



Philosophy of Behaviour Analysis

E-708-PHIL

6 ECTS (45 hours)

This course covers the philosophical underpinnings of applied behaviour analysis, with emphasis on the scientific foundations of the experimental analysis of behaviour. Students will identify the goals of behaviour analysis as a science. Students learn about concepts of the lawfulness of behaviour, selectionism (phylogenic, ontogenic, cultural), determinism, empiricism, parsimony, and pragmatism; about environmental explanations of behaviour (as opposed to mentalistic); to describe and explain behaviour from the perspective of radical behaviourism; to distinguish between radical behaviourism, methodological behaviourism, and structuralism; to distinguish between the conceptual analysis of behaviour, experimental analysis of behaviour, applied behaviour analysis, and behavioural technologies; and to describe and define the dimensions of applied behaviour analysis.

Teaching Methods:

Lectures, in-class individual and group activities

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the semester students will be able to:

Knowledge:

- Identify the goals of behavior analysis as a science.

Skills:

- Describe and explain the philosophical assumptions of behaviour analysis.
- Describe and define the dimensions of applied behaviour analysis.

Competence:

- Differentiate between the conceptual analysis of behaviour, experimental analysis of behaviour, applied behaviour analysis, and behavioural service delivery.
- Distinguish between radical behaviourism, methodological behaviourism, and structuralism.
- Distinguish between environmental as opposed to mentalistic explanations of behaviour.
- Identify dimensions of applied behaviour analysis in the literature.

Assessment: Participation, study guides, midterm and homework assignments.