

**Course Title:** Lab Introduction to the Experimental Analysis of Behavior (F'08)

**Course Number:** Psychology 3420 - 001

**Course Location and Time:** 424 LS 1:00 -1:50 MWF

**Instructor:** James Kopp, Associate Professor

**Lab Assistant:** Lara Kachlic, M. S.

**Office:** 415 LS

**Office Hours:** 10:00-10:50 MWF

**Mailbox:** 19528

**Course Prerequisites:** Psyc 1315; Psyc 2442

**Required Textbook(s) and Materials:**

1. Skinner, B.F., Science and Human Behavior
2. Kopp and Flury, Study Guide to B. F. Skinner's Science and Human Behavior  
(Available at Bird's Copies, in downtown Arlington, corner of East St. and South St., just NE of campus).

**Course Description:** A laboratory course examining basic principles of behavior control and analysis with single animals and automated testing apparatus. Emphasis is place on individualized, self-paced instruction and hands-on experimentation with live preparations.

**Course Learning Goals/Objectives:** Students will be given a demonstration of an actual psychological experiment with a live lab animal, then given their own personal lab time to perform the experiment with their own animal. When the course is over the students will have the skills necessary to conduct experiments with single subjects in a behavior analysis laboratory using a computer to control the experiment and record the data.

**Attendance and Drop Policy:** Since it is necessary in this course for students to attend lectures in order to do well on the weekly tests and periodic experimental reports, there is no need for a special attendance policy. the way the course is structured, the grade earned in the course will covary almost directly with the amount of course-relevant behavior emitted. This will include lectures. The last day to drop the course without penalty this semester is October 31. (Details are listed in the Registrar's Office bulletin No. 2 under "Conditions for Drops.")

**Tentative Lecture/Topic Schedule:**

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>LECTURE OR DISCUSSION</u>
1	Mon 8-25 Wed 8-27 Fri 8-29	Orientation Introduction to the course Psychology as a natural (medical) science (behavior analysis)
2	Mon 9-1 Wed 9-3 Fri 9-5	(Labor Day - No class) Phylogenic selection (Darwin) and ontogenic selection (Pavlov) Radical behaviorism (James, Watson & Skinner)

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>LECTURE OR DISCUSSION</u>
3	Mon 9-8 Wed 9-10 Fri 9-12	Respondents, instincts, and operant level The problem with instincts Test 1 : Sci&HB, Ch.s II & III
4	Mon 9-15 Wed 9-17 Fri 9-19	Ontogenic selection Mechanical, personal and cultural behavior Test 2 : Sci&HB, Ch.s IV & V
5	Mon 9-22 Wed 9-24 Fri 9-26	Coercion and Its Fallout Reducing response rate: Alternatives to coercion Test 3 : Sci&HB, Ch.s VI, VII & VIII
6	Mon 9-29 Wed 10-1 Fri 10-3	Verbal Behavior Radical behaviorism and humanism Test 4 : Sci&HB, Ch.s IX, X & XI
7	Mon 10-6 Wed 10-8 Fri 10-10	Consciousness and purposeful behavior Anti-social behavior, aggression and coercion Test 5 : Sci&HB, Ch.s XII, XIII & XIV
8	Mon 10-13 Wed 10-15 Fri 10-17	Lab tour and assignment of animals Lab check and equipment demonstration Test 6 : Sci&HB, Ch. XV
9	Mon 10-20 Wed 10-22 Fri 10-24	Experiment I Demonstration Lecture - Operant level, shaping, magazine training Test 7 : Sci&HB, Ch. XVI
10	Mon 10-27 Wed 10-29 Fri 10-31	Exp. I Demonstration (cont'd) Lecture - Reinforcement and shaping in the clinic Test 8 : Sci&HB, Ch. XVII thru p. 270
11	Mon 11-3 Wed 11-5 Fri 11-7	Exper. II Demonstration -->(Exp. I report due on your lab day this week) Lecture - Schedules of reinforcement Test 9 : Sci&HB, Ch. XVII pp.271-282
12	Mon 11-10 Wed 11-12 Fri 11-14	Experiment II Demonstration (cont'd) Lecture - Change-over delays in the clinic Test 10 : Sci&HB, Ch. XVIII -- (Course Evaluations will follow test)
13	Mon 11-17 Wed 11-19 Fri 11-21	Experiment III Demonstration -->(Exp. II report due on your lab day this week) Forward chaining in the clinic - prompting, imitation Test 11 : Sci&HB, Ch. XX & XXI

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>LECTURE OR DISCUSSION</u>
14	Mon 11-24 Wed 11-26 Fri 11-28	Experiment III Demonstration (cont'd) Response chains and "behavior momentum" National Christian Holiday (no class)
15	Mon 12-1  Wed 12-3 Fri 12-5	Lecture - all animals should be on free food -->(Exp.III report due on your lab day this week) Lecture – Wrap up Test 12 : Sci&HB, Ch. XXVII & XXVIII

---> Be sure to save your tests as the semester progresses. They are your receipts. I cannot open the grade book to let individual students check their test scores until the semester is complete. I do not post grades. Also, saving your tests will allow you to keep track of the total number of points you have earned in the course at any given point in the semester (The sum of the tests without the two lowest scoring ones, divided by the number of tests without the two lowest scoring ones = a running estimate of your grade in the course.)

#### **Grade Calculation:**

There will be 12 unit tests in this course, of which only the highest 10 scores will be used; the two lowest test scores will be dropped completely. Each test will consist of 9 items from the textbook material and 1 question from lecture. A test will be worth 100 points (10 points per item). There will also be 3 individual lab reports (in standard APA format) to be turned in to the TA two weeks after your own experiment is first scheduled. Each lab report will be worth 300 points. The number of points available is therefore 1000 (10 highest tests x 100) added to 900 (3 lab reports x 300) for a total of 1900 points. The class grade will be calculated as follows:

A (90%+)	= 1710+ points	C (70-79%)	= 1330-1510 points
B (80- 89%)	= 1520 - 1700 points	D (60-69%)	= 1140-1320points

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** If you are a student who requires accommodations in compliance with the ADA, please consult with me at the beginning of the semester. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Your responsibility is to inform me of documentation authorizing the specific accommodation. Student services at UTA include the Office for Students with Disabilities (located in the lower level of the University Center) which is responsible for verifying and implementing accommodations to ensure equal opportunity in all programs and activities.

**Student Support Services:** The University supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. They include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form at The University of Texas at Arlington. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. (Regents Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2., Subdivision 3.22).

**Bomb Threats:** If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations/tests caused by the bomb threat. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternate class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.

**Library Information:**

Helen Hough is the Psychology Librarian. She can be reached at (817) 272-7429, and by email at [hough@uta.edu](mailto:hough@uta.edu). You will find useful research information for psychology at <http://www.uta.edu/library/research/rt-psyc.html>.