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

Spring 2014
CRN: 21308, 3 - Credits

Instructor: Dr. Kristy Park  
Phone: 7039935251  
E-Mail: kparkc@gmu.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment

Meeting Dates: 01/15/14 - 04/09/14  
Meeting Day(s): Wednesday  
Meeting Time(s): 9:00 am-12:30 pm  
Meeting Location: OCL

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
Focuses on basic principles and procedures of applied behavior analysis; identification of factors that contribute to behavioral problems and improved performance; and procedures that can be used to minimize behavioral problems, improve performance, teach new behaviors, and increase probability of behaviors occurring under appropriate circumstances.

Prerequisite(s): Admission to applied behavior analysis graduate certificate program

Co-requisites: None

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. 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 via Blackboard

**Learner Outcomes**
Upon completion of this course, students will:
• Describe educational, experiential, degree, and examination requirements for Behavior Analyst Certification.
• Define, describe, and identify basic philosophical assumptions of applied behavior analysis.
• Define, describe, and identify basic characteristics of applied behavior analysis.
• Define, describe, and identify respondent behavior and respondent conditioning.
• Define, describe, and identify operant behavior and operant conditioning.
• Define, describe, and exemplify operant and respondent principles.
• Define, describe, and exemplify operant and respondent procedures.
• Describe, identify, and exemplify behavior analytic teaching procedures.
• Describe and identify factors affecting behavioral variables.

**Required Textbooks**


**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

- 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. However, if you wish to complete the extra optional, extra credit portion of the course, you will need to purchase a subscription to the BCBA Examination Study software, available through Behavior Development Solutions at  
http://www.behaviordevelopmentsolutions.com/

**Required Resources**
You will need to go to the Behavior Analyst Certification Board website (www.bacb.com), and download the Task List, the Guidelines for Responsible Conduct, and the Disciplinary Standards. We will refer to these documents throughout this course and all others in this program.

**Additional Readings**
None

**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. The CEC standard that will be addressed in this class is Standard 4: Instructional Strategies.

**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 be present for the duration of every class session, and to participate in class discussions and activities. Students entering class sessions more than 30 minutes late will not receive credit for that discussion. Students leaving a synchronous discussion prior to that discussion’s end will not receive credit for that discussion. Students may not reschedule missed discussions or Research Profile presentations.

Late Work.
All work is due during the week for which it is assigned, and must be submitted no later
than 5:00 pm. Work submitted after the date assigned will be assessed a 10% point penalty.

**TaskStream Submission**

Every student registered for any Special Education course with a required performance-based assessment is required to submit this assessment, *Final Exam Feedback* 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](http://cehd.gmu.edu/api/taskstream)

**Grading Scale**

The distribution of total possible points per assignment type, and grading scale, are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points Possible per Instance</th>
<th>Number of Instances</th>
<th>Total Points Possible</th>
<th>Points earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Discussion Board Items</td>
<td>2 points per DB</td>
<td>24 DB</td>
<td>48 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Research Profile Paper</td>
<td>25 points per paper</td>
<td>1 paper</td>
<td>25 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Research Profile Presentation</td>
<td>10 points per presentation</td>
<td>1 presentation</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. SAFMEDS</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td>12 sets</td>
<td>60 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>1 point</td>
<td>15 sessions</td>
<td>15 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Final Exam</td>
<td>100 points per Exam</td>
<td>1 Exam</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A = 242 – 258 points
A- = 241 - 232 points
B = 231 - 206 points
C = 205 - 180 points
F < 179 points
Assignments

Performance-based Assessment (TaskStream submission required).

Final Exam
The Final Examination is the Taskstream Assignment for this course. You will take a 50 multiple choice item final exam online. Once you open this exam, you must complete it – you may not close it and reopen it. You will have only one opportunity to complete this exam. You will earn 1 point toward your final grade for each correct response. You will also take this examination on your first night of class as a pretest. Using the exam in this way permits the instructor an evaluation of the extent to which the course objectives were met. It also removes any mystery, for the students, as to what constitutes the final exam. You’ll receive feedback on your pretest performance during the second or third class session, including a breakdown of percentage correct by content area. After completing the Final Exam, you’ll receive a feedback form by e-mail which you will be required to then submit electronically to Taskstream. Once the feedback form’s been submitted, it will be rated according to the following rubric with regard to the extent to which you’ve mastered the material as it pertains to the following sections from the BACB Task List. See appendix A

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

2. Blackboard Discussion Board
For weeks indicated below, and in conjunction with readings from About Behaviorism, you will respond to the week’s two Discussion Board Items. To respond, first do the assigned reading from About Behaviorism. Then, go to the Discussion Board Items for that week. Read the question, and respond to the question directly for one point. Then, on another day during the period for which the question is available, read the responses posted by your classmates, and respond to one or more of your classmates’ posts for an additional point.

