

**Psychology 484: Behavioral Assessment
Course Syllabus
DePaul University, Psychology Department**

Term: Fall Quarter, 2007
Instructor: Karen S. Budd, Ph.D.
Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday, 11:50 am - 1:20 pm
Room: Byrne 605
Office: Byrne 507 (x52020)
Email: kbudd@depaul.edu

Readings: Assigned readings are listed on the class schedule. A course packet containing copies of assigned articles (except those that can be downloaded as pdf files) is available for purchase from the Psychology Department. Pdf files will be posted on the course's Blackboard site.

Overview of Course: This course introduces basic concepts, methods, and applications of psychological assessment, with a focus on the behavioral assessment paradigm. Readings, lectures, discussions, and practice activities are used to introduce general principles and assessment strategies, and to illustrate applications of assessment to planning and evaluating clinical interventions. Take-home problems (homework) will be assigned frequently. Lectures and discussion will integrate and supplement rather than restate the readings. Thus, students are expected to complete the readings prior to each class meeting.

Course Objectives: Students are expected to gain knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- How behavioral assessment fits within the field of psychological assessment.
- The rationale, defining features, and theoretical underpinnings of behavioral assessment.
- Interviewing techniques and strategies for critiquing one's interviews.
- How to code emotional expressions and recognize their relevance to clinical assessment.
- Techniques of behavioral observation and integration of findings with other assessment methods.
- Psychometric concepts of reliability and validity of measurement.
- Methodological and practical issues in empirically-based assessment (EBA), and how these issues apply to selected clinical problems.

Course Evaluation:

- Emotion Coding Assignment 10% Complete practice coding of emotional expressions and summarize their relevance to clinical assessment. In addition, each student is responsible for copying, reading, and summarizing (orally and in writing) one assigned chapter of Ekman's book, *Emotions Revealed*, for the class.
Due 9/27, R.

- Behavioral Interview 20% Videotape yourself conducting an initial behavioral interview with a lay volunteer or a fellow graduate student acting as client. Then constructively critique your own and a classmate's interview, and present aspects of your interview using the videotape in class. **Due 10/18, R & 10/23, T.**

 - EBA Presentation 20% Present and facilitate class discussion on EBA for a specific clinical problem. This project entails taking responsibility for half of one class session to discuss an assigned review article and supplemental research on clinical and research attributes of recommended measures. **Due 10/30, T, 11/1, R, & 11/6, T.**

 - Behavioral Observation 20% Learn and apply an established observational coding system (the Direct Observation Form) with a child as a practice case. Turn in coding forms and summary of findings based on this exercise. Also, prepare a brief letter summarizing the findings for the child's parent(s) and teachers. **Due 11/13, T.**

 - Class Participation 20% Attend classes, promptly complete assignments and homework exercises, and participate actively in class discussions. Students are expected to notify the instructor in advance if they need to miss class or come late.

 - Final Exam 10% Written response to a set of questions provided in advance. **Monday, November 19, at noon.**
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- 100%

Class Schedule
Psychology 484: Behavioral Assessment, Fall Quarter, 2007

Class #	Date	Topics, Readings, and Assignments
		(Note: Readings listed for a class relate to the topic covered in that day's class and should be read <u>in advance</u> of the date listed.)
1	9/6, R	Introduction: History and basic features of behavioral assessment
2	9/11, T	Foundational concepts of a behavioral approach Readings: Kazdin, A. E. (2001). <i>Behavior modification in applied settings</i> (6th ed., Ch. 1, pp. 1-31). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning. Roediger, H. L. (2004). What happened to behaviorism? <i>Division 25 Recorder</i> , 37 (1), 1, 6-7.
3	9/13, R	Principles, terms, and methods of operant conditioning Readings: Kazdin, A. E. (2001). <i>Behavior modification in applied settings</i> (6th ed., Ch. 2, pp. 33-66). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.
4	9/18, T	Behavioral assessment as a clinical conceptual approach Readings: O'Brien, W. H., & Haynes, S. N. (1995). Behavioral assessment. In L. A. Heiden & M. Hersen (Eds.), <i>Introduction to clinical psychology</i> (pp. 103-139). New York: Plenum Press.
5	9/20, R	Interviewing – general and behavioral approaches Due: Turn in ratings of EBA Presentation topics Readings: Groth-Marnat, G. (2003). <i>Handbook of psychological assessment</i> (4 th ed., Ch. 3. The assessment interview, pp. 69-101). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Morganstern, K. P. (1998). Behavioral interviewing. In A. S. Bellack & M. Hersen (Eds.). <i>Behavioral assessment: A practical handbook</i> (3rd ed., pp. 86-118). New York: Pergamon Press.
6	9/25, T	Interviewing – diagnostic approaches, techniques, and challenges Due: Identify person for behavioral interview

