

Pediatric Feeding Disorders

18:820:524 #16173 Level: Graduate, Credits: 3 **Thursdays, 6:15-8:45 pm SMH 219**

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** Instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus on an as-needed basis throughout the term. Students will be notified by email or by announcement in class when revisions are made. **

Course Description

Through weekly reading assignments, group discussions, and lectures, students will learn the behavior-analytic principles and techniques to effectively assess and treat pediatric feeding disorders.

Course Overview

This is a course on research methods and applications in behavior analysis with a focus on the assessment and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders. As a result, the course content will embed research in progress as it relates to weekly topics. We will cover a wide range of topics like the observation of human behavior in applied settings, data collection, graphing and analysis, reinforcer assessment and selection, functional analysis methodology, and intervention strategies. Although most of the assigned readings focus on pediatric feeding disorders, most of the skills and topics will provide you with a strong empirical background for clinical research and practice that is generalizable to different areas of behavior analysis (e.g., severe problem behavior, skill acquisition).

Objectives for the course:

The student will:

- 1. Identify and describe key features of applied behavior analysis (ABA), particularly as they apply to intervention for children with feeding disorders;
- 2. Acquire critical knowledge required for effective implementation of assessment and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders;
- 3. Discuss and identify current standards of practice and evidence-based treatment for pediatric feeding disorders;
- 4. Be prepared for practicum-based experiences in a pediatric feeding disorders program.

Lecture quizzes (110 total points, 11 quizzes at 10 points each): Students will take a short quiz at the end of every class period. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. The quiz at the end of the class period will cover the content reviewed in the class that night and from the assigned articles. I will drop the lowest quiz score at the end of the semester. Each quiz is made up of 5 questions and will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and True/False

questions. They will be posted to Canvas at the end of the class period (at 8:45 pm on Thursday nights) and available for 24 hours (until 8:45 pm on Friday nights).

Activities (60 total points, 2 assignments, 30 points each): I will assign two activities throughout the semester to provide you with opportunities to practice skills across several key areas. We will discuss or practice the skill during the class before the assignment is due, and the assignment will be due at the start of the next class and should be submitted via Canvas. For example, the culturally influenced feeding practices assignment will teach you how culture influences mealtime and feeding.

Article Presentation (60 total points, one 10 to 15-minute presentation): Throughout the course beginning at week 5, you will be responsible for selecting one feeding research article to read, review, and present to the class. This will provide you with an opportunity to practice reviewing critical components of research articles and summarizing the outcomes and implications for future research.

- Two or three students will present each week (beginning on Week 5 of the semester) either at the beginning or the end of the class period. I will give you an opportunity to sign up for a timeslot that is most preferred. Once you sign up for a date, you must also enter the name of the article that you will be presenting.
- You cannot present the same article as another student.
- You cannot present an article that is already included in the syllabus or as an assigned reading for class, as those will be covered in class.
- You must select an empirical study in pediatric feeding disorders that focuses on behavior-analytic assessment and/or treatment. I will provide you with a list of empirical studies from the literature to choose from during the first week of class, or you can identify one on your own.

Exams (300 total points; 150 each): I will present two exams on the dates shown in the course schedule below. Exams will be worth 150 points each. Both exams will be open book/note. The exams will be open in Canvas for multiple days; however, once you start the exam, there will be a 2.5-hour time limit to complete it. You must not work with another classmate. The exams are made up of a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and True/False questions. There will be 3-4 short-answer questions in each exam. The mid-term exam will cover content from the first half of the semester; the final will only cover content from the second half of the semester, and a few major themes of the course.

In most cases, I will limit makeup exams to special circumstances (e.g., hospitalization, death in immediate family, subpoenaed court appearance). If you think you are eligible for a makeup, check with me as soon as possible. If you know in advance (e.g., athletic participation, religious holiday, previously scheduled surgery), it is best for you to arrange to take the makeup exam before the scheduled exam date.

Point of Discussion OR Critical Study Reviews (PODs or CSRs; 110 total points; 11 PODs or CSRs at 10 points each): Each week you will be assigned to read 1-2 articles. From the assigned articles for that specific week, you will either need to submit one point of discussion (POD) or submit one critical study review (CSR). Throughout the semester, you must submit at least one of each (i.e., you cannot submit PODs for all 11 classes, at least one of those would need to be a CSR). See below for the details for how to write POD and how to write a CSR, and

how we will grade these submissions. I will drop the lowest score of POD or CSR at the end of the semester.

