



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO

Applied Behavior Analysis

ABA 5309 Behaviorism

A. MAJOR COURSE DESCRIPTION/REQUIREMENT

This course discusses the philosophy that provides the basis for ABA and the experimental analysis of behavior; this philosophy is known as radical behaviorism. Students will learn about the philosophical underpinnings of behavior analysis as demonstrated through the BACB® 5th edition task list. ABA 5301 Concepts and Principles of ABA is a prerequisite for this course.

B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon Completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Define radical behaviorism
2. Identify the assumptions of ABA
3. Distinguish between ABA, experimental analysis of behavior, and radical behaviorism.

C. LECTURE OR DISCUSSION TOPICS

Science, Human Behavior, and Ordinary Language
Aims and Methods of Science & Concepts of Causation
Interpretative Techniques & Explanatory Theories
Mechanistic Thinking in Psychology
Behaviorism and Radical Behaviorism
Essentialism and Selectionism
Human Affairs
About Behaviorism

D. REQUIRED OR RECOMMENDED READINGS

Students will study course content provided through selected texts and Blackboard postings. These resources include:

American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.

Chiesa, M. (1994). *Radical behaviorism: the philosophy and the science*. Authors Cooperative.

Skinner, B. F. (1953). *Science and human behavior*. NY: The Macmillan Company. Skinner, B. F. (1974). *About Behaviorism*. New York, NY: Random House.