3. Research Profile.
This assignment will: 1) provide you experience using PsychInfo to conduct literature searches; 2) acquaint students with GMU library resources; 3) provide individual students with exposure to the behavior analytic literature; and 4) provide exposure to behavior analysis as a transcendent discipline and practice to the class. To do this assignment:

   1. Choose your author from the following list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timothy R. Vollmer</th>
<th>Beth Sulzer-Azaroff</th>
<th>Gina Green</th>
<th>Sigrid Glenn</th>
<th>Edward Feeney</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kennon A. Lattal</td>
<td>Linda J. Hayes</td>
<td>Alan Poling</td>
<td>Jack Michael</td>
<td>Gerald L. Shook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Sundberg</td>
<td>James Partington</td>
<td>Judith E. Favell</td>
<td>Raymond G. Miltenberger</td>
<td>Donald Baer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnny Matson</td>
<td>Thomas S. Critchfield</td>
<td>Beatrice Barrett</td>
<td>Jon S. Bailey</td>
<td>Linda LeBlanc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aubrey C. Daniels</td>
<td>Julie S. Vargas</td>
<td>R. Douglas Greer</td>
<td>Timothy D. Hackenberg</td>
<td>Lawrence E. Fraley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Once you have an author assignment, do a PsychInfo search for articles, chapters, and books written by the author. Conduct the list such that you not only get the references for the author’s work, but also the abstracts.

3. Print the outcome of the search.

4. Read the abstracts.

5. Obtain several of the 5 of the articles, chapters, or books from the library, or through interlibrary lending. Read them.
   - If the author is living, you can contact the author and, if the author is willing, interview the author, either by phone or by e-mail.

6. Prepare a written report in which you:
   a. Identify the primary areas of study
      - type of work the author has done, and the populations considered
   b. Summarize selected articles
      - Describe notable themes found in the author’s work.
   c. Discuss possible applications of the author’s work to other populations or problems.
   d. Cite the articles, chapters, and/or books you read in preparing your report (using APA Sixth Edition style).

3. **Research Profile Presentation.**
   Deliver your report in 15 minutes or less, leaving 2 minutes for questions or comments afterward, during one of the class sessions so indicated on the class schedule. Provide a one-page handout of the researcher’s profile which includes primary areas of study and summary of notable themes found in the author’s work

4. **SAFMEDS.**
   This word is an acronym for Say All Fast for a Minute Every Day Shuffled. Given a list of key vocabulary terms and concepts, you will be demonstrating mastery of these terms by completing the definition within the time allotted to help you develop fluent responding. Since fluency requires both accuracy and short latency to respond, fluent responding is superior to accurate responding. When you do these, what you’ll learn to do is not only get the answers right, but get them right quickly. This will greatly help you later in this course and in your subsequent behavior analysis courses. To demonstrate mastery, you’ll respond to each card correctly, such that you complete the deck in 30 seconds or less. You’ll get five points for each demonstration of mastery. There are 12 sets for a total of 60 points.

5. **Attendance and Participation**
   Students are expected to be on time, attend the entire class session, and be ready to participate in class discussion and activities. An attendance sheet will be circulated in class within the first 10 minutes. Names on the list will be given 1 point for attendance.
Participation activities will be provided during class and cannot be made up after that class session.

**Other Assignments.**

**Extra Credit**

1. Completing the following Behavior Development Solutions modules:
   - Definitions and Characteristics
   - Principles, Procedures, and Concepts
   and uploading proof of completion to Blackboard (under the Extra Credit tab) by 5:00 pm US Eastern Time on April 9, 2014 will earn 10 points of extra credit per certificate submitted. Information on purchasing a subscription to the Behavior Development Solutions Behavior Analyst Certification Exam study software can be found at [www.behaviordevelopmentsolutions.com](http://www.behaviordevelopmentsolutions.com).

2. Go to the Autism Internet Modules at [www.autisminternetmodules.org](http://www.autisminternetmodules.org). Once there, create an account. (This is free of charge.) Completing the following modules:
   - Differential Reinforcement
   - Extinction
   - Prompting
   - Reinforcement
   And then uploading proof of completion to Blackboard (under the Extra Credit Tab) by 5:00 pm US Eastern Time on April 9, 2014 will earn 5 points of extra credit per module completed.

