



Research Methods in Behaviour Analysis

E-703-REME

6 ECTS (45 hours)

This course examines key principles and practices of behaviour analytic research with emphasis on the experimental analysis of behaviour using single-subject experimental designs. Students learn how to operationally define behaviour, how to measure behaviour (occurrence, temporal dimension, form and strength, trials to criterion), how to distinguish among direct, indirect, and product measures of behaviour. Students learn how to design and implement sampling procedures, evaluate the validity and reliability of measurement procedures, select an appropriate measurement system, how to graph and interpret data. Students learn how to distinguish between dependent and independent variables, internal and external validity, identify the defining features of single subject experimental designs, describe the advantages of single subject experimental design compared to group design, use single subject experimental design, describe rationales for conducting comparative, component, and parametric analyses. Controlled (experimental) single-subject studies are distinguished from uncontrolled (clinical) case studies and emphasis is placed on the role of measurement in single-subject experimental design.

Teaching Methods:

Lectures, in-class individual and group activities.

Learning Outcomes

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

Knowledge:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the theory and practice of diverse data gathering, analysis, and interpretation strategies using single-subject experimental designs.
- Demonstrate knowledge of a wide range of single-subject experimental designs.
- Compare and contrast the major single-subject experimental design options and cite examples where such designs have been reported in the peer-reviewed literature.

Skills:

- Employ single-subject design in order to change the behaviour of a human or an animal and report it in a proper manner.

Competence:

- Be able to generate novel combinations of specific design elements.

Assessment: Quizzes, research project, participation, final exam.