

Instructor: Kevin Coffey - mrcoffey@rutgers.edu

Time & Place: Wednesday: 3:20 – 6:20 (PSY-A361)

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Textbook: APA style guide, 6th ed. (optional)

Course Learning Goals

The aim of this course is to acquaint students with scientific research within the context of animal conditioning. Upon successful completion of this course, students will

- have a basic understanding of methods and techniques used in animal conditioning research
- understand the procedures for collecting data in animal conditioning research
- be able to use basic statistics and interpret the results of the statistical analyses
- produce an APA-style empirical paper.

Course Overview:

Allocation of points will be as follows

Lab Report 1	15
Lab Report 2	20
Lab Report 3	25
Attendance / Participation	5 / 5 = 10 TOTAL
Quizzes	21 (7 points each)
Presentation	9

Lab Reports:

- All lab reports must be composed following the format presented in class (APA).
- Lab reports should be both submitted in person and on Sakai (Assignments).
- Students submitting reports late (after the class session STARTS on the due date) will lose 10% of the points for that report for each day it is late.

Attendance/Participation:

- Any unexcused absence will take one point away from the participation point.
- Arriving more than 25 minutes late to class will be counted as an unexcused absence.
- **Any unexcused absence during the data collection of any experiment will result in a FAIL for that lab report.**
- An absence will be excused **only** with a note from the Dean's office.
- You are responsible for any information you missed.

Presentation:

For each experiment, three supporting articles are provided as relevant background information. Students will work in groups, in order to present the relevant information from these articles to their fellow classmates. Each group will have to **present 1 article for only 1 experiment**. Group members will be graded separately on their contribution to the presentation.

Quizzes:

Quizzes will be held during the first 15-20 minutes of class, 3 times during the semester. These quizzes will be based on the article presentations for each experiment, APA style, and the basic statistics taught throughout the semester. If you are late on the day of a Quiz, you will **ONLY** be allotted the remaining time to complete the quiz. If you arrive after the quiz has finished, you will receive an **automatic zero** for that quiz.

Academic Integrity:

Students must comply with the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

Mishandling or Abuse of the Rats in ANY Way Will Get You an Automatic F for the Course!

Course Schedule:

Date:	Class Overview
1/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · OSHA surveys · Course Introduction · APA: Overview, Title Page, Introduction, Figures/Tables · Experimental Design · Intro to Experiment 1 · Care & Handling of Lab Animals
2/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Experimental Design · Example Review Article (Please Read) · APA: Method Section, Results, Discussion, References · Data Collection for Experiment 1: Week 1
2/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Present Experiment 1 Articles in Class: Have Articles Read! · Data Collection for Experiment 1: Week 2 · Review of Statistic: Descriptive Statistics, t-test & F-test
2/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Introduction & Method Section Draft Due (optional) · Review of Statistics: Correlation · Review Data for Experiment 1 · Intro to Experiment 2
2/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · *****QUIZ 1***** · Data Collection for Experiment 2: Week 1
2/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Lab Report Due: Experiment 1 · Data Collection For Experiment 2: Week 2
3/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Present Experiment 2 Articles in Class: Have Articles Read! · Review Data for Experiment 2 · Introduction to Experiment 3
3/12 – 3/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ***SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS***
3/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Data Collection Experiment 3: Week 1
3/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · *****QUIZ 2***** · Data Collection for Experiment 3: Week 2
4/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Lab Report Due: Experiment 2 · Data Collection for Experiment 3: Week 3
4/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Present Experiment 3 Articles in Class: Have Articles Read! · Review Data for Experiment 3
4/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · *****QUIZ 3***** · Peer-Review of Lab Report 3
4/23 – End	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ***No Class*** · Lab Report for Experiment 3 Due by 5:00pm Wednesday 5/2 · Submit lab reports via Sakai