

SYLLABUS*
PSYCHOLOGY 322-001
Behavior Modification
Fall 2011

Instructor: Rebecca Morse (rmorse@gmu.edu)

Class Hours & Location: Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:00AM – 10:15 AM Robinson A 101

Office Hours: Thursdays 10:30AM to 11:30AM
Also available by appointment.

Office Location: David King Hall 1027
Office Phone during hours: 703.993.4065

REQUIRED TEXT: Martin, G. & Pear, J. (2011). *Behavior modification: What it is and how to do it* (9th Ed.). Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Prentice Hall. *Please note that your exams are based on the textbook, ergo it is imperative that you have the book to succeed in the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS:

Behavior modification is a comprehensive technology for the improvement of behavior based on scientifically derived and empirically demonstrated principles of learning. Behavior modification has been applied to a wide variety of persons and many different types of issues. This course is designed to impart fundamental knowledge on the philosophy, principles, and procedures of behavior modification and to illustrate its evidence-based application in a variety of areas.

The goals of this course are to:

- o Review elementary principles and procedures of behavior modification
- o Acquaint students with empirical and theoretical underpinnings of the field by providing advanced discussion and references to the classical and current research literature in the field.
- o Enable students to think about behavior modification critically and creatively
- o Provide practical know-how skills

TECHNOLOGY:

*Students will be expected to access and use Blackboard on a regular basis (<https://gmublackboard.com>). Important class information, such as the syllabus and weekly quizzes/practicum assignments will be posted here. To access Blackboard, students should use their George Mason email ID and password.

*In addition, students should check their GMU email account regularly. Be sure to check that new messages can be received and that you are not over the message limit. You also have the option for your GMU account to be forwarded to another email address.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:

You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss and apply the material. In order to make the most out of your learning experience, it is imperative that you are not only present at each class meeting, but are alert, attentive, and ready to learn. Students are required to read (before class) any texts that may be assigned for that week. Class reading assignments will be posted on Blackboard.

Throughout the semester we will have class discussions. You are responsible for being prepared to discuss the material, and are expected to actively participate in discussion with your classmates about

the material. Participation is worth 100 points, and 10% of your final grade, and will be based on your level of engagement. Although I do not grade strictly on attendance, you will not be able to earn the maximum points for participation if you are frequently not present –meaning if you miss a class due to illness, as long as you communicate this with me, it will not affect your grade. I will be taking attendance, so for every two unexcused absences (unexcused meaning you did not communicate the reason you missed class), you will lose 10 points of the 100.

EXAMS:

There will be quizzes for each chapter; there will be 30 quizzes, and each will be worth 20 points, for a total of 600 points, and 60% of your final grade. There will be no mid-term or final exam, just the weekly quizzes.

*There will be NO make-up exams offered for this course. If you anticipate conflict with an exam date, it is the student's responsibility to provide justification, but scheduling an alternate date is at the discretion of the instructor. Similarly, emergency exceptions are at the discretion of the instructor (in the hospital; car accident = emergency; alarm clock did not ring; bad hair day = not an emergency)

PRACTICUM ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be 6 practicum assignments, which will give you an opportunity to “try out” your working knowledge of the materials covered in class. These are graded on a pass/fail basis, and are worth 50 points each, and a total of 300 points, or 30% of your final grade. We will discuss these in class as we do them, so be prepared to discuss your assignment with the rest of the class.

GRADES:

30 Exams: 600 points (20 points each)
Practicum assignments: 300 points (50 points each)
Participation: 100 points
Total Possible Points: 1000 points

GRADE CALCULATION:

For simplicity, the points have been assigned such that a student can track their own grade without any confusing arithmetic acrobatics (hence the even 1000 points). I round to the second decimal, so a grade of 91.49 is considered a 92 (A-), and a grade of 96.03 is a 96 (A).

