



**American University of Beirut  
Department of Psychology**

**SYLLABUS**

**Course:** Psyc 238-Applied Behavior Analysis  
**Semester:** Spring 2019  
**Class Location:** Fisk 337  
**Class Time:** Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 12:00-12:50 PM  
**Professor:** Sabine Saade, Ph.D.  
**Email:** ss241@aub.edu.lb  
**Office Hours:** M M F 11:00-12:00 AM or by appointment  
**Office:** Jesup 107C

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**I-Course Description**

This course pertains to Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). ABA is a science based on behavioral psychology. As such, ABA based interventions rely on behavioral principles to bring about socially significant change. ABA applications are wide and cover many topics; among those are autism spectrum disorder intervention, intellectual disability intervention, developmental delay and disorders intervention, organizational behavior management, drug intervention, sports management, etc. This is a 3-credit course recommended for juniors and seniors and is offered only to those who have taken Psychology 101/201.

**II-Textbook (Available at the AUB Bookstore)**

Miltenberger, R.G. (2012). *Behavior modification: Principles and procedures* (5<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. [Available at the bookstore]

**III-Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- a. Learn the basic principles of behavior modification.
- b. Distinguish between operant and classical conditioning.

- c. Learn behavior modification procedures.
- d. Learn the functional approach to understanding and treating problem behaviors.
- e. Define and provide examples of key concepts pertaining to applied behavior analysis.
- f. Distinguish between various methodological approaches used in behavior modification.
- g. Operationally define a behavioral response.
- h. Identify measurable dimensions of behavior (e.g., rate, frequency and duration)
- i. Demonstrate an understanding of information communicated in behavioral graphs.
- j. Identify and understand information communicated in different experimental design graphs especially single-case ones (e.g. multiple baseline design).

\*\*\* Please note that some notions presented in class resemble those presented in the PSY220-Learning and Behavior course except that the content of this course pertains to applications of those principles and procedures to applied, socially and clinically important behavior.

**IV. Course Schedule** *(Tentative, may be subject to modifications)*

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
<b>Week 1</b> <b>M January 21</b>	➤ Introduction to the course	
<b>Week 2</b> <b>W January 23</b> <b>F January 25</b> <b>M January 28</b>	➤ Introduction to behavior modification ➤ Observing and recording behavior	Chap 1 Chap 2
<b>Week 3</b> <b>W January 30</b> <b>F February 1</b> <b>M February 4</b>	➤ Graphing behavior and measuring change ➤ Reinforcement	Chap 3 Chap 4
<b>Week 4</b> <b>W February 6</b> <b>F February 8</b> <b>M February 11</b>	➤ Extinction ➤ Punishment	Chap 5 Chap 6
<b>Week 5</b> <b>W February 13</b> <b>F February 15</b> <b>M February 18</b>	➤ Stimulus control: Discrimination and generalization ➤ Respondent conditioning	Chap 7 Chap 8
<b>Week 6</b> <b>W February 20</b> <b>F February 22</b> <b>M February 25</b>	➤ Shaping	Review <b>Exam 1</b> (Chap1---≥ 8) Chap 9
<b>Week 7</b> <b>W February 27</b> <b>F March 1</b> <b>M March 4</b>	➤ Prompting and transfer of stimulus control ➤ Chaining	Chap 10 Chap 11
<b>Week 8</b> <b>W March 6</b>	➤ Behavioral skills training procedures ➤ Understanding problem behaviors through	Chap 12 Chap 13