- Weekly Points of Discussion (110 total points): Instead of a CSR, students may elect to submit one Point of Discussion (POD) each week. PODs provide an opportunity for us to have meaningful contributions and ongoing discussions about the material covered in class. The following is a list of requirements for the weekly POD:
 - The POD should be uploaded to Canvas at least 24 hours before the start of class (i.e., 6:15 pm on the Wednesday evening before class – except for the first night of class and before exams).
 - Your POD can be about any or a combination of the assigned readings or a relevant topic to that week's class.
 - You can pose a question about something you did not understand, comment on the articles, discuss some potential limitations of the research, or touch on something that was interesting or stood out to you.
 - You will receive the full 10 points if you have at least one relevant question before or after at least one meaningful contribution related to your question (e.g., "Why did the researchers conduct caregiver training so early? Based on the data presented, it seemed like inappropriate mealtime behavior was on an increasing trend when they introduced caregivers into the treatment sessions. I wonder about the benefits and drawbacks associated with introducing the caregiver before inappropriate mealtime behavior has completely decreased to low and stable levels.").
 - You will receive half of the 10 points (i.e., 5 points) if you have only a relevant question without a meaningful contribution (e.g., "Why did the researchers conduct caregiver training so early?").
 - Be mindful to keep your POD brief (1-2, up to 5 sentences or points). Practice being concise with your language; length is not the goal.
 - A subset of the PODs will be compiled and shared for group discussions on the day of class. All personal information will be removed. We will not have time to review every POD for every student, but I will try to rotate throughout the semester.
 - Other General Tips in crafting your POD:
 - Please include the citation and page number of the reading with the content that informed your question, if applicable.
 - Please avoid asking, "What has been published since this paper was published?" simple yes/no questions (e.g., "Did the researchers obtain participant assent?"), or questions for which the answer is easily found in the article.
 - Ask questions that require discussion. Said another way, your question should make readers think and evaluate the evidence for or against a particular hypothesis, suggestion, theory, idea, etc.
 - Your questions may challenge the facts, concepts, and analyses in the readings or raise questions about the relation of the readings to other issues or topics.

Be specific. Once you have stated your basic idea/question, tell us why you think this. Are there some data in the article that led you to your idea/question? If so, tell us about it in concrete terms.

Weekly Critical Study Reviews

Analyze ONE of these Components from ONE of the assigned readings

COMPONENT 1: Purpose of the study: describe the previous research or the relevance of the clinical question that led to this study being conducted; what did the researchers hope to learn.

For example: Previous research has identified that reinforced-based interventions are not always sufficient to increase consumption for children whose inappropriate mealtime behavior is maintained by negative reinforcement. However, there is some evidence to suggest that differential positive reinforcement could increase self-feeding after children are exposed to escape extinction. The purpose of the current study was to evaluate differential reinforcement alone as treatment to increase self-feeding of 3 participants with feeding disorders.

COMPONENT 2: Summary of results: What was the major finding of the study, using technological terms, but also clinical significance.

For example, Kirkwood et al. identified that differential reinforcement with escape extinction led to increased acceptance and consumption for 5 of 6 participants. Therapists taught caregivers to use the treatment in the home and results generalized to the natural setting at 3-and 6-month follow-up visits.

COMPONENT 3: Limitations and future research: describe the limitations of the current study and how that might lend to future research. DO not repeat what the authors describe as limitations and future directions, try to expand upon those.

For example: Limitations of the current study are that the authors did not assess the social validity of their interventions or determine whether results maintained long-term. Future researchers should include measures of social validity, such as gathering data on caregiver preference across treatment options and child indices of happiness and unhappiness. In addition, future researchers should conduct follow-up probes to determine whether results maintained in the natural environment and over time.

