



PSY/SPED 535—Applied Behavior Analysis

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Kelly M. Carrero, BCBA, LBA-TX; Associate Professor

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12pm-5pm CST [via Zoom](#) or by appointment

Office Fax: 903.886.5510

University Email Address: Kelly.Carrero@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Virtual Office Hours (VOH) for general course questions; Email for questions and/or information specific to individual students

Communication Response Time:

Using VOH through D2L = within 48 hours Monday – Friday, weekends and holidays may take up to 48 hours

Using University Email = within 72 hours Monday – Friday, weekends and holidays may take longer.

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce: Located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2020). *Applied behavior analysis (3rd Ed.)*. Hoboken, NJ: Pearson.

Optional Texts and/or Materials

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.)*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

Bailey, J. S., & Burch, M. R. (2022). *Ethics for behavior analysts (4th ed.)*. New York,

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NY: Routledge.

Other resources. Texas A&M University—Commerce’s Waters Library provides access to thousands of online journals. Of particular interest to this class are resources found in the ERIC and PsychInfo databases. You may access these resources on campus or from home by using your CWID and password at <http://www.tamuc.edu/library/>

Course Description

PSY/SPED 535 provides a focus on behavioral theory in its applied form—applied behavior analysis (ABA). Throughout this course, students will learn about the theoretical and philosophical foundations of ABA, as well as the basic concepts and principles that guide behavior analytic research and practice. Students must be able to demonstrate mastery of the student learning outcomes.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. List, describe, and identify: (a) the goals of behavior analysis as a science and its philosophical assumptions, (b) the various branches of behaviorism, and (c) the fundamental dimensions of ABA.
2. Define, describe, and identify key concepts, vocabulary, techniques, and outcomes of the use of the basic principles of ABA.
3. Identify distinguishing elements of key concepts and principles of ABA and accurately discriminate nuanced differences among key concepts and principles.
4. List, describe, and identify the major professional associations, licensing boards, and credentialing bodies that govern and guide behavior analysts in research, practice, and professional ethics.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

To be successful in this course, you will need to know how to access and navigate (a) Desire2Learn, (b) Microsoft Word, and (c) Microsoft Excel. If you use the program PAGES, you will need to convert your file to a Word document or PDF before submitting to Dropbox. **I will not serve as technical support.** TAMUC has multiple professionals (e. g., Instructional Technology, CITE, library) who will be able to help you troubleshoot and/or teach you how to navigate the necessary technical requirements for this course.

Instructional Methods

Each week, you will be responsible for completing an online module. In the module, you will have Background Information/Readings, Assignments, Discussions (sometimes), and Quizzes. All modules will be open from the beginning of the semester, BUT **they will close after the due dates** (so get your work in on time). In addition to virtual classes and online modules, there will be a very involved applied project that will include additional contact hours (see below).

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There is an applied project in this course and it accounts for much of your final grade. Therefore, it is critical that you keep up with the content at a pace that will allow you to apply it during the time sensitive applied project. **You will be required to schedule AT LEAST 2 virtual coaching sessions with me to discuss your project.** Failure to do this could substantially decrease your project grade and, therefore, your overall grade for the course. Historically, coaching sessions last approximately 20-30 minutes; although, some have lasted 15 and some over an hour. You will be evaluated using a rubric that will be available for your review on D2L.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

To contact success in this course, it is recommended that you log into the course at the very beginning of the semester and click through all of the modules to get an idea of the coursework load (so you can schedule your time accordingly). After you have reviewed the content expectations and load, sketch out a schedule for yourself so you are getting your work completed in a timely manner. Whatever amount of weekly time you have given yourself to complete the work, add at least another 90 minutes. The point is to be highly prepared to fully engage in the content and submit work in a timely manner.

Secondly, it is HIGHLY recommended that you take every learning opportunity provided to you throughout the course. The content in this course is challenging and you are going to want opportunities to work through the content by yourself, under my guidance, and with your peers. To get the most out of the class, you will want to make every effort to review all of the content provided to you, complete the course modules, build a peer community with other students studying ABA, and attend any virtual instruction opportunities provided to you throughout the semester.

Thirdly, it is ideal that you secure a placement for your applied project (there is quite a bit of flexibility, but ideally you all would work with a client/student in a setting similar to one you are training to work in professionally). If you are already working in a setting that will allow you to complete your applied project, you will need site authorization from a supervisor (more to come about what is required). For those of you who are not working in an applied setting and/or who do not wish to complete your project in an applied setting, you may consider completing a self-management project. Either way, exceptions may be made if discussed with me and approved by me.

Finally, **to be successful in this class, I recommend you access your resources fully, frequently, and without timidity.** Ask your peers questions in the discussion board. Email the instructor if you have any questions or concerns that are specific to you. Contact the TAMUC librarians (they have provided multiple ways to contact them) for assistance in accessing available resources. You are ENCOURAGED to reach out to me and schedule times to meet outside of class and in addition to the minimum (2) coaching sessions. This content and applied nature of the content is incredibly intricate and challenging—I am here as a main resource for information—so **DO NOT be afraid to reach out to me for multiple coaching sessions or just to connect about concerns and/or questions.**

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GRADING

The instructor reserves the right to make subjective judgments about the quality of student participation and products. In other words, quantity does not equate to quality nor does effort equate to quality. Moreover, a grade of A will be reserved for only the highest achieving students. If you need to receive an A in this course, I suggest you work hard to submit stellar products. My office hours are listed on the first page of this syllabus if you need to come and speak with me DURING the semester regarding your grades. Please do not wait until the semester is over to discuss grades.

