

Syllabus
Abnormal Psychology Lab – Fall 2013

Faculty Supervisor: Richard Contrada, Ph.D.

Instructor: Gwyne White **Contact Info:** gwyne.white@rutgers.edu

Office: Tillett Hall, Room 411

Office Hours By Appointment

Meeting Times and Location:

Mondays 12:00pm-3:00pm

Busch Psychology 105 (Computer Lab)

Required Texts:

Any required articles will be distributed to the class or posted on Sakai.

However, it is **highly recommended** that you purchase the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association: Sixth Edition (\$20-\$30) if you do not own it already. Make sure that you buy the second printing or later (see <http://www.apastyle.org/manual/corrections-faqs.aspx>)

Additional Materials:

It is expected that you will need to spend several classes working on a project and as such will need to save your work. In the past students have used flash drives, google-docs or e-mailed information to themselves for electronic information. The method used does not matter so much as that you keep track of your materials and not lose anything.

Course Objectives:

The ability to understand and conduct empirical research is essential for students interested in clinical and abnormal psychology. This course is designed to help you develop the necessary knowledge and skills to engage in research as a clinical *scientist*. First, we will learn the basic steps involved in conducting a study in clinical psychology (e.g., ethical considerations, formulating hypotheses, choosing measures, collecting and analyzing data). We will read a series of articles on various topics germane to the field. Then we will work individually and in teams to conduct, write up, and present investigations of the effectiveness of various simple interventions adapted for an undergraduate lab setting.

As a student in this course, you will be immersed in every step of the process, and will come away with a solid foundation in research in abnormal and clinical psychology, which is necessary for graduate training. A comprehensive research report in APA format is due at the end of the term.

The course is restricted to undergraduate majors in psychology who have taken Quantitative Methods and Abnormal Psychology. It is designed to meet one lab course requirement of the psychology major. Like any lab course, *this class requires more than the average amount of work for you to earn a high grade.*

Make-up Assignments:

You CANNOT make up any of the take-home assignments.

Course website:

If you are properly registered for the course, you have access to the course website through Sakai. There you will find copies of all slides and handouts, study guides, and special notices. **It is important to note that the syllabus is subject to change, so please consistently check the syllabus on Sakai so that you are aware of these changes.** You are responsible for all the information contained in this syllabus, and for all changes to the syllabus that I announce in class or post on the website.

Students with disabilities:

Any student who feels he or she needs accommodation for a physical or learning disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (151 College Ave, Suite 123; phone 732-932-2848) and read more about Rutgers' policy at <http://disability/services.rutgers.edu> . If you request accommodations for this course, you will need a letter from Disability Services. This letter must be provided to me *by our second class*, at which point you may make a request for course-specific accommodations. The Chair of Undergraduate Psychology and I will review your request and may choose to modify it before it is approved.

Office hours:

My office hours are by appointment.

Grading Policy:	1. Participation / Attendance	30%
	2. In Class Lab Activities (4)	10%
	3. Assignments (5)	20%
	4. Final Paper	40%
	A = 90-100%	C = 70-76%
	B+ = 87-89%	D+ = 67-69%
	B = 80-86%	D = 60-66%
	C+ = 77-79%	F = Below 60

PARTICIPATION/ ATTENDANCE 20% of your final grade

You are expected to attend **every** class and arrive **on time**; missing more than 3 classes will result in an automatic F for the course. If you are more than 5 minutes late, you will not be allowed to participate in that lab, and will receive a 0 for the assigned homework .You will lose points for sleeping, texting, obviously not paying attention or being rude to fellow classmates.

IN CLASS LAB ACTIVITIES 10% of your final grade

There are four in class activities on the following topics: Hypotheses, Measure Creation, Test-Anxiety & BA Results.

ASSIGNMENTS 20% of your final grade

There are 5 homework assignments. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Assignments will not be accepted at the end of the class or from students who are more than 10 minutes late. Assignments that are not handed in at the beginning of class will receive a zero. All assignments should be typed in APA format (Times New Roman, 12 point, Double Space, Name in Header).

PAPER 40% of your final grade

Students will write a final research paper building from your work in class. Papers should be completed in APA format. Papers that fail to meet the minimum page requirements for each section will receive a 0 for that section. **Papers are due at noon on Monday, December 9, 2013**

LATE POLICY & MAKE UP POLICY

Late work will not be accepted. I generally do not allow make-ups unless an extreme circumstance occurs. If an extreme circumstance occurs you must provide a written note from your dean in order to be eligible for a make up-assignment. Make-up assignments are determined on a case by case basis. Homework assignments cannot be made up. If you are absent you should submit the assignment to me via email before the due date.

WITHDRAWAL POLICIES:

If you decide not to complete the course it is **your responsibility** to notify the college of your intention to withdraw before the deadline.

Plagiarism:

All work that students turn in must be their own work. Students *should not* work collaboratively on assignments without prior approval from the instructor. Any outside sources (including help from other people) must be appropriately referenced in all written work. Turning in someone else's work as your own is completely unacceptable. This includes downloading information from the web and pasting or copying it into your paper. We routinely check Google, Wikipedia and other popular websites to check for plagiarism. Additionally, we require that your paper be turned in as electronic as well as hard copies so that we can check for plagiarism by matching content to information on the web. Any student who plagiarizes will, *at the very least*, receive a failing grade for the course. More severe consequences (e.g., expulsion) are also possible. More about academic integrity can be found at <http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>.