**Schedule**

Throughout the following table, *ABA* refers to the Cooper, Heron, & Heward (2007) text, and *AB* to *About Behaviorism*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/15/14</td>
<td>Orientation to Applied Behavior Analysis, Behavior Analyst Certification, and the GMU ABA Program; Syllabus Review</td>
<td>Sign up for Research Profile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/22/14</td>
<td>Basic Philosophy and Terminology; Respondent Behavior and Respondent Conditioning</td>
<td>Read <em>ABA</em> Ch. 1 &amp; 2, and <em>AB</em> Intro &amp; Ch 1 Complete DB 1&amp;2 In class Safmeds demonstration- set 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/29/14</td>
<td>Operant behavior and operant conditioning; positive and negative reinforcement</td>
<td>Read <em>ABA</em> Ch. 11 &amp; 12, and <em>AB</em> Ch 2 Read <em>ABA</em> Ch. 14 &amp; 15, and <em>AB</em> Ch 3 Complete DB 3&amp;4 In class Safmeds demonstration- set 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/5/14</td>
<td>Operant and Respondent</td>
<td>Read <em>ABA</em> Ch 21, <em>AB</em> Ch 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Extinction; Alternative methods of producing extinction effects</td>
<td>Complete DB 5&amp;6, In class Safmeds demonstration- set 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/12/14</td>
<td>Schedules of Reinforcement</td>
<td>Read <em>ABA</em> Ch. 13, and <em>AB</em> Ch. 5 Complete DB 7&amp;8 In class Safmeds demonstration- set 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/19/14</td>
<td>Differential Reinforcement</td>
<td>Read <em>ABA</em> Ch. 22, and <em>AB</em> Ch. 6 Complete DB 9&amp;10 In class Safmeds demonstration- set 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/26/14</td>
<td>Online Modules- Motivating Operations Online Module - Antecedent stimulus control of operant behavior, stimulus generalization, and response generalization</td>
<td>Read <em>ABA</em> Ch. 16, and <em>AB</em> Ch. 8 Read ABA Ch. 17 and AB Ch 7 Complete DB 11&amp;12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/5/14</td>
<td>Instructions; Prompting, fading Discrimination and Conditional Discrimination</td>
<td>Read <em>AB</em> Ch. 9 Read <em>ABA</em> Ch 18, <em>AB</em> Ch. 10 Complete DB 13&amp;14 In class Safmeds demonstration- set 6 and 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/12/14</td>
<td>Happy Spring Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/19/14</td>
<td>Instructions, Compliance, Shaping, and Chaining</td>
<td>Read <em>ABA</em> Ch 19 and 20, <em>AB</em> Ch. 11 Complete DB 15&amp;16 In class Safmeds demonstration- set 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/26/14</td>
<td>Stimulus Equivalence Behavioral Contracting, Token Economies, and Group Contingencies</td>
<td>Read <em>AB</em> Ch 13 &amp; 14 Read <em>ABA</em> Ch 26, <em>AB</em> Ch. 12 Complete DB 17&amp;18 In class Safmeds demonstration- set 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/2/14</td>
<td>Who’s who in Behavior Analysis</td>
<td>Complete DB 19&amp;20 In class Safmeds demonstration- set 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/9/14</td>
<td>Course evaluation Final Exam</td>
<td>Research Profile Presentations Research Profile Paper due Complete DB 21&amp;22 In class Safmeds demonstration- set 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Appendix**
# Appendix A: Taskstream Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Behavior Change Procedures</th>
<th>Does Not Meet Expectations 1</th>
<th>Meets Expectations 2</th>
<th>Exceeds Expectations 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candidate demonstrates further learning needed by answering fewer than 80% of items correctly pertaining to:</td>
<td>Candidate demonstrates competence by correctly answering 80 – 99% of questions pertaining to:</td>
<td>Candidate demonstrates mastery by responding correctly to 100% of questions pertaining to:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Use interventions based on manipulation of antecedents, such as motivating operations and discriminative stimuli.</td>
<td>- Use interventions based on manipulation of antecedents, such as motivating operations and discriminative stimuli.</td>
<td>- Use interventions based on manipulation of antecedents, such as motivating operations and discriminative stimuli.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Use discrimination training procedures.</td>
<td>- Use discrimination training procedures.</td>
<td>- Use discrimination training procedures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Use instructions and rules.</td>
<td>- Use instructions and rules.</td>
<td>- Use instructions and rules.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Use contingency contracting (i.e., behavioral contracting).</td>
<td>- Use contingency contracting (i.e., behavioral contracting).</td>
<td>- Use contingency contracting (i.e., behavioral contracting).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Use independent, interdependent, and dependent group contingencies.</td>
<td>- Use independent, interdependent, and dependent group contingencies.</td>
<td>- Use independent, interdependent, and dependent group contingencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Plan for behavioral contrast effects.</td>
<td>- Plan for behavioral contrast effects.</td>
<td>- Plan for behavioral contrast effects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Use the matching law and recognize factors influencing choice.</td>
<td>- Use the matching law and recognize factors influencing choice.</td>
<td>- Use the matching law and recognize factors influencing choice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Arrange high-probability request sequences.</td>
<td>- Arrange high-probability request sequences.</td>
<td>- Arrange high-probability request sequences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Use the Premack Principle.</td>
<td>- Use the Premack Principle.</td>
<td>- Use the Premack Principle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Use pairing procedures to establish new conditioned reinforcers and punishers.</td>
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<td>- Use pairing procedures to establish new conditioned reinforcers and punishers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Use errorless learning procedures.</td>
<td>- Use errorless learning procedures.</td>
<td>- Use errorless learning procedures.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Candidate demonstrates further learning needed by answering correctly fewer than 80% of questions pertaining to:

