

The International Behaviorology Institute Syllabus for BEHG 350 Behaviorology Philosophy and History

James O’Heare

This syllabus provides course-specific information for a course that The International Behaviorology Institute (TIBI) offers. For guidance on enrolling, procuring required materials, and working through courses, as well as general school related information, see “General parameters and procedures for courses from The International Behaviorology Institute” available online at www.behaviorology.org or in the Spring 2015 issue (Volume 18, Number 2) of *Journal of Behaviorology*. Ledoux (2015) provided the core material for the course description.

Course Title: BEHG 350 Behaviorology Philosophy and History

Credits: 3 TIBI credits

Prerequisites: BEHG 211 Introduction to Behaviorology II

Course Format: Distance (online and offline options)

Time Frame: Commences upon enrollment. Self-paced within specified limits (estimated 150 hours; 3–15 weeks)

Professor: Assigned upon enrollment, with contact information

Required Resources

Ledoux, S. F. (2015). *Origins and Components of Behaviorology—Third Edition*. Ottawa, Canada: BehaveTech Publishing. (ISBN 978-1-927744-08-6)
Various papers as assigned.

Ledoux, S. F. (2015). *Study Questions for Origins and Components of Behaviorology—Third Edition*. Canton, NY: ABCs. (ISBN 978-1-882508-37-2)

Skinner, B. F. (1974). *About Behaviorism*. New York: Random House. (ISBN 978-0-394-71618-3)

O’Heare, J. (in process). *Study Questions for About Behaviorism by B. F. Skinner*. Ottawa, Canada: BehaveTech Publishing.

Course Description

BEHG 350 Behaviorology Philosophy and History starts with an in-depth treatment of the philosophy of science, not only of the natural sciences in general (i.e., naturalism), but also of the behaviorology discipline in particular (i.e., radical behaviorism). The course traces the development of this philosophy since the early 1900s, comparing and contrasting it with other philosophies of the times, examining its role in the emergence of the behaviorology discipline, and considering its implications for experimental and applied work at the individual and cultural levels. Then, the course covers an in-depth treatment of the history of the emergence of behaviorology as a discipline.

Broadly, BEHG 350 covers the following topic areas:

Part 1: Philosophy

- ⌘ The philosophical position, tenets, and assumptions of radical behaviorism, the philosophy of natural science underpinning behaviorology;
- ⌘ Causes of behavior and the address of private/covert behavior;
- ⌘ Innate behavior and operant behavior;
- ⌘ Perception;
- ⌘ Verbal behavior and thinking;
- ⌘ Causes, reasons, and knowing;
- ⌘ Emotion, the “Self” and others; and
- ⌘ Control of behavior.

Part 2: History

- ⌘ Importance of a formal record of the activities within behaviorology before and during its initial development and throughout its history since that point;
- ⌘ Definition of behaviorology and how it differs from other disciplines, sub-disciplines, and fields that address the topic of behavior;
- ⌘ The scope of behaviorology;
- ⌘ Early historical events leading to the founding of behaviorology;
- ⌘ Subsequent historical events within behaviorology;
- ⌘ Issues driving the disciplinary independence movement;
- ⌘ The transition period to behaviorology and the relevance of contemporary professional organizations;
- ⌘ Changes in the infrastructure of behaviorology;
- ⌘ B. F. Skinner’s role in behaviorology;
- ⌘ The place for behaviorology within society and the natural science community; and
- ⌘ Elements and historical events surrounding developments of behaviorology.

Course Objectives

The primary objective of this course is to expand the student's repertoire of behavior measurably in relevant areas of behaviorological course content. The student will:






- & Define behaviorology and how it differs from other disciplines, sub-disciplines, and fields that address the topic of behavior in one way or another, as well as the scope of behaviorology;
- & Describe the philosophical position, tenets, and assumptions of radical behaviorism, the philosophy of natural science underpinning behaviorology, and differentiate that from those of other disciplines;
- & Identify the causes of behavior, both private and overt;
- & Differentiate between innate behavior and operant behavior;
- & Describe perception, emotion, verbal behavior, and thinking from a natural science perspective;
- & Explore the notion of a "self";
- & Identify the variables that control behavior;
- & Describe both distant and recent historical occurrences resulting in the emergence of behaviorology as a natural-science discipline;
- & Describe the historical events related to the transition from a shared history with other disciplines to the declaration of separation and independence from these disciplines, and discuss the reasons for such separation;
- & Relate B. F. Skinner's role in a natural science of behavior as well as the emergence of behaviorology as a separate and independent discipline from other, nonscientific disciplines; and
- & Discuss the infrastructure maintaining behaviorology as a discipline.

Assignment Sequence & Time Management

The following checklist provides students with the sequence in which the assignments are to be completed with pacing to fit into the 15-week semester time frame. Progressing more slowly than this schedule, assignments could easily get backed up to the point where insufficient time remains to complete them in a satisfactory manner. Students may use this sample schedule to help ensure that they remain on track. We estimate that each weekly assignment load will take approximately 9-10 hours to work through, assuming it takes 150 hours to work through all of the material. Students should expect and plan to put in at least 10 hours per week and use that to gauge whether they will need more or less time in the weeks to come. Students may check the box next to each assignment as they complete and submit it.

Check Week Resource Component

Check	Week	Resource	Component
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<i>Origins and Components of Behaviorology and related Study Questions (SQs)</i>	2015 Preface p. vii, and "Intro Origins" paper pp. 3-24
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<i>Origins and Components of Behaviorology and related SQs</i>	"Intro to Philosophy" paper pp. 25-32
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<i>About Behaviorism and related SQs</i>	Introduction & Chapters 1-2 pp. 3-32
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<i>About Behaviorism and related SQs</i>	Chapters 3-4 pp. 33-71
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<i>About Behaviorism and related SQs</i>	Chapters 5-6 pp. 72-101
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	<i>About Behaviorism and related SQs</i>	Chapters 7, 8, & 9 pp. 102-147
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	<i>About Behaviorism and related SQs</i>	Chapters 10-11 pp. 148-188
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	<i>About Behaviorism and related SQs</i>	Chapters 12-13 pp. 189-218
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	<i>About Behaviorism and related SQs</i>	Chapters 14 pp. 219-251
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	<i>Origins and Components of Behaviorology ("Origins, Status, and Mission..." paper) and related SQs</i>	Chapters 1-2 pp. 33-59

-  II *Origins and Components of Behaviorology* (“Origins, Status, and Mission...” paper) Chapter 3 and related SQs pp. 60–73
-  I2 *Origins and Components of Behaviorology* (“Origins, Status, and Mission...” paper) Chapter 4 and related SQs pp. 74–108
-  I3 *Origins and Components of Behaviorology* (“Origins, Status, and Mission...” paper) Chapter 5 and related SQs pp. 109–145
-  I4 *Origins and Components of Behaviorology* (“Origins, Status, and Mission...” paper) Chapters 6–7 and related SQs pp. 146–169
-  I5 *Origins and Components of Behaviorology* and related SQs “Elements of History” paper pp. 259–296

Please contact TIBI at www.behaviorology.org with any questions about the content of this syllabus or the *General Parameters & Procedures for Courses from The International Behaviorology Institute*.

References

Ledoux, S. F. (2015). Appendix 3 Addendum—Curricular courses and resources after 25 years (1990–2015). In S. F. Ledoux. *Origins and Components of Behaviorology—Third Edition* (pp. 314–326). Ottawa, Canada: BehaveTech Publishing. 