



COURSE SYLLABUS



PSYC 487

Behavior Analysis Research Experience Capstone

Course Introduction

Credit Hours: 1-4

Prerequisite Courses: A grade of a B- or better in PSYC 302

Instructor: TBD

Class Meets: TBD

Course Introduction: Welcome! The purpose of the Behavior Analysis Research Experience is gain behavior analytic research experience. This experience can include: the development of experimental questions experimental design, discussion of single subject research techniques, recruitment of participants, data collections/scoring, compiling research materials, assisting with literature reviews, and attending weekly lab meetings.

Faculty Contact Information

Instructor Office Location: TBD

Office Hours: TBD (minimum of 3 hours of scheduled office hours per week)

Instructor Email and/or Phone: TBD

Instructional Materials

Required Instructional Materials: *N/A. Instructor will provide articles for reading along with supplemental training materials such as videos when appropriate*

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course students should be able to:

- Describe behavior analytic concepts and apply these concepts to research and experimental design.
- Analyze and interpret data.
- Discuss research questions and findings as they relate to ethics, practice, and social issues.
- Design experimental questions that minimize behavioral and environmental confounds.
- Communicate behavior analytic techniques and research findings in and oral and written formats appropriate for a professional audience (i.e. a poster forum).
- Describe safe research practices and ethical protection of research subjects and or participants

Assessments

- **Professionalism (30 Points):** Professionalism points will be awarded to students contingent on active participation in lab meetings, appropriate communication with faculty and peers, and timeliness of completion of out of lab meeting research requirements. *You may miss up to 3 lab meetings or research requirement deadlines while still receiving full professionalism credit. Each additional instance will result in a reduction of maximum professionalism points by 3 points, unless other arrangements had been made with your research supervisor prior.*
- **Ethical Research Practices (15):** Completes CITI and/or IACUC training—proof of certification required
 - **Animal Research**
 - Prior to engaging in research, you are required to complete an online ethics and animal welfare course (IACUC). Follow the link below and consult with your supervisor regarding the most appropriate modules to complete.
<https://animal.research.wvu.edu/training>
 - **Human Subject Research**
 - Prior to engaging in research, you are required to complete an online Ethics course (CITI training). Follow the link below. Instructions are provided on the homepage. <https://www.citiprogram.org>
 - **HIPAA** – If your research experience involves sensitive clinical information, you are required to complete HIPAA training. Your research supervisor will be able to tell you if this training is necessary.
- **Lab Presentations (30):** Over the course of the semester, you should provide no less than 3 'lab update' presentations. These presentations should be brief, less than 7 minutes. Presentations will be evaluated based on professionalism of slide creation, accuracy of data display selection (i.e graphing method selected), appropriate and accurate use of behavior analytic terminology, knowledge of topic, and clarity of presentation. *Your lowest grade will be dropped.*
- **Final Presentation (60):** At the end of the semester student will complete a final presentation. This presentation will be graded along the same dimensions as the Lab Presentation. Unlike the lab presentation the Final Presentation should follow symposium guidelines and be 12-15 minutes in duration. *Final presentation will be graded on degree of rehearsal (is it practiced); accuracy of information; and adherence to guidelines.*
- **Research Paper (75):** Either a methods paper or a literature review over an agreed upon topic should be completed. Paper should be no less than 10 pages and in APA format. The rubric on the last page titled Final Paper breaks down the grading policy for this assignment.
- **Activity Log (45):** Student is responsible for keeping a detailed log tracking their experience throughout the course. This log can include for example: a narrative description of what the student has learned, time spent on various projects, and products produced. *As each experience will vary, it is the responsibility of the student to accurately and thoroughly document their experiences throughout the course.* You will submit the activity log at midterms and at the end of the semester. You will receive feedback on your midterm activity log and a grade that will contribute to your midterm grade; only your final submission, which should incorporate feedback from the midterm grade report, will be used toward your final course grade. *Activity Log will be graded on appropriateness of activities completed, accuracy of reported information, and professionalism of layout.*
- **Mentor Evaluation (45):** At the end of semester in conjunction with your activity log your mentor will complete an evaluation of your efforts over the course of the semester. The evaluation metric will be

consistent with that of the standards of a junior research assistant. You will receive an initial evaluation at midterms followed by a final evaluation at the end of the semester. You will receive an evaluation on your performance at midterms and a grade that will contribute to your midterm grade; only your final evaluation, which should incorporate feedback from the midterm grade report, will be used toward your final course grade. *Mentor Evaluation will be based on student performance of research tasks, professionalism of interaction, timeliness of completion of commitments, and contribution to the research line.*

NOTE: Detailed Instructions and rubrics for all assignments will be provided on eCampus.

