



**PSYC 531 Section 52692  
Behavioral Assessment  
Spring 2024**



**COURSE INTRODUCTION**

Instructor:	Michael J. Cameron, Ph.D, BCBA-D, LBA
E-mail and Phone:	Came746@usc.edu (818) 606.8229
Class Location	Grace Ford Salvatori (GFS) Hall: Room 201
Office and Office Hours:	SGM 527 By appointment
Academic Calendar:	Class meets 8:30 AM to 9:50 AM on Monday and Wednesdays. The course begins on January 8 <sup>th</sup> 2024. We will not have class on Monday, 15 January, 19 February and on 11 March and 13 March during the week of Spring Break. Finally, our last meeting for the semester will be on Wednesday, 24 April 2024.

**PREREQUISITE:** None

**READINGS**

**TEXTBOOKS**

- Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2019, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). *Applied behavior analysis*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. At bookstore.
- Fisher, W. W., Piazza, C. C., & Roane, H. S. (Eds.). (2011). *Handbook of applied behavior analysis*. Guilford Press.
- Cipani, E., & Schock, K. M. (2017). *Functional Behavioral Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment, Third Edition: A Complete System for Education and Mental Health Settings*. NY: Springer.

**Supplemental articles and chapters:** Provided by Dr. Cameron

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course, students will study the theory and application of behavioral methods for skill assessment, functional assessment of challenging behavior, and learner motivation. The course

discusses relative strengths and limitations of direct versus indirect methods, as well as other overarching issues related to behavioral assessment.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

The purpose of this course is to train you on data collection, interobserver agreement, social validity, treatment integrity, skills assessment, functional assessment, and stimulus preference assessment.

With respect to functional assessment, we will cover the three general approaches currently in use:

1. Indirect or anecdotal methods (checklists, rating scales, and questionnaires)
2. Descriptive analysis (scatter plot, ABC analysis, interval and time sampling methods)
3. Functional analysis (experimental methods, brief functional analyses)

The course content is based on current state-of-the-science procedures in applied behavior analysis. Thus, the readings and class discussions should provide you with a strong foundation in behavioral assessment.

## DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

### Discussion Participation

The format of each class meeting will consist of lecture, interspersed with class discussion. Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. Students will be asked to give examples of the week's content, drawing both from their own clinical experience, as well as hypothetical examples. Each class discussion will be worth 2 course points.

### Weekly Written Assignment

Each week, you will turn in one written assignment centered on assessment or data collection.

1) Article critique (one double spaced page only, total). A critique of one assigned reading, consisting of:

- A. Define the area of focus (e.g., what is Behavioral Medicine);
- B. Brief summary (one short paragraph only) of purpose, procedures, and/or findings;
- C. Description of major contributions;
- D. Description of major limitations;
- E. Implications drawn and/or ideas for future research.

Each student in class should be prepared to summarize one selected article based on a subject of interest (within the assigned topic of the week). Article critiques are due by 8:30 AM on Wednesday. Article critiques should be submitted via email.

### Topic Requirement

Article 1. Behavioral Medicine

Article 2.	Organizational Behavior Management (OBM)
Article 3.	Instructional Design
Article 4.	Eating Disorders (anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, or binge eating disorder)
Article 5.	Feeding Disorders (food over-selectivity, food refusal, rumination)
Article 6.	Behavioral Economics
Article 7.	Behavioral Forensics
Article 8.	Substance Use Disorder and Addiction
Article 9.	Alcoholism
Article 10.	Nicotine Addiction
Article 11.	Behavioral Gerontology
Article 12.	Anxiety Disorders

2) Presentations. Each student in our class will be required to provide a 15 minutes overview of an assessment tool. The presentation will be supported by PowerPoint slides highlighting the outline of the student's main points. The materials used will be disseminated to the class via an email attachment. The following is a list of items to discuss during your presentation:

1. The name of the assessment and the type of assessment.
2. The purpose of the assessment.
3. The age of the individual the assessment is used for.
4. The time required for administration.
5. The qualifications of the examiner.
6. Training requirements (for the examiner).
7. The "re-test" restrictions.
8. Ordering source or link to on-line resources.
9. The advantages and disadvantages of the assessment tool.
10. The cost of the assessment tool.

No late assignments will be accepted without proof of illness or death in the family.

## Exams

The course will include a short exam every two (2) weeks. Exams will occur at the opening of our Wednesday class. The cumulative final exam will occur during the "finals" week for university. The exact exam date will be determined by the university.

