

Sharareh Zainalian Behavior Consultancy

Behavioral Certification Network (BCN)

BCN-01: Ethics and Core Concepts

Approved Provider

Sharareh Zainalian is an approved educational provider for the following credentialing bodies:

- Qualified Applied Behavior Analysis Credentialing Board (QABA) – Qualified Behavior Analyst **(QBA)** Course Competency
- International Behavior Analysis Organization (IBAO) – Required Educational Objectives (REO) for International Behavior Analysts **(IBA)**

Instructor Information

Course Instructor:

Sharareh Zainalian, BCBA, QBA, IBA

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Course Information

- Course Code:** BCN-01
- Course Title:** Ethics and Core Concepts
- Total Study Hours:** 90 hours
- Course Duration:** 12 weeks
- Asynchronous Study:** 5.5 hours per week
- Synchronous Class:** 2 hours per week (live session)
 - Schedule:** Every **Tuesday, 5:00 – 7:00 PM (Gulf Standard Time, GST)**
 - Time Zone Converter:**worldtimebuddy.com

Course Calendar & Availability

- Course Calendar:** Refer to the Calendar Section for current term dates.
- Availability:** Offered Fall, Winter, and Spring Terms on a rolling basis.
- Course Platform:** <https://szbc.academy/register/>

Program Overview

BCN-01, together with BCN-02 and BCN-03, forms part of a comprehensive 36-week professional sequence covering all course topics required under the QBA Course Competency and IBAO REO for IBA certification. Successful completion of all three courses within the BCN sequence fulfills the academic coursework requirement for both the QBA and IBA credentials.

Course Format

- Synchronous Class Meetings:** 24 hours total (12 weeks × 2 hours/week).
 - Recordings available within 24 hours after each live class.
- Asynchronous Lessons and Independent Study:** Minimum 5.5 hours per week.
- Weekly Assessments (Weeks 1 – 12):
 - Multiple-choice questions per assessment
 - 2 hours allotted
- Weekly Assignments** (Weeks 1 – 12):
 - Written paper based on weekly instructions
 - 4 hours allotted per assignment

Course Assessments

- Weekly Assessments (Weeks 1–12)**
 - Each week includes section-based and end-of-week assessments.
 - Format: 30 multiple-choice questions
 - Duration: 2 hours
 - Passing Requirement: **100% mastery** per assessment (re-attempts permitted until mastery achieved).
- Weekly Assignments (Weeks 1–12)**
 - Each week concludes with an analytical or applied paper submission based on the instructional topic.
 - Duration: 3 hours per assignment
 - Passing Requirement: **80%** minimum.
- Final BCN Assignment (Week 12)**
 - This summative assignment evaluates the learner’s integrated understanding of all **12 weeks of study**.
 - Duration: 4 hours
 - Passing Requirement: **80% minimum** to successfully complete BCN-01 and advance to the next semester course (BCN-02).

Required Text and Readings

- Primary Textbook:**
 - Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2020). *Applied Behavior Analysis* (3rd Edition). Pearson Education.
- Supplementary Readings:**
 - Selected journal articles and book chapters (provided throughout the course).

Course Description & Objectives

BCN-01 is a foundational-level course focusing on the Ethics, Legal and Professional Considerations in the practice of Behavior Analysis.

- Introduce Ethics, Legal, and Professional Considerations in the practice of Behavior Analysis.
- Discuss the history and philosophical foundations of Behaviorism and its branches.
- Explain Operant Conditioning and the ABC Contingency as the primary unit of analysis in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA).
- Present the subspecialties of ABA and explore the use of ABA methods in interventions.
- Examine the ethical principles that guide professional practice in ABA.
- Understand the conceptual systems and scientific foundations that inform ABA technology and teaching.
- Analyze behavioral definitions, environmental influences, and stimulus variables in behavior analysis.
- Study key behavioral concepts including Verbal Operants, and Motivating Operations (MOs).
- Identify and apply principles of Antecedents, Behaviors, and Consequences, including Reinforcement, Punishment, and Extinction.

