

Psychology 342A
Autism Practicum
SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Course Description: A practicum course providing students with an opportunity to use applied behavioral analysis techniques to work with preschool children with autism. Each student is assigned to a child's team and works with that child on a one-to-one basis in the Meredith Autism Program Lab and in the child's home. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: PSY-100.

Educational Outcomes:

At the end of the course the student will be able to...

1. Demonstrate experience working with autism using applied behavior analysis techniques.
2. Share feedback on teaching sessions with child's consultant and teaching team.
3. Perform skillfully within a treatment team.
4. Discuss client information professionally with parents and other team members.
5. Describe current research surrounding children with autism.

Readings:

Suggested Articles: Dr. Lovaas' 1987 study, other articles on reserve in Library, others may be assigned throughout the semester

Suggested Readings: Hamilton, Lynn, Facing Autism

Maurice, Catherine, Let Me Hear Your Voice

Maurice, Catherine, ed., Behavioral Intervention for the Young Child with Autism

CLASS SCHEDULE

You will be assigned specific times for sessions each week according to your availability provided at the beginning of the semester. You will be required to do 6 hours a week of one-on-one hours for 2 credit hours or 9 hours a week of one-on-one hours for 3 credit hours. You will also be required to attend weekly clinic meetings, which will be determined by the Consultant on your client's case. Once your session and meeting hours are set, they will remain the same for the remainder of the semester. There will also be several training times at the beginning of the semester that will be required to participate in this course. The Consultants will be observing quality control of trainers and generalization of client's skills whenever possible in the home and at the MAP Lab. Hours with your client may occur at the MAP Lab or at the client's home.

Grading Scale:

100-90 = A

89-80 = B

79-70 = C

69-60 = D

59 -- = F

Requirements:

20% - Notebook: All students will be given a notebook that they will be required to maintain throughout the semester. The notebook will be due on the last day of classes by 5pm. Five points will be deducted each day that your notebook is late. Notebooks turned in after the last day of exams will receive a 0.

The notebook **must** include **all** of the following when turned in on the last day of classes:

- 1) The class syllabus
- 2) Your team information sheet
- 3) Each monthly schedule and schedule for PSY 342
- 4) Protocol for missing a session
- 5) Absence sheet (each student **must** keep track of their absences and missed training and clinic meetings on this sheet)
- 6) Clinic Meeting Notes Section – each student is expected to take notes at each clinic meeting & keep them in this notebook. Also, keep a copy of official typed notes received after each meeting in this notebook.
- 7) Information on ABA and Discrete Trial Teaching

15% - Self-Evaluation: To be completed by each student upon watching a video of own session with assigned child. Due to your consultant by _____. Five points will be deducted each day that your self-evaluation/team feedback is late. (More information is presented in your notebook.)

15% - Paper/Definition of Terms: This is based on how many semesters you have worked in the program and is further described in your notebook. For example, if this is your first semester, you will define terms, if this is your second semester you will write a reflection paper or if this is your third you will write a paper based on Lovaas' 1987 study, etc. These are due on _____. Five points will be deducted each day that your paper/definition of terms is late. A staff member will be happy to give you feedback on your paper or terms if you turn it in at least 2 days prior to the due date. (More information is presented in your notebook.)

50% - Evaluation: a supervisory staff member will evaluate all students 2 times a semester. Each evaluation will be weighed equally within this 50%. Evaluations will consist of the following areas:

Discrete Trial	Prompting
Reinforcement	Generalization
Professionalism	Behaviors
Break/Downtime	Professionalism
Data Collection	

*Any violation of professionalism or confidentiality **at any time during the semester** can result in reduction of your grade. Please refer to the professionalism and confidentiality guidelines in your notebook.

*Students who are consistently late or significantly late to more than one teaching session with their assigned client, may have up to 50% of their professionalism points deducted from their midterm and/or final evaluation. For a first semester student, this can be as much as 10 points off your midterm evaluation, and if your tardiness trend continues, can be up to 10 points off your final evaluation.

****Your notebooks, evaluations, and paper must be legible and neat! Points may be deducted if they are unorganized or tardy! If you have a question regarding any graded aspect of the course or would like someone to look over your notebook or paper, you may ask a consultant or supervisor up to 2 days prior to the due date.****

Attendance - (in lab and/or the client's home). There will be 5 points deducted from your final grade for each scheduled *one-on-one session, training session, or clinic meeting* missed.

One-on-one session: If you make up the *one-on-one session* within 2 weeks of your absence, you will get 3 of those points added back to your final grade.

*it is your responsibility to get up with your consultant or supervisor on a makeup time!

*If you makeup your time before you miss your session, or you get a teammate to switch sessions with you (the switch of hours must be equal), so your client does not lose hours, you will not lose any points.

