

Conditioning and Learning Lab – 01:830:312:02 section 02 Fall 2012

Instructor: Caleb Hudgins

Email: Caleb.Hudgins@rutgers.edu

Office hours: after class 6:20-7:20 or appointment only rm325 Busch Psychology building

Class meeting time/place: Tuesday 3:20-6:20pm Busch psychology room 361A

Textbook: None. Required readings will be provided on sakai throughout the semester

The aim of this course is to acquaint students with scientific research within the context of learning psychology. 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 statistical software to analyze data
- be able to interpret the results of the statistical analyses
- produce an APA-style empirical paper.

This course has been certified as satisfying four of the Writing and Communication Learning Outcome Goals (including WCR and WCD) of the SAS Core Curriculum. Specifically, students will be able to:

- a) Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision (WCR);
- b) Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry (WCD);
- c) Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly;
- d) Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

Schedule for the class

<u>Date:</u>	
9/10 – 9/14	Course Introduction, OSHA surveys, Plagiarism APA: Overview, Introduction (Lit. Review, Hypotheses) Introduction to Experiment 1
9/17 – 9/21	Experimental Design, Care and Handling of Lab Animals Example review article in class-(Please read article) APA: Method Section, Title page, References Data Collection Experiment 1 week 1
9/24 – 9/28	Review Exp 1 articles in class-(have articles read!) APA: Results, Figures, Discussion Data Collection Experiment 1: Week 2 Intro to Experiment 2
10/1 – 10/5	Introduction & Method Section Draft Due Review of Statistics Review Data for experiment 1 Data collection Experiment 2: Week 1

10/8 – 10/12	Data Collection Experiment 2: Week 2 *****QUIZ 1*****
10/15 – 10/19	Lab Report Due via Sakai: Experiment 1 ****NO CLASS****
10/22 – 10/26	Review Exp 2 articles in class-(have articles read!) Review Data for Experiment 2 Introduction to experiment 3
10/29 – 11/2	Data Collection Experiment 3: Week 1
11/5 – 11/9	Data Collection Experiment 3: Week 2 *****QUIZ 2*****
11/12 - 11/16	Data Collection Experiment 3: Week 3 Lab Report Due: Experiment 2
11/19 – 11/23	Thanksgiving Break ****NO CLASS****
11/26 – 11/30	*****QUIZ 3***** Peer-Review of Lab Report #3
12/3 – 12/7	No class this week: Lab Report for Experiment 3 Due by 5:00 Wednesday 12/12 Submit lab reports via Assignments

Allocation of course points:	
Lab Report 1	15
Lab Report 2	20
Lab Report 3	25
Attendance/Participation	(5)/(5)=10 TOTAL
Quizzes	21 (7 points each)
Article quizzes	9(3 points each)

Lab Reports:

-All lab reports must be computer generated 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 START on the due date) will lose 10% of the points for that report for each day it is late.

Academic Integrity:

- You are required to abide by the Rutgers policy on academic integrity; please familiarize yourself with this policy, you can view it at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>
- Plagiariism is a violation of academic integrity. Lab reports will be checked for plagiarism using "Turnitin"

Attendance/Participation:

- Attendance in this class is critical to the success of the experiments, and therefore, mandatory.
- Any unexcused absence will take one point away from the participation point.
- You will also have .5 pts deducted for a late arrival to class.
- Arriving more than 20 minutes late to class will be counted as an unexcused absence.
- **Any unexcused absence during the data collection of any experiment will result in failure to receive credit 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.

Article Quizzes and Class Presentations:

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. HOWEVER, each student in the class is responsible for knowing the information from all three articles. This information will be on an article quiz given along with the article presentations. Also, knowledge of the articles (or some other relevant research) is necessary to complete the lab report for that experiment.

Information checks:

Information checks will be held during the first 15-20 minutes of class at 3 points during the semester. These brief quizzes will be based on the basic theory behind the experiment and the supporting articles, APA style, and the basic statistics used with our data 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.

Mistreating or mishandling of the rats will result in a dismissal from the class and an 'F'. There are no excuses and no exceptions.