Hello to you all! I have no doubt that you are as excited as I am to begin our journey through the exciting world of Behavioral Analysis. Throughout this course, you will be presented with many interesting theories and models that attempt to explain how the environment affects our behavior. Take a look at the figure below:
In this figure, you can see some of the different areas of psychology in relation to the environment, behavior, and the organism being observed. Learning, or behavioral analysis, strives to understand how our behavior changes as a function of the environment and our experience with it. The great thing about this area of research is that we can directly measure pretty much everything we are testing. That is, we aren’t having to infer meaning to results we find. We simply measure behavior and how it is affected given the changing environment in a controlled setting. In this area, we don’t try to explain what is going on inside an organism while they perform a certain behavior. Rather, we simply want to know given a certain environment, how an organism will behave. If we understand that, then we can try to train behavior that we desire while phasing out behavior we don’t want. We will discuss many different studies throughout this course analyzing the behavior of humans as well as non-human species. This material is my favorite to show students, so I hope you all enjoy!

Course Description

This course is a fully on-line course with no specified meeting times. However, the course is not self-paced. Each week, new course modules will open that reflect the material we will cover during that week. For each module you will be given an overview of the scheduled activities so that you will know what you are expected to do that week. Each week you will find links to where you will take your chapter quizzes, post in discussions, and your article quizzes. Our course website on Canvas will also have links to videos, web links, and any other materials that you may need. You will need to complete weekly readings, discussions, chapter quizzes and article quizzes, and the final exam by the due dates specified in the syllabus and listed in Canvas.

In completing this course, you should gain an understanding of the basic principles of learning and the scientific study of learning in human and nonhuman animals. As part of understanding and applying these concepts, you will engage in active discussion with your peers as part of the course.

Our course uses Canvas. Follow this link to access the Canvas login page: (https://lss.at.ufl.edu). I highly recommend that you login and take time to explore our course page. It will be greatly to your benefit to feel confident in your ability to navigate the course page before assignments are due.
Course Requirements

Computer/internet access to Canvas is required for this course.

You are responsible for maintaining access to Canvas.

- **Extensions will not be given for student-based technical difficulties.** Do not wait until the last minute to complete assignments!
- **If UF Canvas experiences technical difficulties,** deadlines will be adjusted to allow for completion of assignments.

Required Textbook


Course Components:

- Discussions will allow you to interact with your fellow students and help you understand the readings.
- Quizzes will be given to assess your understanding of each module.
- Article quizzes – You will have assigned articles to read and a corresponding assignment for each article that will be due.
- Final Exam – Comprehensive exam to check over knowledge and retention of course material.

Grade Breakdown:

1. **Getting Started Quiz & Chapter Quizzes - 60% of your final grade**
a. By the date specified on the quiz, you need to complete the Getting Started quiz:
   i) By completing this quiz, you agree to all rules of the course. This quiz also assesses your knowledge of the syllabus, course requirements, etc. We need everyone on the same page regarding course policies, requirements, and such.

b. There will be 12 multiple choice Chapter Quizzes during the semester. Quizzes open on Mondays at 7:00 pm are due by Sundays at 11:59 pm.

c. Chapter quizzes are timed, and are timed for a reason. The questions you will be asked are more than answerable in the time allotted if you have taken measures to adequately prepare yourself (much like you would for an in-person course). However, if you try to look up the answers to each question you will likely run out of time. That’s right, you’re getting the picture now: Quizzes are supposed to be taken closed book! I, of course, cannot stop you if you choose to try to look up answers as you take the quizzes. I can, however, discourage you from doing it by having the quizzes timed as they are. I could careless how well you can look up answers in your text. I am much more interested in what you know.

2 Discussions - worth 10% of your final grade
   a. 12 Discussion forums: 12 initial posts and 12 reply posts are due during the semester, worth 5 points each for a total of 10 points per forum. This allows you to obtain half credit if you fail to do a reply post on a given week.

b. Instructions for Discussions Posts:
   c. Discussion forums will open Mondays at 7:00 pm are due by Sundays at 11:59 pm.
      i) To receive credit, your post must be contributing to the conversation. Making a simple statement such as “I agree” will not be counted as a post for grading. A minimum of three sentences is required, and it must be relevant to the discussion prompt. This initial post is worth 5 points.
      ii) After making your initial post, you can view what your peers have posted. At this point you need to pick a post to reply to. Again, simply stating that you agree or disagree is not substantial enough to receive credit. Your post must be thoughtful and applicable. A minimum of three sentences is required. This reply post is worth 5 points.
      iii) Posts will only count if they were posted before the deadline.
iv) Do not edit posts after you make them. This has been known to remove the post all together on Canvas.

3 Article Quizzes – worth 15% of your final grade
   a. Specific instructions for these quizzes will be available in your assignment tab. You will find the link to upcoming article quizzes on the relevant course module page as well.
   b. Late article assignments: Same deal as with late quizzes or discussions. You all get the idea.

