

EAB 7090

Verbal Behavior

Fall 2009 (Section 3122)
Thursday, MAEB 234, 10-E1

Instructor: Marc N. Branch

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Office hours: Wednesday, 3rd period, and by appointment.

Requirements; Ground rules; Format

Readings: The amount of reading will vary from week to week. The number of pages is not large by graduate-student standards, but many of the readings are difficult; most could benefit from a second reading. There are two required texts:

Skinner, B. F. (1957/1991). *Verbal behavior*. (VB) Copley Publishing Group.

Winokur, S. (1976) *A primer of verbal behavior* (PVB). Prentice Hall

You are likely already to have a copy of VB, but if you do not you may order a copy from <http://www.bfskinner.org/BFSkinner/Bookstore.html> (\$20). Winokur's book is out of print, so copies have been made and are available at Target copy in the Butler Plaza (\$18).

There will be recommended additional reading. Many should be available through ordinary web connections. Those that are not will be on electronic reserve and therefore retrievable at <https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/>

Class format: The readings will provide the basis for our weekly class discussions, so I expect them to be read carefully and on time. In an effort to make the most of our time together we will try out a number of different discussion formats over the course of the semester. You should come to class prepared to discuss (not just summarize) this material. Our discussion goal will be that everyone has a clear understanding of the concepts presented. Each week the initial discussion will be on the primary, required reading assignment. A second discussion will then focus on the supplementary readings. Each week, one student will be charged with leading that discussion, first by offering a précis of material, and then leading the discussion. All students are encouraged to read the supplementary material to help enhance this part of the class.

Discussion Questions: In an attempt to facilitate the initial class discussions, two approaches will be used initially. One, at the beginning of class I'll have a list of questions, the discussion of which should provide initial "common ground" for us about the basic issues under consideration. Two, each week by noon on Wednesday, each student will submit, via email, two discussion questions about that week's primary assignment. I'll examine and concatenate them to provide an additional basis for discussion. These questions will determine part of your grade as well as guide our discussion, so I expect them to be thoughtful.

Written Work: A short (5-6 page) paper describing a research project aimed at examining verbal behavior, from the perspective offered by the texts, will be due December 9.

Grading: Your final grade for the course will be based on the following requirements: paper (25%), class participation (30%), discussion leading (15%), weekly discussion questions (30%).

Course Outline

August 27: Introduction and background; Organization of the course

September 3: A Functional Analysis of Verbal Behavior

Required reading:

VB, Chpts. 1-2; **PVB** Chpts 1-2

Recommended reading:

Andresen, J. T. (1992). The behaviorist turn in recent theories of language. *Behavior and Philosophy*, 20, 1-19.

Catania, A. C. (1973). The psychologies of structure, function, and development. *American Psychologist*, 28, 434-443.

Michael, J. (1984). Verbal behavior. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 42, 363-376.

Sautter, R. A., & LeBlanc, L. A. (2006). Empirical Applications of Skinner's Analysis of Verbal Behavior with Humans. *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*, 22, 35-48.

Skinner, B. F. (1972) A lecture on having a poem. *Saturday Review*, 55, 32-35.

September 10: The Mand

Required reading:

VB, Chpt. 3; **PVB** Chpt. 3

Recommended reading:

Hartman, E. C., & Klatt, K. P. (2005). The effects of deprivation, pre-session exposure, and preferences on teaching manding to children with autism. *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*, 21, 135-144.

Carr, E. G., & Durand, V. M. (1985). Reducing behavior problems through functional communication training. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 18, 111-126.

Yamamoto, J., & Mochizuki, A. (1988). Acquisition and functional analysis of manding with autistic students. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 21, 57-64.

Yi, J. I., Christian, L., Vittimberga, G., & Lowenkron, B. (2006). Generalized negatively-reinforced manding in children with autism. *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*, 22, 21-33.

September 17: Verbal Behavior Under the Control of Verbal Stimuli

Required reading:

VB, Chpt. 4, **PVB** Chpts 7, 8, 9.

Recommended reading:

Cihon, T. M. (2007). A review of training intraverbal repertoires: Can precision teaching help? *The Analysis of Verbal*

Behavior, 23, 123-133.