- Lawfulness of behavior.
- Selectionism.
- Determinism.
- Empiricism.
- Parsimony.
- Pragmatism.
- Environmental (as opposed to mentalistic) explanations of behavior.
- Distinguish between radical and methodological behaviorism.
- Distinguish between the conceptual analysis of behavior, experimental analysis of behavior, applied behavior analysis, and behavioral service delivery.

Define and provide examples of:

- Behavior, response, response class
- Environment, stimulus, stimulus class
- Stimulus equivalence
- Reflexive relations (US-UR)
- Respondent conditioning (CS-CR)
- Operant conditioning
- Respondent-operant interactions
- Unconditioned reinforcement
- Conditioned reinforcement
- Unconditioned punishment
- Conditioned punishment
- Schedules of reinforcement and punishment
- Extinction
- Automatic reinforcement and punishment
- Stimulus control
- Multiple functions of a single stimulus
- Unconditioned motivating operations
- Conditioned motivating operations
- Transitive, reflexive, surrogate motivating operations
- Distinguish between discriminative stimulus and the motivating operation
- Distinguish between the motivating operation and reinforcement effects
- Behavioral contingencies
- Contiguity
- Functional relations
- Conditional discriminations
- Stimulus discrimination
- Response generalization
- Stimulus generalization
- Behavioral momentum
- Matching law
- Contingency-shaped behavior
- Rule governed behavior

Candidate demonstrates competence by answering correctly 80 – 99% of questions pertaining to:

- Lawfulness of behavior.
- Selectionism.
- Determinism.
- Empiricism.
- Parsimony.
- Pragmatism.
- Environmental (as opposed to mentalistic) explanations of behavior.
- Distinguish between radical and methodological behaviorism.
- Distinguish between the conceptual analysis of behavior, experimental analysis of behavior, applied behavior analysis, and behavioral service delivery.

Define and provide examples of:

- Behavior, response, response class
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- Contiguity
- Functional relations
- Conditional discriminations
- Stimulus discrimination
- Response generalization
- Stimulus generalization
- Behavioral momentum
- Matching law
- Contingency-shaped behavior
- Rule governed behavior

Candidate demonstrates mastery by responding correctly to 100% of questions pertaining to:

- Lawfulness of behavior.
- Selectionism.
- Determinism.
- Empiricism.
- Parsimony.
- Pragmatism.
- Environmental (as opposed to mentalistic) explanations of behavior.
- Distinguish between radical and methodological behaviorism.
- Distinguish between the conceptual analysis of behavior, experimental analysis of behavior, applied behavior analysis, and behavioral service delivery.

Define and provide examples of:

- Behavior, response, response class
- Environment, stimulus, stimulus class
- Stimulus equivalence
- Reflexive relations (US-UR)
- Respondent conditioning (CS-CR)
- Operant conditioning
- Respondent-operant interactions
- Unconditioned reinforcement
- Conditioned reinforcement
- Unconditioned punishment
- Conditioned punishment
- Schedules of reinforcement and punishment
- Extinction
- Automatic reinforcement and punishment
- Stimulus control
- Multiple functions of a single stimulus
- Unconditioned motivating operations
- Conditioned motivating operations
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- Functional relations
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