CSR Scoring Rubric				
	2 pts	0 pts		
Submission of CSR	Assignment is submitted by or before the due date/time	Assignment submitted late or not submitted at all.		
	4pts	0 pts		
Length of CSR (try to be concise, and keep your analyses short)	4 sentences or fewer, but NO bullet points.	5+ sentences <u>or</u> bullet points.		
	4 pts	0 pts		
Relevant to article and component	Based on one of the assigned readings from the week we are on	Not based on an article from the correct week <u>and/or</u> plagiarism (taken direct statements from the article).		
<u>Total Points</u>	<u>10 pts</u>	<u>0 pts</u>		

Attendance (65 points): I will offer 5 points per class for attendance for the full duration of the class period (6:15-8:45 pm). I have allotted 70 points for attendance, allowing for one absence from class without it affecting your final grade. If you can avoid missing class, that is ideal, as you will likely miss critical content that is important for mid- and final-semester exams and to advance your knowledge on the assessment and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders. However, illness or unexpected events occur. If you know in advance that you cannot attend class (e.g., athletic participation, religious holidays, previously scheduled surgery), it is best to inform me as soon as possible. You will not earn attendance or participation points for that evening; however, I can arrange for possible options to earn back points if you miss more than one class. You could still earn partial points for attendance if you know you will arrive late or must leave early on a given class; but please let me know in advance. I will not permit any students to attend class remotely. Attendance points will only be given for in-person attendance.

Points and Due Dates:

Assignment	Total Points	Point Break Down	Due Dates
Attendance	65	13 classes; 5 points per class (can miss one class)	Every class
Lecture Quizzes	100	11 quizzes; 10 points per quiz (will drop the lowest grade)	End of each class; Open for 24 hours: Thursdays 8:45pm- Fridays 8:45pm
Critical Study Reviews (CSRs) OR one Point of Discussion (POD)	100	11 CSRs/PODs; 10 points each (will drop lowest grade)	Weekly: Wednesdays at 6:15pm
Activities	60	2 activities; 30 points each	Streamline Data Collection (Activity 1): Cultural Sensitivity (Activity 2):
Article Presentation	60	10-15-minute presentation	Your selected date (selected 2 nd class)
Mid-semester exam	150		
Final exam	150		
Total	680	Allows: Dropping lowest quiz., lowest CSR, and one missed class	See Above

Grades and Grading Policy

Grade	Description	Numerical Equivalent
A	Outstanding	90-100 (4.0)
B+	Intermediate Grade	87-89 (3.5)
В	Good	80-86 (3.0)
C	Average	70-79 (2.0)
F	Failure	69 or below (0.0)

INC IncompleteS SatisfactoryU Unsatisfactory

PA Pass

NC No credit given

Required Text:

No textbook is required. Students can access required readings for free through Canvas.

Academic Integrity

University Code of Student Conduct: It's important to realize that coming to the University brings you into a scholarly community, and as with all communities, there are principles and standards of behavior and action. Below, is the Preamble to the University Code of Student Conduct. (The full document can be found at http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/student-conduct-processes/university-code-of-student-conduct/)

University Code of Student Conduct: Preamble: A university in a free society must be devoted to the pursuit of truth and knowledge through reason and open communication among its members. Its rules should be conceived for the purpose of furthering and protecting the rights of all members of the university community in achieving these ends.

All members of the Rutgers University community are expected to behave in an ethical and moral fashion, respecting the human dignity of all members of the community and resisting behavior that may cause danger or harm to others through violence, theft, or bigotry. All members of the Rutgers University community are expected to adhere to the civil and criminal laws of the local community, state, and nation, and to regulations promulgated by the university. All members of the Rutgers University community are expected to observe established standards of scholarship and academic freedom by respecting the intellectual property of others and by honoring the right of all students to pursue their education in an environment free from harassment and intimidation. (From the Preamble, University Code of Student Conduct, Policy on Academic Dishonesty)

I want to make it very clear to everyone that I will not tolerate cheating in any of my courses. If I believe someone is cheating on a quiz or exam or paper, I will report the incident directly to the Dean, who will take the matter from there. Examples of such cheating are copying answers from someone else's test onto your own, copying material from reference sources and representing them as your own ideas or writings, storing information in a calculator's memory and using it on the exam, using notes or such during the exam when not approved by me, working together on projects that are to be done on your own, etc. I urge all of you to become familiar with the University procedures for dealing with academic dishonesty. It can be found at: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-disciplinary-process/

Accommodations for Special Needs

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at the Office of Disability Services.

