Syllabus

Behavior Analysis and Autism
(4 credits)

Course Description: Students who are currently registered in Psy 4011: Applied Behavior Analysis, or who have already completed that course, may register for this special service-learning opportunity on modern behavioral interventions for children who suffer from autism. In this practicum, students gain substantial experience working with children in off-campus service-learning settings under the supervision of qualified professionals engaged in the direct application of applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy. This field experience involves a minimum of 7 hours per week for 12 weeks. The students participate in two 3-hour, one-on-one therapy sessions at either a center-based or home-based ABA program site, plus one 1-hour clinical review meeting at that site. Students also attend one 1.5-hour lecture/discussion session and complete weekly reading assignments. Students learn the principles and techniques currently employed to help young children with autism acquire functional language, appropriate social behavior, and control autistic behavior. Issues of professional ethics, social responsibility, and scientific and moral philosophy pertaining to the treatment of children with autism are also addressed. Grading is based on competency evaluations at the service-learning site and performance on a final exam.

Class Time and Location: The on-campus class meetings will be Tuesdays, 6:30-7:45 PM, in Rapson Hall Room 15.

Instructor:
Eric Larsson, PhD, LP, BCBA-D
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Required Texts:

Course Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At-Home</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Student/Faculty organizational meeting</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>(January 21)</td>
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<td>Introduction and Professionalism</td>
<td>Complete and Submit Service Learning Scheduling Questionnaire</td>
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<td>January 28</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Potential Service Learning Assignments</td>
<td>Maurice, Entire Book</td>
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<td>EIBI UCLA</td>
<td>Lovaas, Chapters 32, 36</td>
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<td>February 4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Receive Service Learning Assignment</td>
<td>Lovaas, Chapters 3, 34, 39, 40</td>
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<td>February 11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Clinical Manifestations of Autism.</td>
<td>Lovaas, Chapters 1, 2</td>
</tr>
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<td>February 18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Behavioral Intervention for Autism.</td>
<td>Lovaas, Chapters 4-9, App. A</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 25</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Discrete Trial Methodology: Part 1</td>
<td>Lovaas, Chapters 10-13, 33</td>
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</tbody>
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March 4 7 Discrete Trial Methodology: Part 2 Lovaas, Chapters 14-15
March 11 8 The Foundational Program Lovaas, Chapters 17-19, 22, App. B
March 18 9 SPRING BREAK
March 25 10 Discrimination and Generalization Lovaas, Chapters 16, 31
April 1 11 Language: Part 1. Lovaas, Chapters 23-27
April 8 12 Language: Part 2. Lovaas, Chapters 29, 30
April 15 13 Social Skills: Part 1. Lovaas, Chapters 20
April 22 14 Social Skills: Part 2. Lovaas, Chapter 28
April 29 15 School Programming Lovaas, Chapter 35
May 6 16 Political, Medical, & Ethical Issues Lovaas, Chapters 37, 38
May 13 17 FINAL EXAM

Work Load:
50 pages of reading per week, 7-8 hours on location off-campus per week, 1 final.

Grade:
Grading is based on competency evaluations at the service-learning site, and performance on the final exam.

70% internship-site attendance and demonstrated competencies;
30% final exam (10% multiple choice questions (20 questions), and 20% team problem-solving exercise).

The final exam will focus on the main points and concepts covered in the Maurice and Lovaas books, the lectures and class discussions. It will consist of two parts:
1) a brief multiple-choice exam that each student will take on his/her own, and
2) a team-work, problem-solving component where students will work together to analyze practical problem situations and develop intervention strategies. Although these problems will be discussed together as a class exercise, the written responses will be done separately and handed in (emailed) separately.

Optional Supplemental Readings:

Long-Term Outcome Evaluations of the UCLA Young Autism Project


**Replications of Long-Term Outcome Evaluations**


Independent Reviews of Intensive Early Intervention for Autism


**Helpful Readings About Behavior Therapy and Autism**


Eikeseth, S., Smith, T., Jahr, E. & Eldevik, S. (2007). Outcome for children with autism who began intensive behavioral treatment between ages 4 and 7: A comparison controlled study. *Behavior Modification*, 31, 264-278. [The online version of this article can be found at http://bmo.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/31/3/264]


**Other Resources:**

Association for Science in Autism Treatment = www.asatonline.org

Autism Research Institute = www.autism.com

Autism Society = www.autism-society.org

Center for the Study of Autism = www.autism.org

Autism Speaks = www.autismspeaks.org/

The Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies = www.behavior.org

The *Schafer Autism Report* (SAR) [Subscribe to this excellent listserv at: http://www.sarnet.org]

ABA Resources for Recovery from Autism/PDD/Hyperlexia = http://members.tripod.com/~RSaffran/aba.html

The Association for Behavior Analysis = www.abainternational.org

Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis = www.envmed.rochester.edu/wwwrap/behavior/jaba/jabahome.htm

The Behavior Analyst Certification Board = www.bacb.com [For professional ethics, click on “About BACB”, then click on “Conduct Guidelines”]

Lovaas Institute For Early Intervention = www.lovaas.com

Families for Early Autism Treatment (FEAT) Sacramento Chapter = www.feat.org

The New England Center for Children = www.necc.org