**PSY 535: Applied Behavior Analysis**
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Anabel Vega Meyer, Ph.D., LP, LSP, LBA, BCBA, NCSP
**Office Location:** Henderson 213
**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 8:00am-12:00pm or Fridays 1:00pm-2:00pm via Zoom, or by appointment. If you have any questions or difficulties with the course material, please contact me.
**University Email Address**: Anabel.Meyer@etamu.edu
**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email
**Communication Response Time:** Usually 24-48 hours, with the exception of weekends and holidays

## COURSE INFORMATION

### Textbook(s) Required

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

**Skinner, B. F. (1951). *Science and human behavior*. Havard 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.*

**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.

### 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 credentialling bodies that govern and guide behavior analysts in research, practice, and professional ethics.

**Professional Standards**
***BACB 6th 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
Domain 6: Services to Promote Safe and Supportive Schools
Domain 9: Research and Evidence-Based Practice


## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will the ability to use word processing programs and internet-based learning management software to complete course successfully.

### 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.

**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 evaluated using a rubric that will be available for your review on D2L.

## Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. To succeed in this course, it is important to log in at the start of the semester and review all the modules to understand the workload. This will help you plan your schedule effectively. After familiarizing yourself with the course requirements, create a study plan that allows you to complete assignments on time. Be sure to allocate at least 90 additional minutes beyond your estimated weekly study time to ensure you are well-prepared to engage fully with the material and meet deadlines.
2. It is strongly encouraged that you take advantage of all learning opportunities throughout the course. The content is challenging, and engaging with it independently, with instructor guidance, and collaboratively with your peers will enhance your understanding. To maximize your learning, thoroughly review all provided materials, complete each module, connect with classmates studying ABA, and attend any virtual sessions offered during the semester.
3. Ideally, you should secure a placement for your applied project that aligns with your professional training goals. If you are currently working in a relevant setting, you will need site authorization from your supervisor (details to follow). If you are not in an applied setting or prefer not to complete the project in one, you may opt for a self-management project. Exceptions can be made upon discussion and approval.
4. Finally, to be successful in this course, actively utilize all available resources. Engage with peers through the discussion board, reach out to me via email with any personal questions or concerns, and contact the ETAMU librarians for assistance accessing resources. You are encouraged to schedule meetings with me outside of class as needed. Given the complexity and applied nature of this course, I am here to support you—do not hesitate to request additional guidance or discuss any challenges.

## GRADING

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

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

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 (7th 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: 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.
        - There will be several Project Activities throughout the semester.
        - Students will be required to complete and submit a final report


## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M  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.etamu.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@etamu.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

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

## 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

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures/Policies

***Professional Conduct.*** Students are expected to conduct themselves as mature and responsible adults while enrolled in this course. Be cognizant that side conversations in class can be distracting to the instructor and your classmates. Please show respect for others when they speak. If you do not agree with their point of view, ask for clarification or offer alternative viewpoints. Behavior meant to demean or belittle a class member will not be tolerated. Also, student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at ETAMU. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor will seek the assistance form the proper authorities (e.g. Chair of Psychology, Counseling, & Special Education and/or Dean's Office).

For in-person or synchrounous online courses: Please turn off all phones or put them on silent. Laptops are permitted in class but should be used to enhance learning. Students should not use them for checking email or posting messages on Facebook, Twitter, or other social networks (the same with cell phones). If students are found to be using laptops or cell phones for purposes not related to class the instructor will ask the student to reframe from using their laptops/cell phones during class.

*Class Participation:* All students **MUST** actively participate in class discussions and class activities in order to fully gain knowledge and build competence. In addition, students are expected to have all readings and activities required for the day's class to be completed prior to coming to class.

***E-mail and myLEOonline (D2L Brightspace).*** All Students should activate and regularly check their Leo Mail and myLEOonline (D2L Brightspace) accounts associated with this class. All assignments will be turned in on myLEOonline (D2L Brightspace)

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

(when applicable) unless otherwise instructed to do something differently by the instructor of this course. All class communication will be done through D2L. I **WILL NOT** send communication about the class to personal email accounts.

*Late Assignments:* Late assignments will **NOT** be accepted unless you have provided adequate documentation allowing your absence to be excused (doctor's note in case of illness or copy of a funeral program in case of a death of a loved one). In the event your absence is excused, the missing assignment or exam must be completed **within 1 week** of your return to class or the student will receive a grade of 0.

*Academic Integrity.* All students are expected to conform to the East Texas A&M 's Code of Student Conducted Procedures as it relates to academic integrity (links below). This states in part that all instances of cheating, fabrication and plagiarism are prohibited and will be reported. Any student who assists in any form of dishonesty is equally as guilty as the student who accepts such assistance. Any work submitted to me with your name alone on it should represent your work alone. Even in the event you are assigned group projects, each student is still expected to complete their own part of the assignment. To the extent that others contribute ideas, suggestions, they must be directly credited by name (and fully cited as appropriate).

Disciplinary action will be taken against any student found in violation of the Code, which may include failure of the given assignment, failure in the course, and possible expulsion from the University. In the event a student fails to abide by the rules set forth in the ETAMU policy, they will receive a grade of 0 on that assignment with no opportunity to make that grade up and the student will be reported to the appropriate university officials.

## 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 can be found at https://www.etamu.edu/student-code-of-conduct/.

 If you believe someone has engaged in behaviors that do not align with the Code of Student Conduct or you have other concerns, please visit the File a Report page at https://www.etamu.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

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

## Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M 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.etamu.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:
https://inside.etamu.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 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.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

**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 Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162
**Phone (903) 886-5930**
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: StudentDisabilityServices@etamu.edu
**Website: http://inside.etamu.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.



**ETAMU 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.etamu.edu/counsel**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M 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 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 ETAMU 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.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

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

## ETAMU Supports Students' Mental Health

### Counseling Center Services

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.etamu.edu/counsel**

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Course Outline/Calendar will be in D2L

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*