4 Final Exam – worth 15% of your final grade
   a. Multiple choice and cumulative. Only material from your text and course lectures are up for grabs here. If you have performed well on chapter quizzes, you should do well here too. Just like chapter quizzes, this is a timed exam.
Calculation of Final Letter Grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94% – 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A -</td>
<td>90% – 93.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B +</td>
<td>87% – 89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83% – 86.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B -</td>
<td>80% – 82.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C +</td>
<td>77% – 79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73% – 76.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C -</td>
<td>70% – 72.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D +</td>
<td>67% – 69.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63% – 66.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D -</td>
<td>60% – 62.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E (Fail)</td>
<td>&lt; 59.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Policies

**Oops!**
Just for fun, let’s play out a scenario. Let’s say that you have ignored my not so gentle suggestion of avoiding procrastination. Let’s say you have waited until the last minute to take a quiz and things are going fine, but your computer decides to update (or your dog jumps on your laptop, or your internet connection disappears, or a unicorn comes flying into the room, or a mythical monster from your closet
eats your power cord, etc., etc.). Now you have a zero for the quiz and you certainly don’t have an approved excuse. Unfortunately, I release the correct answers to quiz questions right after the quiz window closes. So obviously, allowing you even more time after the quiz window has closed and the correct answers are viewable is a no go. However, I’m going to do you a solid. At the end of the semester, I will take your final exam score and plug it in for any zeros you have for chapter quizzes. So, if you get an 80 on the final, then your zero that Pegasus caused you transforms into an 80. A few key points to understand about the “Oops” policy:

- This only applies to Chapter quizzes! If you goof on discussion posts, article quizzes, or the final exam, those will stand as zeros unless you have a university accepted excuse.
- If you contact me with your Pegasus issue in enough time before the deadline, I can likely reopen the quiz for you so you don’t have to take your final exam grade as your quiz grade. Now if you message me late the night the quiz is due that, obviously doesn’t count.
- Some of you may have figured out that you could miss many, or in fact, every chapter quiz and have the zeros replaced with your final exam score. You are absolutely correct, you can. However, I would not advice such a gamble. What if you do poorly on the final, or worse, don’t take it? You get the drift. I would view this truly as what happens if you have an “Oops” moment, not an oops semester.

Late Assignments

Nope. Being that you have basically a week to complete each assignment, assignments cannot be made up for any reason outside of a university accepted excuse. Forgetting to take it, internet connectivity issues, waiting until the last minute, etc., are obviously not accepted excuses. See the above “Oops” policy if it is a chapter quiz.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. “How long will it take for you or my TA to reply to a Canvas message?”
   a. 48 hours during the week or 72 hours on the weekend for a response. It likely may be faster, but this would be a conservative estimation. Remember, we are not magical. We cannot reply instantaneously. Please DO NOT send a message right before an assignment or quiz is
due, you will most likely not get a response in time to be of help. Procrastination is not encouraged as to avoid situations such as these.

2. “I have an 93.8 in the course. Will you round it to an A?”
   a. Nay. My hands are tied, folks. I don’t give grades, I simply issue the grades that are earned. When it comes to this, I am nothing but a glorified calculator. The good news is the grade you earn is the grade you will get. You can all get an A, and that would be great. The bad news is the grade you earn is the grade you get. Even if you are a few tenths away from the next grade up, you will not be rounded up.

Course Policies and Guidelines

1. If you have a general question about the course, you should post it on the F.A.Q. discussion board. If it is something you would raise your hand to ask in class, it belongs on this board. I will occasionally check the board, but I won’t be policing it. Feel free to use this board to communication with each other, set up study groups if you like, etc. I encourage you to talk to each other here and answer each other’s questions as you would if this were an in-person course. If you need to talk to me or to your TA, you should message us in Canvas directly rather than using this discussion board.

2. If you have a question about your grade, you should message myself or your TA. Don’t post information about your grade on the FAQ board.

3. After the Drop/Add period ends, you will be assigned a TA. This will be the person (or myself) who you get in touch with if you have any personal issues or questions (anything that’s not appropriate to post on the FAQ Board).

4. All interactions with instructors and among class members are expected to be professional and appropriate.

5. Extensions. Extension of deadlines may be requested for assignments. Any requests for an extension must be based on University approved reasons and must include proper documentation as per University guidelines. Requests for
extensions must be made **before** the assignment deadline, if possible, or within 24 hours of the deadline for unexpected emergencies. Late assignments without approved extensions will not be accepted.

6. **Announcements.** Announcements will be made periodically about class issues (such as reminders about upcoming assignments, or when assignments are returned). These will be visible on our course’s home page. Students are responsible for all announcements made there.

7. **This course adheres to all University Policies.** See [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/) for useful information at the Dean of Students Office webpage.

8. **Academic Honesty.** This course uses the definitions and guidelines for academic honesty as described by the Dean of Students Office. The following is text that is required in every course syllabus regarding academic honesty:

   “Cheating is defined in the UF Handbook, and it is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with its many forms (including plagiarism). If a student is caught cheating, the first offense will result in a zero for that exam or assignment and a record of the event will be placed in a temporary file with the Office of Student Affairs. The second offense will result in an ‘E’ for the course, and the student will go before the Honor Court. As a result of completing registration at UF, every student has agreed to the following statement: *I understand that UF expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.*"

   To be blunt, **DO NOT** cheat.

9. **Getting Help:** For issues with technical difficulties with Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at: [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu) or (352) 392-HELP - select option 2 or their website at [https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml](https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml).

10. **Students with disabilities** requesting accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to
the Instructor when requesting accommodation. See http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/ for details.

11. Religious Observances Please check your calendars against the course syllabus. If you have a conflict due to religious observance you should contact me as soon as possible so that we can make any necessary arrangements.

12. Syllabus Change Policy Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.