the opportunity to subscribe to the Google Calendar and can set reminders as necessary to keep them on track.

#### **Wed Jan 22, 2014**

Introduction to Class; Review Syllabus, Assignments, Assignment Checklists.  
Download Calendar of Assignments. Review Presentation on Academic Honesty.  
Readings: Sidman, Introduction, Chapter 1.

#### **Mon Jan 27, 2014**

##### **Discussion Board 1 Due**

#### **Wed Jan 29, 2014**

##### **Quiz 1 Due**

Quiz on Syllabus and Academic Honesty; Overview of Assessment, Operational Definitions.  
Readings: Cooper, Chapter 2.

#### **Fri Jan 31, 2014**

##### **Discussion Board 1 Response Due**

#### **Mon Feb 3, 2014**

##### **Discussion Board 2 Due**

#### **Wed Feb 5, 2014**

##### **Quiz 2 Due**

Informed Consent, Q&A  
Readings: Cooper, Chapter 29, Sidman, Chapters 16 & 1

#### **Fri Feb 7, 2014**

##### **Discussion Board 2 Response Due**

**Mon Feb 10, 2014**  
**Discussion Board 3 Due**

**Wed Feb 12, 2014**  
**Quiz 3 Due**

Indirect Assessment Procedures  
Readings: Sidman, Chapter 3.

**Fri Feb 14, 2014**  
**Discussion Board 3 Response Due**

**Mon Feb 17, 2014**  
**Discussion Board 4 Due**

**Wed Feb 19, 2014**  
**Quiz 4 Due**

ABC Data Collection  
Readings: Cooper, Chapter 4; Sidman, Chapter 4.

**Fri Feb 21, 2014**  
**Discussion Board 4 Response Due**

**Mon Feb 24, 2014**  
**Discussion Board 5 Due**

**Wed Feb 26, 2014**  
**Quiz 5 Due**

Additional Data Collection Procedures - scatterplots, interval sampling  
Readings: Cooper, Chapter 5.

**Fri Feb 28, 2014**  
**Discussion Board 5 Response Due**

**Mon Mar 3, 2014**  
**Discussion Board 6 Due**

**Wed Mar 5, 2014**  
**Quiz 6 Due**

Graphing Data and Apps for Data Collection  
Readings: Cooper, Ch. 6 & 7.

**Fri Mar 7, 2014**  
**Discussion Board 6 Response Due**

**Mon Mar 10, 2014**  
**NO DISCUSSION BOARD**

**Wed Mar 12, 2014**  
**NO QUIZ - Spring Break**

**Fri Mar 14, 2014**  
**NO RESPONSE DUE**

**Mon Mar 17, 2014**  
**Discussion Board 7 Due**

**Wed Mar 19, 2014**  
**Quiz 7 Due**  
Functional Analysis and Structural Analysis  
Readings: Cooper, Ch. 24.

**Fri Mar 21, 2014**  
**Discussion Board 7 Response Due**

**Mon Mar 24, 2014**  
**Discussion Board 8 Due**

**Wed Mar 26, 2014**  
**Quiz 8 Due**  
Using Functional Skill Assessments  
Readings: Sidman, Ch. 9 & 11

**Fri Mar 28, 2014**  
**Discussion Board 8 Response Due**

**Mon Mar 31, 2014**  
**Discussion Board 9 Due**

**Wed Apr 2, 2014**  
**Quiz 9 Due**  
Preference Assessments  
Readings: Cooper, Ch. 11

**Fri Apr 4, 2014**  
**Discussion Board 9 Response Due**

**Mon Apr 7, 2014**  
**Discussion Board 10 Due**

**Wed Apr 9, 2014**

**Quiz 10 Due**

Writing a Statement of Function and Selecting Interventions

Readings: Skim/Review Cooper Ch. 21-23; Read thoroughly Sidman, Ch. 5

**Fri Apr 11, 2014**

**Discussion Board 10 Response Due**

**Mon Apr 14, 2014**

**Discussion Board 11 Due**

**Wed Apr 16, 2014**

**Group Project #1 Draft Due**

**Quiz 11 Due**

Writing a Behavior Support Plan

Readings: Skim/Review Cooper Ch. 21-23; Read thoroughly Sidman, Ch. 6

**Fri Apr 18, 2014**

**Discussion Board 11 Response Due**

**Mon Apr 21, 2014**

**Discussion Board 12 Due**

**Wed Apr 23, 2014**

**Group Project #2 Draft Due**

**Quiz 12 Due**

Group Contingencies and Contingency Contracting

Readings: Cooper, Ch. 26 & 2

**Fri Apr 25, 2014**

**Discussion Board 12 Response Due**

**Mon Apr 28, 2014**

**Discussion Board 13 Due**

**Wed Apr 30, 2014**

**Group Project #3 Due**

**Quiz 13 Due**

Training and Supervision of Interventionists

Readings: Cooper, Ch. 28; Sidman, Ch. 17

**Fri May 2, 2014**

**Discussion Board Response 13 Due**

**Mon May 5, 2014**  
**Discussion Board 14 Due**

**Wed May 7, 2014**  
**Quiz 14 Due**

**Fri May 9, 2014**  
**All Revisions Due**  
**Discussion Board 14 Response Due**

**Appendix**