



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO

Applied Behavior Analysis

EDBA 5308 Verbal Behavior

A. MAJOR COURSE DESCRIPTION/REQUIREMENT

This course examines B.F. Skinner's *Verbal Behavior* (1957) and its application to language development. Students explore how biological, environmental, and motivational variables influence verbal behavior, and review research on ABA interventions for individuals with language delays, including those with autism.

B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

1. Describe the importance of B.F. Skinner's work on language training and remediation.
2. Discuss factors influencing verbal behavior.
3. Describe strategies to improve verbal behavior

C. LECTURE OR DISCUSSION TOPICS

Foundations of Verbal Behavior
Assessment of Verbal Behavior and Language
Teaching Early Communication and AAC
Developing Core Verbal Operants
Expanding Verbal Repertoires
Generalization, Social Validity, and Context

D. REQUIRED OR RECOMMENDED READINGS

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

Skinner, B. F. (1957). *Verbal behavior*. New York, NY: Appleton-Century-Crofts.

Sundberg, M. L., & Michael, J. (2001). The benefits of Skinner's analysis of verbal behavior for children with autism. *Behavior Modification*, 25(5), 698–724.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0145445501255003>

Ingvarsson, E. T. (2016). Tutorial: Teaching verbal behavior to children with autism. *International Electronic Journal of Elementary Education*, 9(2), 433–450.

Del Espinosa, M., Dillenburger, K., & Keenan, M. (2021). A comprehensive review of verbal behavior interventions for children with autism spectrum disorder. *Behavior Modification*, 45(1), 3–33.