### GRADING (out of 227 points)

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
Discussion Participation (28 classes x .5 point)	15	11%
Weekly Writing Assignments (12 x 3 points)	36	16%

Bi-weekly Exam (5 exams x 15 points)	75	40%
Final Exam	50	33%

**SCHEDULE (any revisions will be in written form)**

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings	Deliverables/Due Dates
<b>Week 1</b> 1/08/24 and 1/10/24	Introductions and syllabus review. Overview of behavioral assessment and Humanistic Behaviorism	None	None
<b>Week 2</b> <b>No class on 1/15/24</b>  1/17/24	Overview and Rationale for Functional Behavioral Assessment	C, H, & H (2007), chapter 24 Cipani (2017), chapter 1  Dixon, D. R., Vogel, T., & Tarbox, J. (2012). A brief history of functional analysis and applied behavior analysis. In J. Matson (Ed.), <i>Functional assessment for challenging behaviors (pp. 3-24)</i> . New York: Springer.  <i>On 1/17/24</i> <i>Hallee presentation on Criterion-referenced and norm-referenced Assessments (15-minute presentation).</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article critique 1 due on 1/17/24 by 8:30 AM</li> <li>Student presentation: Hallee</li> </ul>
<b>Week 3</b>  1/22/24 and 1/24/24	Indirect Assessment of Challenging Behavior	F, P, & R (2011), chapter 11 Leader, G., & Mannion, A. (2016). Challenging Behaviors. In J. Matson (Ed.), <i>Handbook of Assessment and Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder</i> . NY: Springer.  <i>On 1/24/24</i>  <i>Jacqueline presentation on Strength-Based Assessment for Individuals with autism spectrum disorder</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article critique 2 due on 1/24/24 at 8:30 AM</li> <li>Student presentation: Jacqueline on 1/24/24</li> <li>Exam 1 on 1/24/24</li> </ul>

<p><b>Week 4</b> 1/29/24 and 1/31/24</p>	<p>Descriptive Assessment of Challenging Behavior: ABC Data</p>	<p>F, P, &amp; R (2011), chapter 12 Cipani (2017), chapter 2 Lerman, D. C., &amp; Iwata, B. A. (1993). Descriptive and experimental analyses of variables maintaining self-injurious behavior. <i>Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis</i>, 26, 293-319.</p> <p><i>On 1/31/24</i> <i>Rebecca presentation on the Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program (VB-MAPP)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article critique 3 due on 1/31/24 at 8:30 AM</li> <li>• Student presentation: Rebecca on 1/31/24</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 5</b> 2/05/24 and 2/07/24</p>	<p>Experimental Functional Analyses of Challenging Behavior: Overview</p> <p>Behavioral Skills Training for Running FA Conditions</p>	<p>F, P, &amp; R (2011), chapter 13</p> <p>Hanley, G. P., Iwata, B. A., &amp; McCord, B. E. (2003). Functional analysis of problem behavior: A review. <i>Journal of applied behavior analysis</i>, 36(2), 147-185.</p> <p><i>On 2/07/24</i> <i>Kai presentation on the Social Skills Rating System (SSRS).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article critique 4 on 2/07/24 at 8:30 AM</li> <li>• Student presentation: Kai</li> <li>• Exam 2 on 2/07/24</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 6</b> 2/12/24 and 2/14/24</p>	<p>Experimental Functional Analyses of Challenging Behavior: Early Studies</p> <p>Behavioral Skills Training for Running FA Conditions</p>	<p>Iwata, B. A., Dorsey, M. F., Slifer, K. J., Bauman, K. E., &amp; Richman, G. S. (1994). Toward a functional analysis of self-injury. <i>Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis</i>, 27, 197-209. Reprinted from <i>Analysis and Intervention in Developmental Disabilities</i>, 2, 3-20.</p> <p>Carr, E. G., &amp; Durand, V. M. (1985). Reducing behavior problems through functional communication training. <i>Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis</i>, 18, 111-126.</p> <p><i>On 2/14/24</i> <i>Isaiah presentation on the Promoting The Emergence of Advanced Knowledge (PEAK) assessment.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article critique 5 on 2/14/24 at 8:30 AM</li> <li>• Student presentation: Isaiah</li> </ul>

