



## PSY/SPED 535—Applied Behavior Analysis

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 11:30 am-4:30 pm CST [via Zoom](#) or by appointment

**Office Fax:** 903.886.5510

**University Email Address:** Kelly.Carrero@etamu.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 East Texas A&M University:** 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](http://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* (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Pearson.

\*\*Skinner, B. F. (1951). *Science and human behavior*. Harvard University. (\*\*provided within D2L)

#### Optional Texts and/or Materials

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American*

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

*Psychological Association (7<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

Bailey, J. S., & Burch, M. R. (2022). *Ethics for behavior analysts (4<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. New York, NY: Routledge.

**Other resources.** East Texas A&M's Library provides access to thousands of online journals. Of particular interest to this class are resources found in the ERIC and PsycINFO 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.

## **Professional Standards**

### ***BACB 6<sup>th</sup> Edition Task List Content***

Philosophical Underpinnings; Concepts & Principles (15 Content Hours)

Behavior Assessment (15 Content Hours)

Behavior-Change Procedures; Selecting and Implementing Interventions (15 Content Hours)

### ***NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST STANDARDS***

Domain 1: Data Based Decision Making

Domain 5: School-Wide Practices to Promote Learning

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Domain 6: Services to Promote Safe and Supportive Schools  
Domain 9: Research and Evidence-Based Practice

## **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.** ETAMU 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 Readings and Assignments (may include quizzes). In addition to virtual classes and online modules, there will be a very involved applied project that will include additional contact hours (see below).

**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

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

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 ETAMU 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.**

## 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%

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

Percentage toward final grade	Assignment/Activity
35%	Module Assignments
50%	ABA Project Report
15%	Professionalism and Good Conduct

## **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 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 ETAMU 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:

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/onlineWritingLab.aspx>

3. On-time Submission of Assignments: The information in this course builds on itself. Therefore, it is critical that assignments be completed in a timely manner. 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. Module Assignments: Each module will consist of required readings and follow-up assignments, may include quizzes.

2. 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.

A. Students will be required to attend AT LEAST 2 coaching sessions

B. There will be several Project Activities throughout the semester—these do not need to be submitted, but will be offered to assist students with their project

C. Students will be required to complete and submit a final report

### **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.

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

### **LMS**

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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](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](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **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](mailto: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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

### **Brightspace Support**

#### **Need Help?**

#### **Student 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>

## **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>

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

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **Academic Integrity**

Students at East Texas A&M University 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 student academic dishonesty policy  
[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy  
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Graduate student academic dishonesty policy:  
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:  
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

## **ETAMU Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage.

## **Artificial Intelligence**

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, Chatbots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

## **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

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

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**

Office of Student Disability Services  
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

**Phone (903) 886-5930**

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

**Website:** <http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx>

## **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



## **East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at ETAMU, 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](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

## **Nondiscrimination Notice**

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

\*\*This is a tentative schedule. The professor reserves the right to make revisions at any time and students will always be given at least 7 days to complete any weekly assignment.

<u>Week / Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Assignments</u> <i>MA = Module Activity</i> <i>PA = ABA Project Activity</i>	<u>Due Dates</u>
1- 8/26	Course Overview and Birth of a Radical Science	MA: Introduction Activities	8/31/2025
2- 9/2 No Zoom class	Introduction to ABA	MA: Notebook/podcast	9/7/2025
3- 9/9	Basic Concepts and Principles	MA: Quiz (Chapters 1 & 2)	9/14/2025
4- 9/16	Introduction to the ABA Project & FBA	MA: FBA IRIS	9/21/2025
5- 9/23 No Zoom class	Functions of Behavior & FABI	MA: ENGAGE FABI Activities PA: Functional Assessment Activity (Bring to 9/30 class)	9/28/2025
6- 9/30	Operationalizing Target Behaviors	MA: Peer Review of Target Behavior Assessment Form PA: Target Behavior Assessment Form (page 1)	10/5/2025

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

7- 10/7 No Zoom class	Measuring Behavior	MA : Quiz (Chapter 4) PA: Baseline Data Collection	10/12/2025
8 – 10/14	Selecting and Implementing Interventions	MA: AFIRM Module	10/19/2025
9 – 10/21	Behavioral Objectives	MA: Behavioral Objectives Rubric PA: Peer Review of Behavioral Objectives	10/26/2025
10 – 10/28 No Zoom class	Designing Programs & Program Instructions	MA: Essential Elements of Program Design and Instructions & BST Video Planning	11/2/2025
11- 11/4	Behavior-Change Procedures: Systems and Individuals	MA/PA: BST Video	11/9/2025
12- 11/11	Data-Informed Decision-Making: Systems and Individuals	MA: PBIS Activity	11/16/2025
13- 11/18 No Zoom class	Reinforcement vs. Punishment	PA: Graphing MA: Gathering Assessments (Preference, Motivational, & Interest Inventory)	11/23/2025
14- 11/25 No Zoom class Thanksgiving	Schedules of Reinforcement	MA: Schedules of Reinforcement Activity	11/30/2025
15- 12/2	Promoting Generalization	PA: Finalize Project	12/8/2025
FINALS WEEK 12/9	<b>ABA Project due by or before 11:59 pm on 12/9/2025</b>		

---

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*