Tentative Class Schedule
The instructor has the right to make changes at any time

	Date	Торіс	Class Objectives	Readings	Assignment Due
1	01.18.24	Introductions Syllabus Review Discuss article presentations Introduction to Pediatric Feeding Disorders	 Identify the major due dates, exam dates, and components of the course syllabus State the criteria for diagnosis of Avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder (ARFID) and Pediatric Feeding Disorders (PFD) State the limitations of diagnostic nosology such as the DSM-V 	None	Lecture quiz
2	1.25.24	Introduction to Pediatric Feeding Disorders (Continued) Interdisciplinary team and Intake Evaluation Safety Design and Measurement	 Recognize the steps in oral phase of swallowing for liquids and solids Identify professionals who might participate in an interdisciplinary feeding evaluation and describe their primary role(s); understand the rationale for the intake evaluation Identify at least 5 key strategies to maintain child safety during feeding assessment and treatment Describe the primary characteristics of single-case design Describe the secondary characteristics of single-case design Identify important features of a graph (IV, DV, etc.) Identify three commonly used single-case designs in feeding research and describe the primary features of each design 	Sharp et al. (2022) Kirkwood and Piazza (2021) Suggested (not required) readings Patel et al., 2023	Lecture quiz Sign up for a date and an article topic CSR or POD

3	1.25.23	Clinical	Explain importance of	Peterson et	Lecture auiz
3	1.25.23	Clinical Assessment Home Baseline Mealtime Structure Operational Definitions Standard Outcome Baseline Preference Assessment	 Explain importance of direct observation and provide example of three important observable behaviors during the mealtime Name two conditions of home baseline and purpose of each Name two conditions of standard outcome baseline for liquids and purpose of each Name three conditions of standard outcome baseline for solids and purpose of each State the purpose of a preference assessment and identify the procedures Identify components that represent mealtime structure (e.g., bolus size) Describe at least one example for different components of mealtime structure (e.g., texture of food) Identify how dependent variables (e.g., acceptance) are measured during structured mealtime sessions Understand operational definitions of challenging 	 Peterson et al. (2018) Borrero et al. (2010) Suggested (not required) readings Fisher, Piazza, et al. (1992) 	CSR or POD
4	2.1.24	Review article presentation,	 and appropriate feeding behavior Understand common goals that are targeted for 	Peterson & Ibañez	Lecture quiz
		oritically analyzing studies The Dr. Auten to provide example of	children with feeding disorders and how to set objective and measurable goals Describe the setting that is necessary to conduct safe feeding services	(2017)	CSR or POD

		article presentation Goal-setting Physical Setting Intensive program overview	Identify the primary components that are necessary for the article presentation assignment		
5	2.8.24	Functional Analysis Of Inappropriate Mealtime Behavior How to take data and graph for feeding Practice data collection 2 Article Presentations	 State the purpose of a functional analysis Identify the four conditions of a functional analysis of inappropriate mealtime behavior Identify the feeding procedures of each condition of the functional analysis Identify the function of inappropriate mealtime behavior from a graph of a functional analysis 	 Piazza, Fisher et al. (2003) Kirkwood et al. (2021) Suggested (not required) readings Bachmeyer et al. (2009) 	Article Presentation (if it is your selected date) Lecture quiz CSR or POD
6	2.15.24	Function-Based Feeding Interventions: Extinction and differential reinforcement 2 Article Presentations	 Given the results of a functional analysis, identify function-based treatments Define extinction Identify and explain components of escape extinction Identify and explain components of attention extinction Identify and explain components of attention extinction Identify and explain how differential reinforcement can be applied in feeding contexts Understand the conditions in which differential reinforcement is effective 	• Larue et al. (2011) • Patel et al. (2002) Suggested (not required) readings • Reed et al. (2004)	Article Presentation (if it is your selected date) Lecture quiz CSR or POD Streamline Data Collection (Activity 1)
7	2.22.24	Antecedent-Based Feeding Interventions and Noncontingent Reinforcement	Identify what is manipulated in the 3-term contingency when conducting an	 Mueller et al. (2004) Groff et al. (2014) 	Article Presentation (if it is your selected date)

