Syllabus

MHS 6900 Special Topics:
Behavior Analysis and Developmental Disabilities
Spring 2012
MW 9:00 - 10:30 – Westside C

Instructor: Raymond G. Miltenberger, Ph.D.
Office: MHC 2332
Phone: 974 5079
e-mail: miltenbe@usf.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Prerequisite:
ABA Basic Principles course

Required Texts:

JABA articles, available from the JABA web site (http://seab.envmed.rochester.edu/jaba) and other journal articles


Course Description

This graduate level 45 hour course is an elective in the ABA master’s program. It covers a range of topic in behavior analysis related to developmental disabilities including motivating operations, preference assessment, staff training and management, skills training, functional assessment and functional interventions. This course emphasizes Content Areas C, (Behavioral assessment and Selecting intervention outcomes & strategies), F (Behavioral change procedures and Systems support), and G (Discretionary) of the BACB Coursework Content Areas.

Course Objectives:

1. Learn the history of mental retardation, characteristics of persons with DD, and major issues and practices in the field of DD.
2. Learn the behavioral approaches used to teach skills and increase appropriate behaviors in persons with DD.
3. Learn the functional approach to the analysis and treatment of behavior problems in persons with DD.
4. Develop behavioral assessment and treatment programs for severe behavior problems in persons with DD.

Course Format:

Class periods will consist of lecture/discussion over the topics listed in the syllabus. Students are expected to read the material prior to class meetings so they can take an active part in discussions. Five tests will be given throughout the semester as scheduled on the course calendar. Test 5 is listed as the Final Exam. Ten 5-min. quizzes will be given at the beginning of class on unannounced dates.
Course Grade:

Your course grade will be determined by the following activities:

Tests: The 5 tests will involve short answer, essay questions over material from the readings and from lecture.

Quizzes: I will give 10 quizzes over the course of the semester. The quizzes will cover information from the readings and will be given unannounced at the beginning of some class periods. If a student misses class on a day a quiz is given, contacts me in advance (miltenbe@usf.edu, 813 974 5079), and has a legitimate excuse (e.g., verifiable illness or emergency), I will provide an opportunity to make up the points through an assignment that involves a detailed summary of the readings for that day and a make up quiz. Scheduling a meeting, practicum case, or other appointment during class time is not a legitimate excuse for missing class. Do not make travel plans during class periods.

Class presentations: Each student will do 4 PowerPoint presentations on research articles or chapters assigned in class.

Behavior programs: Twice in the semester we will conduct in-class exercises involving assessment and treatment planning for a hypothetical case involving severe behavior problems. Students will meet in small groups for the exercises and will then write the results in a behavior program. A format will be provided later in class.

1. Tests 70%
2. Quizzes 20%
3. Presentations, behavioral programs, & class participation 10%

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98 - 100%</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>93 – 97.9%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90 – 92.9%</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>88 – 89.9%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>83 – 87.9%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 – 82.9%</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>78 – 79.9%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>73 – 77.9%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 – 72.9%</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 – 69.9%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
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Class attendance:

Class attendance and participation is expected. Part of your grade is based on class participation. Lecture material will figure prominently in the tests and class discussion/participation is designed to benefit the student. All students should benefit from each others' attendance. You are responsible for any announcements/schedule changes made in class. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of 10 class periods and you must be present to take the quiz. It is not okay to leave early for spring break or schedule other trips or activities during class times.

Make-up exams:

If you have to miss a test you must make arrangements in advance to schedule a make-up. If you are sick the day of a test you must call my office (231-8623) or e-mail me (miltenbe@usf.edu) in advance of the test to inform me. I have voice mail to take your message if I am not in when you call.
Re-grade policy

If a student thinks a test or quiz item has been graded inaccurately he/she can ask that the item be regarded. Re-grade requests must be made within 1 week of when the test or quiz in question is returned.

Cheating and Plagiarism

See the policy in the USF Graduate Catalog. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing in this course, you will receive a “0” for the assignment and possible termination from the course. Cheating may mean using a previous or another student’s project and turning it in as your own. Plagiarizing means turning in written work that includes copyrighted material taken from someone else, without using quote marks or otherwise giving proper credit to the true author. In other words, plagiarism is the presentation of an author’s work in a way that the material might be mistaken to be your own.

USF's Policy on Religious Observances

"No student shall be compelled to attend class or sit for an examination at a day or time prohibited by his or her religious belief in accordance with the University policy on observance of religious holy days. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class due to the observation of a major religious observance must provide notice of the dates to the instructor, in writing, by the second class meeting."

Audio or Video Recording Policy

You must obtain advance written permission from the Instructor prior to audio recording or video recording any lecture or discussion with the Instructor. Suitable reasons may include a reasonable accommodation for a disability. However, students are not permitted to sell notes or tapes of class lectures.

Students with Disabilities

Students in need of academic accommodations for a disability may consult with the office of Students with Disabilities Services to arrange appropriate accommodations. Students are required to give reasonable notice prior to requesting an accommodation. Contact SDS at 974-4309 or www.sds.usf.edu.
**Course Calendar**

**Jan 9, 11**

Introduction, overview, definition and assessment of DD and ID  
History of ID, Community programs and services  
Current issues & practices  

No Readings

**Jan 16 - MLK Day – No class**

**Jan 18**

Motivating operations


**Jan 23**

Reinforcer assessment / Preference assessment


**Jan 25 - Test 1**

**Jan 30**

Staff training and management

Feb 1

Reid, Parsons, & Green (2012)
Chapters 5, 6, 7, & 8

Feb 6

Reid, Parsons, & Green (2012)
Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13

Feb 8

Overview of Autism

Skills training


Feb 13


Feb 15 – Test 2

Feb 20


**Feb 22**


**Feb 27**

*Conducting a functional assessment*


**Feb 29**


March 5 – Functional Interventions

Overview of Functional Intervention -


Mar 7 – Test 3

Mar 12 - Spring Break

Mar 19


Mar 21


Mar 26


**Mar 28**


**April 2**


**Apr 4 – Test 4**

**April 9**


**April 11**


**April 16**


**April 18**

Class exercise

**April 23**


**April 25**


**April 30 – Test 5**