Course Progression and Completion Requirements

- Prerequisite:**
 - No prerequisite
- Passing Requirement:**
 - Minimum **80%** on the Final Exam to progress to **BCN-02**

Weekly Topics:

BCN-01	Reading Material
Week 1 – Ethical Practice	- IBAO Ethical Guidelines– Reading - International Behavior Analyst Requirements - Applied Behavior Analysis Book: Chapter. 31 Ethical and Professional Responsibilities of Applied Behavior Analysts. Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2020). <i>Applied behavior analysis</i> (3rd ed.). Pearson Education.
Week 2 – History of Applied Behavior Analysis	- Applied Behavior Analysis Book: Chapter 1: Definition and Characteristics of Applied Behavior Analysis, Chapter 2: Basic Concepts and Principles. Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2020). <i>Applied behavior analysis</i> (3rd ed.). Pearson Education. - Handbook of Childhood Psychopathology and Developmental Disabilities Treatment. Leaf, J.B., Cihon, J.H., Ferguson, J.L., Weinkauff, S.M. (2017) (pp 25–42)
Week 3 – Introduction to Behavior & Consequences	Science and Human Behavior, Skinner, B. F. (1953), Chs. 5
Week 4 – Verbal Behavior	- Handbook of Contextual Behavioral Science. Page 129–145, RFT. Hughes, S., & Barnes-Holmes, D. (2016) - The Behavior Analyst Today –Page 421 – 433 An Introduction to Relational Frame Theory Blackledge, J. T. (2003) - Applied Behavior Analysis Book, Chapter. 18. Verbal behavior, Chapter 20. Engineering Emergent Learning with Nonequivalence Relations. Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2020). <i>Applied behavior analysis</i> (3rd ed.). Pearson Education. - Verbal behavior, Skinner, B. F. (1957). <i>Verbal behavior</i>. - The Behavior Analyst Today, Blackledge, J. T. (2003), Page 421 – 433 An Introduction to Relational Frame Theory
Week 5 – Motivating Operations	Applied Behavior Analysis Book, Chapter 16, Motivating Operations. Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2020).
Week 6 – Stimulus	- Applied Behavior Analysis Book - Applied Behavior Analysis Book, Chapter 17: Stimulus Control, Chapter 26: Antecedent Interventions, Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2020). <i>Applied behavior analysis</i> (3rd ed.). Pearson Education. - Handbook of Applied Behavior Analysis – Function-Based Treatment (pp.561–588) Rios, D., Eldridge, R. R. E., Kolb, R. L., Bell, M. C., & Peck, K. M. (2023)
Week 7 – Behavior	- Applied Behavior Analysis Book, Chapter 1: Definition and Characteristics of Applied Behavior Analysis - Chapter 2: Basic Concepts and Principles, Chapter 3: Selecting and Defining Target Behaviors, Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2020). <i>Applied behavior analysis</i> (3rd ed.). Pearson Education.
Week 8 – Consequence	Applied Behavior Analysis Book, Chapter 11: Positive Reinforcement, Chapter 12: Negative reinforcement & Chapter 14: Negative punishment, Chapter 25: Positive punishment, Chapter 24: extinction. Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2020). <i>Applied behavior analysis</i> (3rd ed.). Pearson Education.
Week 9 – Extinction vs. Punishment	Applied Behavior Analysis – Chapter 14: Positive Punishment, Chapter 15: Negative Punishment, Chapter 24: Extinction, Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2020). <i>Applied behavior analysis</i> (3rd ed.). Pearson Education.
Week 10 – Schedule of Reinforcement	Applied Behavior Analysis Chapter 13: Schedule of Reinforcement, Chapter 25: Differential Reinforcement, Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2020). <i>Applied behavior analysis</i> (3rd ed.). Pearson Education.
Week 11 – Differentiation Reinforcement	Applied Behavior Analysis Chapter 25: Differential Reinforcement, Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2020). <i>Applied behavior analysis</i> (3rd ed.). Pearson Education.
Week 12 – Preference & Reinforcement Assessment	Applied Behavior Analysis – Chapter 11: Positive Reinforcement, Cooper, J. O., Heron, T. E., & Heward, W. L. (2020). Applied behavior analysis (3rd ed.). Pearson Education.