

## APA Annotated Bibliography on Behaviorism

Ally, M. (2008). Foundation of educational theory of online learning. In *Theory and practice of online learning* (2nd ed., pp. 15-44). AU Press, Athabasca University.

Ally's article summarizes how the theory of learning improves learning design, delivery, and experiences using the appropriate technology. The behaviorism theory sees the human mind as a black box that can be shaped by external stimuli within the environment. The expected behavioral changes are measured quantitatively. Ally concludes behaviorism's implications for online learning, such as (1) pre-determined learning objectives; (2) assessments are incorporated to check learner's level; (3) instructional design that is sequenced appropriately; and (4) providing immediate feedback for correction purposes.

Bates, A. W. (2019). *Teaching in a digital age* (2nd ed.). Vancouver, B.C.: Tony Bates Associates Ltd.

<https://pressbooks.bccampus.ca/teachinginadigitalagev2/>

Bates' chapter on "the nature of knowledge and implication for teaching" points out that behaviorism stems from objectivist learning theory; behaviorist approaches to teaching remain dominant in the U.S. Reward and punishment reinforcement is at the heart of behaviorist teaching implementation, which demonstrates B.F. Skinner's operant conditioning method for behavioral changes. Behaviorist teaching is also highly applied in corporate and military training. In behaviorist learning, instructors are the dominant authority that manages the learning process.

Zhou, M., & Brown, D. (2015). *Educational learning theories: 2nd edition*. Education Open Textbooks. 1.

<https://oer.galileo.usg.edu/education-textbooks/1>

Zhou & Brown convey that behaviorists assert that behavior can be learned and unlearned. To achieve the intended behavioral change outcomes, a behaviorist's critical approach rewards the desired response. The authors inform three major behaviorism theorists: Ivan Pavlov, John B.

Watson, and B.F. Skinner. Classical and operant conditioning are the concepts developed by the three significant behaviorists mentioned above. Behaviorist theory remains popular because it can be rewarding for teachers and students, mainly when the intended behavioral changes are achieved. However, the authors also point out critics of behaviorism, which argue that the theory does not consider that there is more than just a black box; humans possess human agency and free will.