<p><b>Week 7</b></p> <p>No class on 2/19/24</p> <p>2/21/24</p>	<p>Experimental Functional Analyses of Challenging Behavior:</p> <p>Procedural Modifications</p>	<p>Northup, J., Wacker, D., Sasso, G., Steege, M., Cigrand, K., Cook, J., &amp; DeRaad, A. (1991). A brief functional analysis of aggressive and alternative behavior in an outclinic setting. <i>Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 24</i>, 509-522.</p> <p>Iwata, B. A., Duncan, B. A., Zarcone, J. R., Lerman, D. C., &amp; Shore, B. A. (1994). A sequential, test-control methodology for conducting functional analyses of self-injurious behavior. <i>Behavior Modification, 18</i>, 289-306.</p> <p>Vollmer, T. R., Marcus, B. A., Ringdahl, J. E., &amp; Roan, H. S. (1995). Progressing from brief assessments to extended experimental analyses in the evaluation of aberrant behavior. <i>Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 28</i>, 561-576.</p> <p>On 2/21/24 Andrea presentation on the Accept. Identify. Move. (AIM) curriculum.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article critique 6 on 2/21/24 at 8:30 AM</li> <li>• Student presentation: Andrea</li> <li>• Exam 3 on 2/21/24</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 8</b></p> <p>2/26/24 and 2/28/24</p>	<p>Experimental Functional Analyses of Challenging Behavior:</p> <p>Procedural Modifications</p>	<p>Tarbox, J., Wallace, M. D., Tarbox, R. S. F., Landaburu, H. J., &amp; Williams, W. L. (2004). Functional analysis and treatment of low-rate problem behavior in individuals with developmental disabilities. <i>Behavioral Interventions, 19</i>, 1-18.</p> <p>Kurtz, P. F., Chin, M. D., Huete, J. M., Tarbox, R. S., O'Connor, J. T., Paclawskyj, T. R., &amp; Rush, K. S. (2003). Functional analysis and treatment of self-injurious behavior in young children: A summary of 30 cases. <i>Journal of applied behavior analysis, 36(2)</i>, 205-219.</p> <p>Lydon, S., Healy, O., O'Reilly, M. F., &amp; Lang, R. (2012). Variations in functional analysis methodology: a systematic review. <i>Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities, 24(3)</i>, 301-326.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article critique 7 on 2/28/24 at 8:30 AM</li> <li>• Student presentation: Claudia</li> </ul>

		<p>On 2/28/24  <i>Claudia presentation on the Parent Training for Disruptive Behavior Curriculum: RUBI curriculum.</i></p>	
<p><b>Week 9</b>  3/04/24  and  3/06/24</p>	<p>Experimental Functional Analyses of Challenging Behavior: Trial-Based Analyses and Application in Real-Life Settings</p>	<p>Bloom, S. E., Iwata, B. A., Fritz, J. N., Roscoe, E. M., &amp; Carreau, A. B. (2011). Classroom application of a trial-based functional analysis. <i>Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 44</i>(1), 19-31.</p> <p>Slaten, J. D., Hanley, G. P. &amp; Raftery, K. J. (2017). Interview-informed functional analyses: A comparison of synthesized and isolated components. <i>Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 50</i>, 252-277.</p> <p>Hanley, G. P. (2012). Functional assessment of problem behavior: Dispelling myths, overcoming implementation obstacles, and developing new lore. <i>Behavior Analysis in Practice, 5</i>, 54-72.</p> <p>On 3/06/24 Anais presentation on the <i>Assessment of Functional Living Skills (AFLS)</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article critique 8 on 3/06/24 at 8:30 AM</li> <li>• Student presentation: Anais</li> <li>• Exam 4 on 3/06/24</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 10</b>  3/18/24  and  3/20/24</p>	<p>Overview of Skill Assessment</p> <p>Choosing Great Targets for Acquisition</p>	<p>Gould, E., Dixon, D. R., Najdowski, A. C., Smith, M. N., &amp; Tarbox, J. (2011). A review of assessments for determining the content of early intensive behavioral intervention programs for autism spectrum disorders. <i>Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders, 5</i>(3), 990-1002.</p> <p>Rosales-Ruiz, J., &amp; Baer, D. M. (1997). Behavioral cusps: A developmental and pragmatic concept for behavior analysis. <i>Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 30</i>(3), 533-544.</p> <p>Bosch, S., &amp; Fuqua, R. W. (2001). Behavioral cusps: a model for selecting target behaviors. <i>Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 34</i>(1), 123.</p> <p>On 3/20/24  Jessica presentation on the <i>Performance Diagnostic Checklist (PDC)</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article critique 9 on 3/20/24 at 8:30 AM</li> <li>• Student presentation: Jessica</li> </ul>