Total Possible Points by Assignment

Assignment	# of Assignments	Points	Total Points	% of Final Grade
Professionalism	N/A	30	30	10%
Ethical Research Practice	1	15	15	5%
Lab Presentations	3	15	30	10%
Final Presentation	1	60	60	20%
Research Paper	1	75	75	25%
Activity Log	2	45	45	15%
Mentor Evaluation	2	45	45	15%
Total			300	100

Possible Points by Assignment—To Be Awarded by Midsemester

All Students will receive a midterm grade based on professionalism (out of 15 pts), ethical research practice assignment, one lab presentation, the midterm activity log, and the mentor evaluation to date. This equates to 135 points or 45% of the final grade.

Final Grades

Grade	Points	Percentage
A	300-270	100% - 90%
B	269-240	89.9% - 80%
C	239-210	79.9% - 70%
D	209-180	69.9% - 60%
F	<179	<59.9%

Course and Institutional Policies

Attendance Policy: Given the active nature of the course it is essential that students attend all scheduled course meetings. However, I acknowledge that some things are outside of student control. As such students are

allowed up to 3 absences over the course of the semester without penalty. After that, points will be deducted.

Participation Policy: Students are expected to actively and professionally participate in all aspects of the course.

Late Assignment and Missed Exam Policy: Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise noted. Late assignments will result in a letter grade reduction for every day the assignment is late.

Institutional Policies:

Students are responsible for reviewing <https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements-on-inclusivity,academic-integrity,incompletes,sale-of-course-materials,sexual-misconduct,adverse-weather,as-well-as-student-evaluation-of-instruction,and-days-of-special-concern/religious-holiday-statements>

Week	Dates	Activity	Assignments Due
Week 1	1/8-1/14	Syllabus & Introductions	
Week 2	1/15-1/21	Ethics of Research	Ethics of Research
Week 3	1/22-1/28	Research Activity	
Week 4	1/29-2/4	Research Activity	
Week 5	2/5-2/11	Research Activity	
Week 6	2/12-2/18	Research Activity	
Week 7	2/19-2/25		
Week 8	2/26-3/4	Mid-Term	Lab Presentation (1); Activity Log
Week 9	3/5-3/11	Research Activity	Review Mentor Evaluation
Week 10	3/12-3/18	SPRING BREAK 😊	
Week 11	3/19-3/25	Research Activity	
Week 12	3/26-4/1	Research Activity	
Week 13	4/2-4/8	Research Activity	
Week 14	4/9-4/15	Research Activity	Lab Presentation
Week 15	4/16-4/22	Research Activity	
Week 16	4/23-4/29	Presentations	Final Presentation & Final Paper
Finals Week	4/30-5/6	Finals	Activity Log