*If you have 2 sessions in one day these combined hours will be considered one session. If you cancel for the day, you will lose 5 points and can earn 3 points back for a makeup. If you cancel some of the hours in a given day, you will be required to make up those hours (NOT OVERLAPPED).

- Students who do not show to part of their session for more than one teaching session with their assigned client, may have up to 50% of their professionalism points deducted from their midterm and/or final evaluation. For a first semester student, this can be as much as 10 points off your midterm evaluation, and if your tardiness trend continues, can be up to 10 points off your final evaluation.

Clinic Meeting: Clinic meetings are scheduled weekly throughout the semester.

If you watch the video from the missed *clinic meeting* before your next scheduled session with the child, you will get 2 points added back to your final grade. (You must page your consultant 2 hours before the meeting is scheduled to start, so that it can be video taped.) If a meeting is scheduled, knowing that you cannot be in attendance, you must watch the video at a scheduled time each week. If you miss this scheduled video, you will be penalized the same as teammates missing the clinic meeting.

*If you are late for a clinic meeting, you will lose 1 point for every 15 minutes you are late

*If you miss a meeting and a session on the same day, you will only lose points for the missed meeting, but you will be required to makeup the missed session time. If you cancel the makeup for this missed session time, you will lose points for the absence as well.

Training session: You cannot make up any points for missed *training sessions*. *Training sessions* are the first 3-4 weeks of classes when your consultant or senior staff is overlapping & training you on your client's case (they will be listed on the calendar with you).

Makeup sessions: It is your responsibility to schedule a makeup session with your consultant or supervisor within 2 weeks of your absence. If you cancel your makeup session, you will not be eligible to earn your 3 points back for this absence.

**if you miss a session to represent Meredith (for a class, club, etc) you will not be penalized for this absence, as long as you contact your consultant at least a week prior to the miss and at that time schedule a makeup session. You will still be required to makeup all hours missed. If you cancel this makeup session, you will be penalized as if you were canceling your original session (5 points deducted with one opportunity for another makeup session)

You will not be penalized for any sessions cancelled by a parent and will not be required to makeup this time.

If you are going to miss a session, you must 1) page your Consultant on your client's case, 2) call the office (760-8080) and/or 3) call the client's parent prior to your scheduled time. It is imperative that proper procedure (more information can be found in the attendance section of your notebook) be followed when you can not be

present during your scheduled time. It is crucial that you attend all your assigned times, trainings, and clinic meetings. The child and the parents are counting on you for the program to be implemented.

****All extra credit MUST be completed by the last day of exams each semester****

****Extra credit will be awarded for perfect attendance!****

Inclement Weather Policy:

- ◆ If Meredith College classes are canceled, then there will be no sessions.
- ◆ If Wake County is closed, but Meredith College is open, there will be no home sessions, but parents may choose to bring their child to Meredith for scheduled sessions or cancel the session. The consultant will call the parent and a decision will be made. Then the consultant will call the student. If you do NOT receive a call you should assume that you DO have your regular session that day (at Meredith if Wake County is closed)!
- ◆ If Wake County is delayed and you have a home session, then sessions will start at 10am and will end at the scheduled time.
- ◆ If Meredith College is delayed, sessions will start at the time Meredith opens.
- ◆ If a client lives in Durham County, we will follow the above policy with regard to Durham County Schools.

It is your responsibility to find out if the schools are closed, check WRAL news or wral-tv.com online, or page your consultant. Information about Meredith class cancellations is available on the Meredith website www.meredith.edu and by calling the inclement weather phone number, 832-8878. The Director of MAP reserves the right to change this policy as needed.

Disability Statement:

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. In order to receive accommodations, students must go through the Counseling Center/Disability Services office. Disability Services is located in 106 Carroll Hall and can be reached at 760-8427 or disabilityservices@meredith.edu. If you have a disability that requires any classroom accommodation, please see Kathryn Cole and/or your consultant as soon as possible. You may call or email us to set up a time to come by.

Statement of Honor: We, the Meredith Community, are committed to developing and affirming in each student a sense of personal honor and responsibility. Uncompromising honesty and forthrightness are essential elements of this commitment. The Honor System is a method by which individual honors are protected and maintained. Any dishonorable action will be regarded as a violation of this commitment, and corrective action will be taken.

If I am in violation of the Honor Code, to prevent jeopardizing the Honor System or weakening our system of self-government, I have an obligation to report myself to the proper authorities. If I am aware of a violation of the Honor System by another student, I shall call this matter to the attention of that student as a violation of responsibility to the community.

In choosing Meredith College, I am accepting the Honor System as a way of life. As a Meredith student, I am responsible for insuring that the Honor System is at all times carried out.

Any trainer who compromises a client's confidentiality will be in violation of the Honor Code.

Withdrawal Policy: There will be no withdrawals after _____. You may withdraw previous to this point with a W.