Grade Breakdown:

A+ 100 – 97	B+ 89 – 87	C+ 79 – 77	D 69 - 60
A 96 – 93	B 86 – 83	C 76 – 73	F 59 and below
A- 92 – 90	B- 82 – 80	C- 72 - 70	

HONOR CODE:

All provisions of the GMU Honor Code will be followed in this class. Information regarding the Honor Code and what constitutes academic dishonesty can be found in the 2009-2010 University Catalog or online at the following website: <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/>.

DISABILITY HELP:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Schedule of classes *Topics subject to change as needed to ensure that the majority of students are comfortable with material covered prior to moving to the next topic.

Date	Topic/Readings	Quizzes/Practicum Due By Wednesday 5PM of that Week.
Week 1 08/30 & 09/01	Martin & Pear (2011) chapters 1, 2, & 29	
Week 2 09/06 & 09/08	Martin & Pear (2011) chapters 3 & 4	Quizzes: 1, 2 & 29
Week 3 09/13 & 09/15	Martin & Pear (2011) chapters 5 & 6	Quizzes: 3 & 4
Week 4 09/20 & 09/22	Martin & Pear (2006) chapters 7 & 8	Quizzes: 5 & 6 Practicum 1 Due
Week 5 09/27 & 09/29	Martin & Pear (2011) chapters 9 & 10	Quizzes: 7 & 8
Week 6 10/04 & 10/06	Martin & Pear (2011) chapters 11 & 12	Quizzes: 9 & 10 Practicum 2 Due
Week 7 10/11 (NO class) & 10/13 (class)	Martin & Pear (2011) chapters 13	Quizzes: 11 & 12
Week 8 10/18 & 10/20	Martin & Pear (2011) chapters 14 & 15	Quiz: 13 Practicum 3 Due
Week 9 10/25 & 10/27	Martin & Pear (2011) chapters 16 & 17	Quizzes: 14 & 15
Week 10 11/01 & 11/03	Martin & Pear (2011) chapters 18 & 19	Quizzes: 16 & 17 Practicum 4 Due
Week 11 11/08 & 11/10	Martin & Pear (2011) 20, 21 & 22	Quizzes: 18 & 19 Practicum 5 Due
Week 12 11/15 & 11/17	Martin & Pear (2011) chapters 23 & 24	Quizzes: 20, 21 & 22
Week 13 11/22 (Class) & 11/24 (NO Class)	Martin & Pear (2011) chapters 25 & 26	Quizzes: 23 & 24 Practicum 6 Due
Week 14 11/29 & 12/01	Martin & Pear (2011) chapters 27 & 28 & 30	Quizzes: 25 & 26
Week 15 12/06 & 12/08	Wrap-up & Review; Optional Debate re: Ethical Issues	Quizzes: 27 & 28
Thursday 12/15/11	Due by end of our Final Exam Period (online): 10:15AM NO EXTENSIONS ON FINAL QUIZ	Quiz: 30

*Syllabus subject to change, especially if we experience significant weather difficulties, as we did last year!

Important Dates

Dates listed on this page are for full semester courses only. For add/drop deadlines for courses that meet less than a full semester, see [Non-standard Sections Dates](#).

First day of classes ; last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date	August 29
Labor Day, university closed	September 5
Last day to add classes —all individualized section forms due	September 6
Last day to drop with no tuition penalty	
Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty	September 19
Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)	September 30
Midterm progress reporting period (100-200 level classes)—grades available via Patriot Web	September 26 - October 21
Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)	October 3 - October 28
Columbus Day recess (Monday classes/labs meet Tuesday. Tuesday classes do not meet this week)	October 10
Incomplete work from spring/summer 2011 due to instructor	October 28
Incomplete grade changes from spring/summer 2011 due to registrar	November 4
Thanksgiving recess	November 23-27
Last day of classes	December 10
Reading Days	December 12
Exam Period	December 13 - December 20
Degree Conferral Date	January 14, 2012

** These dates will not change.