<b>F March 8</b> <b>M March 11</b>	functional assessment	
<b>Week 9</b> <b>W March 13</b> <b>F March 15</b> <b>M March 18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Applying extinction</li> <li>➤ Differential reinforcement</li> </ul>	Chap 14 Chap 15
<b>Week 10</b> <b>W March 20</b> <b>F March 22</b> <b>W March 27</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Antecedent control procedures</li> </ul>	Review <b>Exam 2</b> (Chap 9---≥ 15) Chap 16
<b>Week 11</b> <b>F March 29</b> <b>M April 1</b> <b>W April 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Self-Management</li> <li>➤ Habit reversal procedures</li> <li>➤ Self-management project instructions</li> </ul>	Chap 20 Chap 21
<b>Week 12</b> <b>F April 5</b> <b>M April 8</b> <b>W April 10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Using punishment: Time out and response cost</li> <li>➤ Positive punishment procedures and the ethics of punishment</li> </ul>	Chap 17 Chap 18
<b>Week 13</b> <b>F April 12</b> <b>M April 15</b> <b>W April 17</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Promoting generalization</li> <li>➤ The token economy</li> </ul>	Chap 19 Chap 22
<b>Week 14</b> <b>W April 24</b>		Class Activities
<b>Week 15</b> <b>W April 30</b>		<b>Final Exam</b> (Chap16---≥ 22)

### V. Dates to Remember

1. **Friday February 22-Exam 1**-1hour long-NONE cumulative (In an exam room-on Moodle-During class time)

2. **Friday March 22-Exam 2**-1hour long-NONE cumulative (In an exam room-on Moodle-)
3. **Wednesday April 30-Final exam**-1hour long-NONE cumulative (In an exam room-on Moodle)
4. **Friday, April 12**-Last day for withdrawal from courses
5. For other important dates, please consult AUB's academic calendar:

<http://www.aub.edu.lb/registrar/Documents/pdfdoc/calendar2018-19.pdf>

### **VI-Course Evaluations**

You will have **3** exams to take. Those exams will not be cumulative. As for their format, they will consist of multiple-choice, and/or true-or-false questions. Exam 1 will count for 25% of your final grade, exam 2 for 30% and the final for 35%.

1. **Exam 1** (25%)-Chap 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,6, 7 and 8
2. **Exam 2** (30%)-Chap 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15
3. **Final exam** (35%)-Chap 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22
4. **Self-Management project (10%)**: Each student will develop a self-management project. The purpose of the project is for students to identify a behavior they would like to change, record that behavior for a period of time, and to develop and implement behavior modification procedures to change that behavior. This project will be discussed in detail **on April 3**. The last two class days are reserved for student presentations of their self-management projects.

Please note that all evaluation grades are posted on Moodle **two weeks** following the exam.

### **VII-Course Policies**

**Class attendance and policy**: Despite Lebanon's infamous traffic congestion, you are expected to arrive to class **on time**. Failure to do so may prevent you from entering the class as it may disrupt the rest of the students. You are required to enter the classroom **before** I finish going through the attendance sheet. A student who comes in after having finished taking attendance will be considered absent. Although no grading is allocated to attendance, students who miss more than one-fifth of the sessions will be required to withdraw from the course with a grade of "W" for that course. Failure to show up to an exam will result in a grade of F except for medical reasons that are provided by the University Infirmary or the American University of Beirut Hospital. Any accommodations needed should be communicated to the professor at the beginning of the semester (**the first 2 weeks**); last minute accommodations will not necessarily be considered.

**Emails:** Please **do not email me** concerning attendance (lateness, inability to come to class, etc.) unless you can provide a medical note from the University Infirmary or the American University of Beirut Hospital. The average time to respond to an email is **48 hours**.

**Office hours:** Students are welcome during office hours. If you can not make it during my office hours, you need to make **an appointment or email me instead**.

**Phone Use:** You are not allowed to use your mobile phones, Ipads or Iphones in class.

**Academic Dishonesty:** No form of cheating or plagiarism whatsoever will be tolerated and will result in failing the class. Please refer to AUB's student of conduct for more information.

**<http://www.aub.edu.lb/pnp/generaluniversitypolicies/Documents/StudentCodeConduct/StudentCodeConduct.pdf>**

\*\*\*The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus during the semester, if needed.\*\*\*