Final Paper

Criteria	Exemplary (100-90)	Meets Expectations (89-80)	Emerging (79-70)	Below Expectations (69-60)	Needs Improvement (59 and below)
Paper Focus: Purpose & Thesis Statement (5 points)	Paper's purpose or thesis statement is well developed, clearly stated, and supported by evidence throughout the introduction.	Paper's purpose or thesis statement is clearly stated but lacks sufficient development throughout	Both the supporting evidence and clarity of the thesis statement require improvement.	Either the supporting evidence or clarity of thesis statement are absence	Both features are absent.
Introduction & Supporting Literature (15 points)	The introduction is clearly written, and relevant literature is present and accurately described	The introduction is clearly written but there are gaps in the relevant literature or accuracy of the description of that literature	Both the clarity of writing and the inclusion of relevant literature/accuracy of that literature require improvement	Writing needs significant improvement or relevant literature is mostly absent	Both features are absent
Methods Section (20 points)	Methods are clearly written. Details are technologically described, and experimental design is appropriate for experimental question	Methods are clearly written. Details are described but replicability based on the provided details is unlikely or a more appropriate experimental design is evident	Both clarity of writing and the methodological description/appropriateness of the experimental design require improvement	Writing needs significant improvement or one of the key features (technological nature of methods and experimental design) are absent	Both features are absent
Results Section & Graphs/Data Analysis (15 points)	Results are clearly written. Data is accurately described, and graphs/tables clearly present the data	Results are clearly written. Data is accurately described, but graphs and tables require improvement	Both the clarity of writing and the description and visual display of the data require improvement	Writing needs significant improvement or one of the key features are absent (data and graphs/tables)	Both features are absent
Discussion Section (10 points)	Discussion is clearly written and accurately summarizes findings as they relate to the initial thesis statement. Strengths and weaknesses are well thought out and described. Future directions are meaningful extensions.	Discussion is clearly written. Strengths and weakness are identified but discussion of them requires improvement or discussion of future directions is shallow and requires improvement	Both writing clarity, the discussion of strengths/weaknesses and future directions require improvement	Writing needs significant improvement or one of the key features are absent (strengths/weaknesses and future directions)	Both features are absent
Grammar, & APA Formatting (10 points)	Between 0-3 grammar and APA formatting errors are present in the paper	More than 4 but less than 7 errors	More than 7 but less 12	More than 12 but less than 17	More than 17 errors

Final Presentation

Criteria	Exemplary (100-90)	Meets Expectations (89-80)	Emerging (79-70)	Below Expectations (69-60)	Needs Improvement (59 and below)
Presentation Focus: Purpose & Thesis Statement (5 points)	Presentations purpose or thesis statement is well developed, clearly stated, and supported by evidence throughout the introduction.	Presentation's purpose or thesis statement is clearly stated but lacks sufficient development throughout	Both the supporting evidence and clarity of the thesis statement require improvement.	Either the supporting evidence or clarity of thesis statement are absence	Both features are absent.
Introduction & Supporting Literature (10 points)	The introduction is clearly described, and relevant literature is present and accurately described	The introduction is clearly described but there are gaps in the relevant literature or accuracy of the description of that literature	Both the clarity of presentation and the inclusion of relevant literature/accuracy of that literature require improvement	Presentation needs significant improvement or relevant literature is mostly absent	Both features are absent
Methods Section (10 points)	Methods are clearly described. Details are technologically described, and experimental design is appropriate for experimental question	Methods are clearly described. Details are described but replicability based on the provided details is unlikely or a more appropriate experimental design is evident	Both clarity of presentation and the methodological description/appropriateness of the experimental design require improvement	Presentation needs significant improvement or one of the key features (technological nature of methods and experimental design) are absent	Both features are absent
Results Section & Graphs/Data Analysis (10 points)	Results are clearly described. Data is accurately described, and graphs/tables clearly present the data	Results are clearly described. Data is accurately described, but graphs and tables require improvement	Both the clarity of presentation and the description and visual display of the data require improvement	Presentation needs significant improvement or one of the key features are absent (data and graphs/tables)	Both features are absent
Discussion Section (5 points)	Discussion is clearly described and accurately summarizes findings as they relate to the initial thesis statement. Strengths and weaknesses are well thought out and described. Future directions are meaningful extensions.	Discussion is clearly described. Strengths and weakness are identified but discussion of them requires improvement or discussion of future directions is shallow and requires improvement	Both presentation clarity, the discussion of strengths/weaknesses and future directions require improvement	Presentation needs significant improvement or one of the key features are absent (strengths/weaknesses and future directions)	Both features are absent
Quality of slides and Preparedness (20 points)	Slides/poster are clean, only necessary words are on the slide, and the presentation is well practiced and adheres to time limit	Presentation is well practiced and adhere to time limit but slide/poster quality needs improvement either is wordy or there are visual errors	Both the presentation and the slides/poster need improvement	Presentation needs significant improvement, appears unpracticed or slides are largely	Both features are absent