

COU 645 Human Behavior Analysis
3 graduate credits
Elective course

Instructor: Gianene Prentice, MA, LIMHP

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Office hours: I can generally be reached Monday through Friday at the above number between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Meetings can be scheduled by appointment.

Course Description:

An examination of the application of operant and classical conditioning principles in mental health settings. Emphasis is placed on the analysis of human behavior and the development of behavioral treatment strategies.

Required Textbook:

Spiegler, M.D., & Guervremont, D.C., (2003). Contemporary Behavior Therapy. (4th ed.). Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.
ISBN: 0-534-54651-X.

Learning Objectives:

1. Develop a comprehensive understanding of and an ability to apply basic principals and procedures of behavioral therapy.
2. Demonstrate an ability to assess and interpret human behavior using cognitive behavioral principals and develop dignositc impressions using the DSM-IV-TR.
3. Understand the elements of functional assessments of behavior and best practice standards for developing intervention and treatment plans and the importance of evidence based practice.
4. Acquire specific knowledge about the alternative behavioral based therapies and demonstrate an ability to engage in critical analysis when compared to behavioral and cognitive behavioral therapies.
5. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the ethical principals associated with the use of behavior interventions and methods.
6. Develop skills associated with understanding and utilizing the entire range of behavioral based interventions currently used in professional practice.

Methods of Instruction

This will be an interactive course which requires an elevated level of classroom participation utilizing brief lectures and presentations by the instructor and students,

discussions of reading materials with an emphasis on application in practice. Students will be required to integrate content, knowledge, and application in practice. Active participation is essential to your learning.

Basis for Student Evaluation

A. Attendance and participation: Each student will attend all classes and actively participate in all discussions and experiential learning opportunities. The course includes both didactic and experiential components with an emphasis on application. Due to the emphasis on developing skills and application of theories your success depends upon actively engagement in the classroom with your peers and the instructor. At the conclusion of **each class session** the instructor will award up to three (4) points in this area. An absence, no matter what the reason will result in no (0) points earned for that session.

B. Mastery of theory: Students will be assigned a specific behavioral therapy on which to prepare a presentation. The student will become the “expert” on the particular theory and techniques. Each student will be assigned a date to present the assigned theory and should have examples, handouts, and other materials. If a power point is used, students should provide copies for the instructor and classmates. Each presentation should be approximately 30 minutes and should give each class member a good overview of the theory, specific techniques associated with that theory, and population for which that theory is most appropriate. Following the presentation, the student should involve the class in demonstrating the techniques. This portion of the presentation should be approximately 30 minutes.

Total points awarded based upon the Presentation Evaluation Form= 10

C. Synthesis of course content:

1) **Quizzes:** There will be weekly quizzes covering the assigned reading material. Quizzes will be multiple choice and worth 4 points each. Each student will be allowed to take scores from the top 2 quizzes.

Total points to be awarded using the top 2 quiz scores = 8

2) **Final Paper:** The final paper represents a comprehensive evaluation of mastery related to the course objectives. Each student will be required to write a 15-20 page paper addressing the learning objectives for the course.

Total points awarded = 28

D. Professional Development

Students will be required to complete a self assessment upon completion of the course. The outline for this will be provided and the assessment will be due with the final exam. **The final will be considered incomplete without the self assessment and subject to loss of point for lateness.**

There are a total of 100 points possible in this course. The following table represents the points required for grading assignment:

Points earned	Percentage of total	Grade earned
98-100	98-100%	A+
91-97	91-97 %	A
90	90%	A-
88-89	88-89%	B+
81-87	81-87%	B
80	80%	B-
78-79	78-79%	C+
71-77	71-77%	C
70	70%	C-