Boe, R., & Winokur, S. (1978). A procedure for studying echoic control in verbal behavior. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 30, 213-217.

Chase, P. N., Johnson, K. R., & Sulzer-Azaroff, B. (1985). Verbal relations within instruction: Are there subclasses of the intraverbal? *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 43, 301-313.

Vaughan, M. E., & Michael, J. (1982). Automatic reinforcement: An important but ignored concept. *Behaviorism*, 10, 217-227.

September 24: The Tact

Required reading:

VB, Chpt. 4; **PVB** Chpts. 4, 5

Recommended reading:

Lamarre, J. & Holland, J. G. (1985) The functional independence of mands and tacts, *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 43, 5-19.

Day, W. F. (1969). On certain similarities between The Philosophical Investigations of Ludwig Wittgenstein and the operationism of B. F. Skinner. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 12, 489-506.

Skinner, B. F. (1942). The processes involved in the repeated guessing of alternatives. *Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 30, 495-503.

Skinner, B.F. (1945). The operational analysis of psychological terms. *Psychological Review*, 52, 270-277.

October 1: Special Conditions Affecting Stimulus Control: Audiences

Required reading:

VB, Chpts. 6, 7; **PVB** Chpt. 6

Recommended reading:

Glenn, S. S. (1983). Maladaptive functional relations in client verbal behavior. *The Behavior Analyst*, 6, 47-56.

Lanza, R., Starr, J., & Skinner, B. F. (1983). "Lying" in the pigeon. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 38, 201-203.

Layng, T. V. J., & Andronis, P. T. (1984). Toward a functional analysis of delusional speech and hallucinatory behavior. *The Behavior Analyst*, 7, 139-156.

Silverman, K., Anderson, S.R., Marshall, A.M., & Baer, D.M. (1986). Establishing and generalizing audience control of new language repertoires. *Analysis and Intervention in Developmental Disabilities*, 6, 21-40.

October 8: The Verbal Operant as a Unit of Analysis

Required reading:

VB, Chpt. 8

Recommended reading:

Petursdottir, A. I., Carr, J. E., & Michael, J. (2005). Emergence of mands and tacts of novel objects among preschool children. *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior, 21*, 59-74.

Lee, V. L., & Pegler, A. M. (1982). Effects on spelling of training children to read. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior, 37*, 311-322.

Greenspoon, J. (1955). The reinforcing effect of two spoken sounds on the frequency of two responses. *American Journal of Psychology, 68*, 409-416.

Hammonds, F. (2006). Toward an “awareness” of the relationship between task performance and own verbal accounts of that performance. *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior, 22*, 101-110.

Lodhi, S., & Greer, R. D. (1989). The speaker as listener. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior, 51*, 353-359.

Miguel, C. F., Petursdottir, A. I., & Carr, J. E. (2005). The effects of multiple-tact and receptive-discrimination training on the acquisition of intraverbal behavior. *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior, 21*, 27-41.

Salzinger, K. (1959). Experimental manipulation of verbal behavior: A review. *Journal of Genetic Psychology, 61*, 65-95.

October 15: Multiple Causation, Supplementary Stimulation; New Combinations of Fragments

Required reading:

VB Chpts.. 9, 10, 11; PVB Chpt. 10

Recommended reading:

Burns, C. E., Heiby, E. M., & Tharp, R. G. (1983). A verbal behavior analysis of auditory hallucinations. *The Behavior Analyst, 6*, 133-143.

October 22 –Autoclitics, Grammar and Syntax

Required reading:

VB, chpts. 12-13, pp. 311-343.

Recommended reading:

Barnes-Holmes, D., Barnes-Holmes, Y., & Cullinan, V. (2000). Relational frame theory and Skinner's *Verbal Behavior*: A possible synthesis. *The Behavior Analyst, 23*, 69-84.

Catania, A. C. (1980). Autoclitic processes and the structure of behavior. *Behaviorism, 8*, 175-186.

Lazar, R. (1977). Extending sequence-class membership with matching to sample. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior, 27*, 381-392.

Wulfert, E., & Hayes, S. C. (1988). Transfer of a conditional ordering response through conditional equivalence classes. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior, 50*, 125-144.