<p><b>Week 11</b> 3/25/24 and 3/27/24</p>	<p>Assessing Verbal Behavior</p>	<p>Sundberg, M. (2008). <i>Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program, Guide</i>. Pages 1-98. Concord, CA: AVB Press.</p> <p>On 3/27/24 <i>Isabella presentation on the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article critique 10 on 3/27/24 at 8:30 AM Student presentation: Isabella</li> <li>• Exam 5 on 3/27/24</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 12</b> 4/1/24 and 4/3/24</p>	<p>Assessing Relational Responding</p>	<p>Dixon, M. (2016). <i>PEAK Relational Training System, Transformation Module, pages 1-103</i>. Illinois: Shawnee Scientific Press.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article critique 11 on 4/3/24 at 8:30 AM</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 13</b> 4/08/24 and 4/10/24</p>	<p>Social Validity</p>	<p>Wolf, M. M. (1978). Social validity: The case for subjective measurement or how applied behavior analysis is finding its heart. <i>Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis</i>, 11, 203-214.</p> <p>Schwartz, I. S., &amp; Baer, D. M. (1991). Social validity assessments: Is current practice state of the art? <i>Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis</i>, 24, 189-204.</p> <p>Finn, C. A., &amp; Sladeczek, I. E. (2001). Assessing the social validity of behavioral interventions: A review of treatment acceptability measures. <i>School Psychology Quarterly</i>, 16(2), 176.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article critique 12 on 4/10/24 at 8:30 AM</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 14</b>  4/15/24 and 4/17/24</p>		<p>Touchette, P. E., MacDonald, R. F., &amp; Langer, S. N. (1985). A scatter plot for identifying stimulus control of problem behavior. <i>Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis</i>, 18, 343-351.</p> <p>Tarbox, J., Wilke, A. E., Najdowski, A. C., Findel-Pyles, R. S., Balasanyan, S., Caveney, A. C., Chilingaryan, V., King, D. M., Niehoff, S. M., Slease, K., &amp; Tia, B. (2009). Comparing indirect, descriptive, and experimental functional assessments of challenging behavior in children with autism. <i>Journal of Physical and Developmental Disabilities</i>, 21, 493-514.</p>	



<b>Week 15</b>  4/22/24 and 4/24/24		Pace, G. M., Ivancic, M. T., Edwards, G. L., Iwata, B. A., & Page, T. J. (1985). Assessment of stimulus preference and reinforcer value with profoundly retarded individuals. <i>Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 18</i> , 249-255. Fisher, W., Piazza, C. C., Bowman, L. G., Hagopian, L. P., Owens, J. C., & Slevin, I. (1992). A comparison of two approaches for identifying reinforcers for persons with severe and profound disabilities. <i>Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 25</i> , 491-498. DeLeon, I. G., & Iwata, B. A. (1996). Evaluation of a multiple-stimulus presentation format for assessing reinforcer preferences. <i>Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 29</i> , 519-533.	
Exam Week	Cumulative Final	Date to be determined by the university	

### **University Policy on Religious Observance**

University policy grants students excused absences from class for observance of religious holy days. The instructor will be responsive to requests when students reach out IN ADVANCE to request such an excused absence. The student will be given an opportunity to make up missed work because of religious observance.

Please scan this syllabi today to detect potential conflicts with your religious observances. Please note that this applies only to the sort of holy day that necessitates absence from class and/or whose religious requirements clearly conflict with aspects of academic performance.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of Religious Life (213-740-6110) or the Office of Equity and Diversity. A listing of holy days and occasions also appears on the Office of Religious website, which is at <http://orl.usc.edu/>.

### **Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

#### **Academic Conduct:**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” <https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See

additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

**Support Systems:**

*Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255*

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

*Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/>

*Sexual Assault Resource Center*

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: <http://sarc.usc.edu/>

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX compliance – (213) 740-5086*

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. <https://equity.usc.edu/>

*Bias Assessment Response and Support*

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/>

*Student Support & Advocacy – (213) 821-4710*

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/>

*Diversity at USC – <https://diversity.usc.edu/>*

Tab for Events, Programs and Training, Task Force (including representatives for each school), Chronology, Participate, Resources for Students