In both undergraduate and graduate school, grades are earned according to individual student performance on described activities. Effort is important but the outcome of your effort is the product upon which grades are based. Final grades are assigned as follows using a weighted percentage points earned scale:

- ✓ Grades of A are reserved for students whose products are consistently exemplary and commensurate with the work of an accomplished graduate student. A products provide clarity of thoughts and ideas with no grammatical, structural, or spelling errors.
- ✓ Grades of B are earned by students whose products are good but not outstanding. B products provide detail and explanation; may have a few grammatical, structural, or spelling errors.
- ✓ Grades of C are earned by students whose products are limited but display sufficient understanding; may have major grammatical, structural, or spelling errors.

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Percentage toward final grade	Assignment/Activity
25%	Weekly Quizzes
35%	Weekly Assignments
35%	ABA Project Report
5%	Professionalism and Good Conduct

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Assessments

Weekly exams will be automatically graded by D2L. Weekly assignments will be graded on either accuracy or simple completion. The ABA Project report will be graded based on the rubric (See D2L for rubric). The task analysis of the ABA Project aligns almost exactly to the content as it is introduced throughout the course. Each task within the ABA project has been TAUGHT to you in this course and will be assessed using the rubric. The last few weeks of class will consist of viewing and evaluating peer presentations of their ABA projects. Professionalism and good conduct will be evaluated using the Rules of Netiquette (see D2L) and ethical codes of American Psychological Association, Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Council for Exceptional Children, and National Association of School Psychology.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

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COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

For general course questions, please post to the Virtual Office Hours (VOH) discussion board. If you have a general course question, it is likely that you are not the only student who needs the information and/or there are other students who know the answer and they can respond to your post. If we keep all general course questions in one, transparent place, the whole class benefits. If you email me a general course question, your response will be delayed because I will either respond by telling you to post your question to the VOH or I will disregard your question (as you have disregarded this syllabus). If you have a question or information that is specific to you, please email me directly. I will be available during my office hours (hours and link listed in the “Instructor Information” section of this syllabus) and by appointment. I will make myself available to meet with you—PLEASE do not hesitate to attend my office hours and/or request an appointment with me.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

1. Professionalism: It is expected that you demonstrate professionalism. For the purposes of this course, professionalism will be exhibited by the student: (a) completing all assigned readings, (b) submitting assignments by the deadline, and (c) adhering to the university student code of conduct (e.g., plagiarism, cheating).
2. Writing Assignments: Prepare all written assignments according to the APA Publications Manual (6th ed.), as appropriate. You can access information regarding basic APA style at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu> or the Learning Center located on the main floor of the library.
 - a. ***ALL WRITTEN WORK WILL BE SUBMITTED TO TURNITIN TO CHECK FOR PLAGIARISM (Turnitin will provide a score of the percentage of the paper that has been directly lifted from other sources). SCORES OF 30% OR MORE WILL BE IMMEDIATELY RETURNED TO THE STUDENT FOR REVISIONS. AFTER SECOND SUBMISSION, IF THE SCORE REMAINS 30% OR MORE, THE PAPER WILL AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE A ZERO. The BEST way to avoid any potential confusion is to get very good at stating things in

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multiple ways--but most importantly, in a way that is different than the original source(s). Papers in this class will likely not require direct quotes. We will discuss when it is appropriate to use direct quotes in a paper (and it isn't very often).

b. I STRONGLY encourage you take advantage of the student resources TAMUC offers you. I will reward students with bonus points if you can provide documentation that you have utilized the Writing Center to help you improve the quality of your written work. Here is a link to the Online Writing Lab:
<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/onlineWritingLab.aspx>

3. On-time Submission of Assignments and Quizzes: The information in this course builds on itself. Therefore, it is critical that work and quizzes be completed in a timely manner. Quizzes WILL NOT be re-opened because you forgot or didn't get to it in time. You will receive a zero. Course assignments and projects will receive 2 points off for each day that they are late; after 3 days, it will go down by a letter grade for each day that it is late.

Specific Requirements

1. Use of Person-First Language: You are expected to use Person-First language at all times when referring to individuals with a disability, diverse learning approach, and/or behavioral health concern (e.g., a child with autism, a person with social anxiety).

2. Weekly Quizzes: There will be quizzes for each week's readings. Students will take the quizzes online during the week, after completing the readings. Exams will use the objective-type format (e.g., multiple choice) and you will be given 2 attempts.

3. ABA Project: This assignment is designed to provide you with the opportunity to experience the seven dimensions of ABA through the applied use of some of the basic concepts and principles.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

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Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

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Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

PSY/SPED 535—Applied Behavior Analysis will cover the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB), 6th edition task list items from the following domains: (i) BEHAVIORISM

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AND PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS (15 hrs) and (ii) CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES (30 hrs).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

*See course website on D2L

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