

APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (ABA) BASIC PRINCIPLES

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Hey, guys. My name's Bryon Miller. I'm a Ph.D. student in the Department of Child and Family Studies here at USF. I received my master's degree from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, which is my home state. And I decided to do a Ph.D. program, came out to USF here in Tampa. And I'm going to be teaching the first course that you guys are going to take in the certificate program, which is ABA Basic Principles.

So the ABA Basic Principles course is a very big overview course for our entire field. So we're going to be covering a lot of the basic principles that you're going to be using in practice, as well as just some of the procedures that you would actually be using when you're working in clinical cases, research, and other areas like that.

So in general, the course is going to flow in a manner where we're going to first cover a lot of the basic behavioral principles. And this is we're going to really start separating a science of behavior from a lot of the other sort of everyday explanations for why behavior occurs with people, animals, any sort of thing that's able to behave.

You want to think of this course to fit in within other natural sciences. So if you've taken biology courses or chemistry courses, physics, any sort of subject matter like that, you want to approach your studying and how you're going to contact the material in a similar way.

Every week there's going to be a journal club meeting to where we're going to read a few supplemental articles that are related to whatever topics we're covering in that module for that week. And so what that will look like is we'll just all meet kind of online, either in a Google Hangout or through Canvas. And we'll actually discuss anything that's related to these journal articles, and then anything that you guys have had experience with related to those topics.

And I know a lot of you are coming from a very diverse background into the certificate program, so I think that, as part of the journal club discussions, it'd be helpful if you guys actually brought in some personal experiences from your line of work and any sort of specialty that you guys have had, and we can discuss how those fit into everything.

So I'd say in terms of this course specifically, you want to make sure that you're practicing, rehearsing, and really trying to understand and define correctly a lot of the technical language that we use. So when we talk about things like reinforcement, we have a very specific definition of what that means.

And so when I talk about reinforcement here, you talk about reinforcement to your friends, we're going to be talking about the exact same thing. There's not going to be this ambiguity to it. And so we want to ensure that you guys are able to leave this course, being able to talk very confidently about behavior and a science of behavior.

And I just want to establish that I really just have an open-door policy about questions. I'll always respond to your questions. If you have questions about the material or you're struggling with any aspects, I really want to be able to talk with you and make sure that you're feeling confident in what you're learning. So any way that I can facilitate that, I want to make sure that that's occurring.

So definitely feel free to contact me via email, or we can do a Skype hangout. Or any sort of way that we can facilitate learning in the most effective way possible for you guys is definitely things that I'll be open to. So this is going to be my job for the next year, so I want to make sure that you're getting as much out of it as you expect to.