Computer Room (Room 105):

- No food or drink is allowed in the computer lab!
- The student computers have a folder structure with a link on the desktop for the various types of labs (Psych 302, Psych 306). There are subfolders for the various sections (Mo 12, Mo 34, Mo 56 Mo 78, Tue 12 etc.).
- You are supposed to use the same computer during the entire semester and should be saving your data, analyses, and work to the correct folder for your section
- Students should NOT be saving anything on the desktops.
- Students should NOT be downloading anything non-class related to the computer.

September 9 - Class 1:

Overview & Introduction to Clinical Research

1. Overview and introduction to the class
2. Introduction to clinical research
3. Ethics in Research & Practice
4. How to develop a hypothesis

Hypothesis Workshop & Behavioral Activation

1. Create & Discuss hypotheses
2. Introduction to Behavioral Activation
3. Begin creating Behavioral Activation Plan
4. Discuss Assignment #1
 - a. Introduction to Research

Due Next Class: Assignment #1 (5 points)

September 16- Class 2: Assignment 1 due today

Behavioral Activation Continued

1. Discuss results of “Assignment 1”
2. Select Groups & Group BA Plan
3. Create Group specific Measure
4. Review Behavioral Activation Plan

September 23- Class 3:

Introduction Section of Research Paper

1. Discuss Purpose of Literature Review
2. Discuss How To Search For Articles
3. Discuss Assignment #2
 - a. APA style reference section

Outlines & Introduction

1. Discuss Assignment #3
 - a. Write an APA style introduction

Due Next Class: Assignment #2 (5 points)

September 30 - Class 4: Assignment 2 due today

Outlines & Introduction

1. Discuss Assignment #3
 - a. Write an APA style introduction
2. In-Class Work on Outlines

Due Next Class: Assignment #3 (10points)

October 7 - Class 5: Assignment 3 due today

Introduction Peer Review

1. **Assignment #3 due – submit online and bring 1 copy to class**
2. Test Anxiety In-Class
3. Peer Review of Introductions

October 14 - Class 6: Test Anxiety Data due today

Data

1. Introduction to SPSS
2. Introduction to Data Cleaning

Data Analysis I

1. Introduction to SPSS Data analysis I
2. Review of Statistical tests (Correlation, T-Tests, ANOVAs)
3. Reverse Coding , SPSS & Excel Graphing
4. Learn how to use SPSS to analyze anxiety data

October 21 - Class 7: In-Class Assignment 3 due today

Data Analysis II

1. How to write up Anxiety Results.
2. In-Class Assignment #3

October 28 - Class 8:

Method Section

1. Discussion of Method Section
2. In-Class work on Method Section

3. Discuss Assignment #4
 - a. Write an APA style method section

Due November 11: Assignment #4 (10 points)

November 4 - Class 9: Assignment 4 Due Today & Behavior Activation Due Today

Peer Review Continued

1. Peer Review of Methods Section
2. Mindfulness
3. Build Database for Final Project

November 11 - Class 10:

Behavioral Activation Results

1. Measure Validation
2. Demographic analysis for results

November 18- Class 11:

Discussion

1. Discuss Assignment #5
 - a. Write an APA style Discussion section
2. In-Class work Assignment #4

Due Next Class: Assignment #5 (10 points)

November 25 - Class 12: Assignment 5 Due Today

Peer Review & Abstracts

1. Peer review of Assignment 5 – Discussion
2. How to write an Abstract

December 2- Class 13:

Details

1. Review details of writing an APA style paper

Final Project

1. Grading rubric for Final Project

*Due Next Class: **Final Project***

December 9- Class 14: Final Project Due

1. Information about Graduate School
2. Final Project Submitted **BEFORE CLASS.**

Format of a Research Paper (Final Project)

1. Abstract

One paragraph concisely summarizing the lab report. Why we did it, what we did, how it came out, and what it means.

2. Background and Significance of the Study ("Why did we do this experiment?")

You begin by explaining what question the experiment was designed to answer. Place the experiment in a theoretical setting: what issues about why systems are we trying to shed light on? After setting up the background in a more abstract way, focus on the specific issue being addressed by this experiment.

What is the hypothesis?

3. Method ("What did we do?")

Here we lay out and explain the design of the experiment. How were the general ideas operationalized into a concrete procedure? Exactly what procedure was carried out? What are the independent and dependent variables?

The general idea is to include enough detail so that someone else could carry out substantially the same experiment just by reading your lab report. The most important thing is to make sure you explain exactly *why* the procedure was designed the way it was. Hence in describing the procedure, it is *not* enough to just repeat the description in the handout, which lays out the design but doesn't explicitly spell out the reasoning behind it. Depending on the experiment, this section is often divided into separate subsections, such as:

(a) *Participants*. Simply describe the subjects of the experiment. For example: "Subjects were 27 members of a psychology class".

(b) *Measures*. Traditionally here you specify the devices and equipment that were used. In a psychology experiment it would be more typical to specify exactly how the lists of stimuli were constructed and selected. What kind of items were included in the list of stimuli, and in what numbers? In what order were they presented (e.g., random)?

(c) *Procedure*. Here is where you explain exactly what was done to the subjects using the materials. What was the subject's task? Here it is especially important to spell out exactly any counterbalancing schemes that were used. If there were different tasks, what order were the tasks performed in, and why?

4. Results ("What happened?")

This section presents the results of the experiment described in the previous section. Include graphs, and statistics, as appropriate—whatever is most informative. Can we reject the null hypothesis?

5. Discussion ("What does it mean?")

This section interprets the results and draws conclusions. How do the results bear on the original hypothesis? In hindsight, were there any confounds or other methodological problems that might either account for the effect that was found, or account for why no effect was found?