T&L 2900 – Behavior is Language: Strategies for Managing Disruptive Behavior

Course at a Glance

Instructor: Dr. A.N. (Bob) Pillay
Facilitator: Mick R. Jackson MS/ED
Length: Approximately 45 hours, complete in 4 months
Dates: Rolling admission
Number of Graduate Professional Development Credits: 3, from the University North Dakota

Introduction

Behavior is Language is an interactive distance learning course, designed to give you a new perspective on student behavior and effective tools for facilitating positive student change. *Behavior is Language* provides a developmental framework for understanding what students are trying to tell you through the "language" of their behavior. The course teaches behavioral techniques and intervention strategies that remediate disruptive behaviors, reduce power struggles while increasing classroom control and reduce your workloads and burnout. This program helps you, as well as students, find creative, effective solutions to behavioral problems. The course is helpful for elementary and subject specific secondary teachers who do not have a background in behavioral/psychodynamic theory and modification.

After you have completed your studies in the chapters on behavioral theory and interventions, you will be presented with various classroom scenarios in which you will be able to practice and hone your skills for interpreting behavior, determining appropriate interventions and effectively debriefing your students.

Although all of the course content presented in this course can be applied to any person of any age or ability level, some of the intervention strategies require that a certain level of intellectual and verbal skill be possessed by the students if they are to complete verbal and written debriefs. Debriefs will need to be adjusted for younger or less skilled individuals.

This online, self-paced program can be started and completed at the student's own leisure **within four months from the UND assigned course start date after enrollment.**

Learning Objectives

As a result of this course, participants will demonstrate their ability to:

- Enhance their skills in working with problem students
- Improve their ability to identify and understand underlying emotional issues
- Heighten their understanding of the problems underlying many difficult behaviors
- Increase the number of intervention strategies available to remediate disruptive behaviors

- Help develop classroom management skills while reducing classroom stress
- Provide tools that can help reduce power struggles in the classroom
- Help significantly reduce feelings of ineffectiveness and burnout resulting from difficult and disruptive student behaviors

Session Topics

The course is divided into four chapters.

Chapter 1: Behavior is Language! – Part I

Chapter 2: Behavior is Language! – Part II

Chapter 3: Intervention Strategies (CLUBS) – Part I

Chapter 4: Intervention Strategies (CLUBS) – Part II

Course Materials

This computer-based instruction course is a self-supporting program that provides instruction, structured practice, and evaluation all on your home or school computer. Technical support information can be found in the Help section of your course. There are NO required textbooks.

Assignments & Examinations

Assignments-
This course has two required writing components. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE REVIEWED.**

1) *Essay Requirement: Critical Thinking Questions*
There are four Critical Thinking Questions that you must complete. You will do research on the question**s** and write brief essay responses relating it to the course content (and your personal experiences, when possible).

2) *Essay Requirement: Journal Articles*
This task requires you to write a review of three peer-reviewed or scholarly journal articles, preferably written by an author with a Ph.D. (blogs and news articles are not acceptable) of your choice on a topic related to this course.

Examinations-
At the end of each chapter, you will be expected to complete an examination designed to assess your knowledge. There are a total of 4 exams in this course. You may take these exams a total of three times.

Grading

This online course uses **Letter Grading (A, B, C, or F).**

- All writing assignment scores will make up a final score for writing assignments.
- All examination scores will be make up a final score for examinations.
- Final Grade: The final writing assignment score and the final examination score **will be averaged** to determine your final grade, using the grading scale below.

Course Grading Scale for Letter Grades:

        A = 90 - 100% of total score
        B = 80 - 89%
        C = 70 - 79%
        F= below 70%

Scholastic Dishonesty

Students enrolled in this course are expected to be aware of the seriousness of scholastic dishonesty. Unacceptable behavior such as submitting someone else's work as your own, cheating on exams, or plagiarizing can result in failure of the course or other sanctions. For a more detailed description of these policies, please refer to the UND Code of Student Life; Appendix IIIa-3, at: http://und.edu/student-affairs/code-of-student-life/