		2 Article Presentations	antecedent-based intervention Understand that all antecedent-based interventions begin with an evaluation Explain how the evaluation for an antecedent-based intervention determines the plan for that intervention Identify and explain the procedures for blending Identify and explain the procedures for fading (utensil or distance), and simultaneous presentation	Suggested (not required) readings • Ahearn (2003)	Lecture quiz CSR or POD
8	2.22.24- 2.29.24		Midterm Exam	ı	
9	3.7.24	Treatment for Other Challenging Mealtime Behavior: Expulsion & Packing 2 Article Presentations	 Identify and define different types of bolusplacement methods Be able to describe how expulsion and packing affects mouth clean Identify and define different types of expels Identify and define different types of packing Understand how skill and motivation can contribute to expulsion and packing Be able to describe Nuk at presentation, Nuk redistribution, modified chin prompt, and reclined seating 	 Milnes et al. (2018) Ibañez et al. (2021) Suggested (not required) readings Rubio et al. (2019) Wilkins et al. (2014) 	Article Presentation (if it is your selected date) Lecture quiz CSR or POD
10			SPRING BREAK NO CLASS ON 3/14/24		
11	3.21.24	Ethical Considerations and Alternative Feeding Treatment Approaches (e.g., mSOS)	 Describe why it is important to use function-based treatments Identify other commonly used approaches for 	 Peterson et al. (2016) Tereshko et al. (2021) 	Article Presentation (if it is your selected date) Lecture quiz

12	3.28.24	2 Article Presentations Procedural Fidelity Caregiver Training Cultural Sensitivity 2 Article Presentations	treatment of feeding disorders Identify and describe the treatment for pediatric feeding disorders with the most empirical support Define procedural fidelity Understand how procedural fidelity can impact treatment effects Understand how procedural fidelity impacts clinical evaluation of treatment protocols Understand how to measure procedural fidelity Understand why procedural fidelity and consistency are important when implementing behavioral protocols Identify and explain behavioral skills training (BST) Identify the importance of conducting parent	Suggested (not required) readings Addison et al. (2012) Bachmeyer-Lee et al. (2020) Beaulieu et al. (2019) Suggested (not required) readings Beaulieu & Jimenez-Gomez (2022) Tereshko et al. (2022) Bergmann et al. (2023)	Article Presentation (if it is your selected date) Lecture quiz CSR or POD
			training when treating feeding disorders		
13	4.4.24	Age-Typical Feeding Goals and progression	 Be able to describe the typical progression of self-feeding and chewing (e.g., immature chewing by 6 months of age) Identify and describe the main dependent variables for self-feeding and chewing protocols Describe future directions for research in the areas of self-feeding and chewing Understand the process involved with age-typical feeding (e.g., portion-based 	 Volkert et al. (2014) Phipps et al. (2022) tongue lat. Suggested (not required) readings Rivas et al. (2014) 	Article Presentation (if it is your selected date) Lecture quiz CSR or POD

			meal consumption,		
			nutrition, generalization,		
			maintenance)		
14	4.11.24	Social validity 2 Article Presentations	 Understand the primary components of social validity as it pertains to the assessment and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders Identify at least 2 ways to assess social validity during feeding treatment 	 Phipps et al. (2022) Indices of happiness and unhappiness Taylor & Taylor (2022a) Suggested (not required) reading Taylor & Taylor 	CSR or POD Cultural Sensitivity Assignment (Activity 2) due in Canvas
4.5	4.40.04			(2022b)	A
15	4.18.24	Exam Prep and Review			Article Presentation (if it is your
		Cover any topics that are left to			selected date)
		finalize			
		2 Article			
		Presentations			
16	Exam open		FINAL EXAM		
	from		On canvas		
	4.21.24				
	through 4.28.24				
	T.20.2T				

References for required and suggested readings:

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- Kirkwood, C. A., Bachmeyer-Lee, M. H., Sheehan, C. M., Mauzy, C. R., & Gibson, L. A. (2021). Further examination of the treatment of multiply controlled inappropriate mealtime behavior. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*. https://doi.org/10.1002/jaba.738
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