October 29 – NO CLASS

November 5: Self-editing and Self-strengthening

Required reading:

VB Chpts. 15, 16, 17

Recommended reading:

Epting, L. K., & Critchfield, T. S. (2006). Self-editing: On the relation between behavioral and psycholinguistic approaches. *The Behavior Analyst, 29*, 211-234.

Parsons, J. A., Taylor, D. C., & Joyce, T. M. (1981). Precurrent self-prompting operants in children: "Remembering." *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior, 36*, 253-266.

Skinner, B. F. (1981). How to discover what you have to say: A talk to students. *The Behavior Analyst, 4*, 1-7.

Wallace, I., & Pear, J. J. (1977). Self-control techniques of famous novelists. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 10*, 515-525.

November 12: Logical and Scientific Behavior, and Thinking

Required reading:

VB, chpts. 18-19, and pp. 453-456.

Recommended reading:

Hineline, P. N. (1992). A self-interpretive behavior analysis. *American Psychologist, 47*, 1274-1286.

Lee, V. L. (1985). Scientific knowledge as rules that govern behavior. *The Psychological Record, 35*, 183-192.

Schnaitter, R. (1980). Science and verbal behavior. *Behaviorism, 8*, 153-160.

Zuriff, G. E. (1980). Radical behaviorist epistemology. *Psychological Bulletin, 87*, 337-350.

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Sokal, A. (1996) D. A Physicist Experiments With Cultural Studies, *Lingua Franca*, May/June 1996, pp. 62-64.
http://www.physics.nyu.edu/faculty/sokal/lingua_franca_v4/lingua_franca_v4.html

November 19: The Behavior of the Listener

Required reading:

Hayes, S. C., Zettle, R. D., & Rosenfarb, I. (1989). Rule-following. In: S. C. Hayes (Ed.), *Rule-governed behavior: Cognition, contingencies, and instructional control* (pp. 191-220). New York: Plenum.

Galizio, M. (1979). Contingency-shaped and rule-governed behavior: Instructional control of human loss avoidance. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior, 31*, 53-70.

Recommended reading:

- Cerutti, D. T. (1989). Discrimination theory of rule-governed behavior. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 51, 259-276.
- Guess, D., & Baer, D. M. (1973). An analysis of individual differences in generalization between receptive and productive language in retarded children. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 6, 311-329.
- Lee, V. L. (1981). Prepositional phrases spoken and heard. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 35, 227-242.
- Torgrud, L. J., & Holborn, S. W. (1990). The effects of verbal performance descriptions on nonverbal operant responding. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 54, 273-291.
- Zettle, R. D., & Hayes, S. C. (1982). Rule-governed behavior: A potential framework for cognitive-behavioral therapy. In P. C. Kendall (Ed.), *Advances in cognitive-behavioral research and therapy: Vol. 1* (pp. 73-118). New York: Academic Press.

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November 26: NO CLASS - Thanksgiving

December 3: Where do things stand?

Required reading:

- Andresen, J. T. (1991). Skinner and Chomsky 30 years later or: The return of the repressed. *The Behavior Analyst*, 14, 49-60.
- Adelman, B. A. (2007). An underdiscussed aspect of Chomsky (1959). *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*, 23, 29-34.
- Chomsky, N. (1959). Review of Skinner's Verbal Behavior. *Language*, 35, 26-58.
- Czubaroff, J. (1988). Criticism and response in the Skinner controversies. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 49, 321-329.
- MacCorquodale, K. (1969). B. F. Skinner's *Verbal Behavior*: A retrospective appreciation. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 12, 831-841.
- MacCorquodale, K. (1970). On Chomsky's review of Skinner's *Verbal Behavior*. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 13, 83-99.
- Palmer, D. C. (2000). Chomsky's nativism: A critical review. *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*, 17, 39-50.
- Palmer, D. C. (2000). Chomsky's nativism reconsidered. *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*, 17, 51-56.
- Palmer, D. C. (2006). On Chomsky's appraisal of Skinner's *Verbal Behavior*: A half century of misunderstanding. *The Behavior Analyst*, 29, 253-267.
- Moerk, E. L. (1989). "The LAD was a lady and the tasks were ill defined". *Developmental Review*, 9, 21-57.