Psychology 414A - Research Methods in Behavior Analysis  
Spring 2017

**Instructor:** Matt Scheel, Ph.D.; Office: RK 308; Email: mscheel@carrollu.edu; Phone: 262-524-7253; Office hours: MW 2:00-4:00; R 12:00-1:00; Class: T 8:00-9:50; Room: MN 201

**Number of Credits:** 2  
**Prerequisites:** PSY101; PSY205; PSY314

**Course Description:** This laboratory course will introduce students to behavior analytic research methods. Specifically, students will learn tactics for observing and recording behavior, methods of establishing interobserver agreement, and methods for studying behavior change at the individual-level. By the end of the semester, students will design, carry-out, and write-up their own original research using nonhuman-animal subjects.

**Required Text:** None. The instructor will post readings on LMS.

**Course Objectives:** Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe research methods in behavior analysis, with an emphasis on single-case design methodologies
2. Design an experiment that can demonstrate prediction and control of an operationally defined behavior
3. Find and incorporate relevant primary sources into an APA style laboratory report

**Format:** You will read a series of book chapters and articles, and then either (a) complete a series of laboratory reports on a project that you will design, carry-out, and analyze; or (b) design and carry-out an original single-case study worthy of presentation at a professional meeting. The following sections link assignments with learning outcomes.

**Readings:** We will often start classes with an *interteach* session. You may use your notes, but you may not use the article/chapter. After about 30 minutes, we will discuss as a group. Group answer sheets are worth 20 points. You will receive a zero for any interteach sessions you miss. I will also take off points if your groupmates report that you failed to contribute during interteach sessions. I will drop you lowest interteach score. If you miss an interteach session, the session you miss will be the score I drop.  (Course Objective 1).

**Projects:** I will post a guide for writing your report on the MyCourses page. The format includes some adaptations of standard APA style for in-class use, and therefore is different in some respects from the format you would use to prepare an APA manuscript. The biggest differences are (a) elimination of the title page, (b) elimination of the abstract, and (c) inclusion of tables and figures (along with captions) in the body of the paper.

**Assignments**

*Report 1: An ABA reversal design. CRF - EXT - CRF (50 pts)*
*Report 2: Stretching the ratio as a changing criterion design (150 pts)*
*Report 3: Discrimination training as an alternating treatments design (200 pts)*
*Or Novel Project (400 points)*

The Method and Results sections of reports will measure your ability to design an experiment that can demonstrate prediction and control of an operationally defined behavior (Course Objective 2). The Introduction and Discussion sections will measure your ability to find and incorporate relevant primary sources (Course Objective 3).
Schedule

1/24 Introduce class


2/14 Lab #1 overview


2/28 Lab #1 draft review opportunities

3/7 Lab #1 due

Spring Break


4/4 Lab #2 draft review opportunities

4/11 Lab #2 due

4/18 Lab #3 overview


5/2 Lab #3 draft review and poster review opportunities

5/10 Lab #3 due.
Grades
Interteaching (20 x 5) 100
Live Rat Report/Assignments 400
Total 500

A = 465-500; AB = 440-464; B = 415-439; BC = 390-414; C = 360-389; D = 340-359; F = Below 340

PLAGIARISM/CHEATING: Plagiarism is the act of using another person’s work or ideas without attributing rightful credit to the author. Please be sure to give credit where credit is due. Plagiarism and cheating are serious acts of academic dishonesty. The Carroll University Academic Integrity Policy is located in the student handbook. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with it. If a student violates this policy in any way, I reserve the right to impose a sanction of failure on the assignment/assessment or failure in the course. If you have any questions about appropriate citations, please ask.

DISABILITIES: Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, or any student considering obtaining documentation should make an appointment with Martha Bledsoe, our disabilities coordinator, no later than the first week of class. Her phone number is 524-7335; her email address is mbledsoe@carrollu.edu.

The instructor and the University reserve the right to modify, amend, or change the syllabus (course requirements, grading policy, etc.) as the curriculum and/or program require(s).