Class #	Date	Topics, Readings, and Assignments (cont.)
6	9/25, T	<p>Readings: Kanfer, F. H., & Schefft, B. K. (1988). <i>Guiding the process of therapeutic change</i> (Ch. 3, Entering the therapy process, pp. 71-87). Champaign, IL: Research Press.</p> <p>Shea, S. C. (1988). <i>Psychiatric interviewing</i> (Ch. 2, especially pp. 74-93). Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders.</p>
7	9/27, R	<p>Emotional expressions</p> <p>Due: Turn in emotional coding assignment</p> <p>Readings: Ekman, P. (2003). <i>Emotions revealed</i> (Ch. 1, pp. 1-16. & Conclusion, pp. 213-218). New York: Times Books, Henry Holt and Company, LLC. In addition, each student is responsible for copying, reading, and summarizing one assigned chapter of the book for the class.</p>
8	10/2, T	<p>Behavioral observation</p> <p>Readings: Haynes, S. N., & O'Brien, W. H. (2000). <i>Principles and practice of behavioral assessment</i> (Ch. 12, pp. 225-263). New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers.</p>
9	10/4, R	<p>Introduction to school observation system</p> <p>Readings: Achenbach, T., & Rescorla, L. A. (2001). <i>Manual for the ASEBA school-aged forms & profiles</i> (re: Direct Observation Form, pp. 170-172). Burlington, VT: ASEBA.</p> <p>Due: Give videotape of behavioral interview to classmate for critique</p>
10	10/9, T	<p>Reliability and validity in psychological assessment</p> <p>Readings: Groth-Marnat, G. (2003). <i>Handbook of psychological assessment</i> (4th ed., Ch. 1, Introduction, sections on Evaluating psychological tests and Validity in clinical practice, pp. 10-25). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.</p>
11	10/11, R	<p>Reliability and validity in behavioral assessment</p> <p>Readings: Cone, J. D. (1998). Psychometric considerations: Concepts, contents, and methods. In A. S. Bellack & M. Hersen (Eds.), <i>Behavioral assessment: A</i></p>

practical approach (4th ed., pp. 22-46). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Class #	Date	Topics, Readings, and Assignments (cont.)
12	10/16, T	Evidence-based assessment of clinical disorders Readings: Mash, E. J., & Hunsley, J. (2005). Evidence-based assessment of child and adolescent disorders: Issues and challenges. <i>Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology</i> , 34, 362-379.
13	10/18, R	Student presentations and critiques of behavioral interviews
14	10/23, T	Student presentations and critiques of behavioral interviews
15	10/25, R	Clinical case conceptualization Readings: Kanfer, F. H., & Schefft, B. K. (1988). <i>Guiding the process of therapeutic change</i> (Ch. 6, especially pp. 174-181). Champaign, IL: Research Press.
16	10/30, T	Student EBA Presentations Readings: TBA
17	11/1, R	Student EBA Presentations Readings: TBA
18	11/6, T	Student EBP Presentations Readings: TBA
19	11/8, R	TBA Readings: TBA
20	11/13, T	Discussion of behavioral observation assignment Due: Behavioral observation practice forms, summary, and feedback letter
11/19, M		Due: Final Exam on questions provided in advance