

830:341 Syllabus

Abnormal Psychology Lab – Fall 2013

Faculty Supervisor: Richard Contrada, Ph.D.

Instructor: Christopher Wyszynski

Office: Psychology 319

Office Hours by Appointment

Contact Info: Christopher.w@rutgers.edu

Meeting Times and Location:

Thursdays 8:40am – 11:40am

Busch Psychology 105 (Computer Lab)

Required Texts:

Readings will be provided. Some instructors might recommend that you purchase the second printing (or later) of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association: Sixth Edition* (\$20-\$30). However, I believe that internet sources (such as [this one](#)) will be sufficient for the purposes of this class.

Core Requirements

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 & critically assess sources & use the conventions of attribution & citation correctly
- d) Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

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.

830:341 Syllabus

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.*

Course website:

If you are properly registered for the course, you have access to the course website through Sakai. Copies of all slides and handouts, study guides, and special notices will be here posted after class each week. **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.

Office hours:

My office hours are by appointment. Please let me know in advance if you would like to schedule a meeting. I also encourage students to contact email me with any questions.

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
 - **Backing up** your assignments and data **each day** via a flash drive (or emailing them to yourself) is HIGHLY recommended. *You* are responsible for securing *your own* files and data. Loss of files could result in a lowered grade.
- Students should NOT be saving anything on the desktops.
- Students should NOT be downloading anything non-class related to the computers.

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.

Attendance and Assignments:

Because this course is challenging and we cover a lot of material in every class meeting, **you are expected to attend every class.** Inconsistent attendance will result in a lowered grade. In addition, **you must arrive on time to lab/lecture.** If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will not be allowed to participate in that lab, and will receive a 0 for the assigned homework. Missed assignments that are not excused will be given a "0." Late and excused assignments will be

830:341 Syllabus

docked one deserved point for up to 3 days. **Assignments more than 3 days late will not be accepted.** If you miss two classes, you will be placed on probation. If you miss three or more classes, you will automatically receive an “F” for the course. Please type all assignments using general APA guidelines (i.e., 12-point font, Times New Roman font, 1” margins on all sides).

Assignments and Grading:

Grades will be comprised on the following components:

APA report sections	40 points
Final Project	30 points
Behavior Change Project	25 points
In-class Assignments	15 points
Participation and Attendance	10 points
TOTAL	120 points

The standard grading scale will be used for this course

A = 90% or above (107.5+)

B+ = 85-89% (101.5-107.5)

B = 80-84% (95.5-101.5)

C+ = 75-79% (89.5-95.5)

C = 70-74% (83.5-89.5)

D = 60-69% (71.5-83.5)

F = 59% or below (below 71.5)

Make-up Assignments:

You CANNOT make up any of the take-home assignments. If you have an excused absence for an in-class exercise, with a dean’s note or other comparable notification, you may either a) pro-rate your final grade, or b) do a make-up assignment that will usually consist of a 1-2 page reaction paper to an attended lecture in the field of psychology. **Make-up assignments will be determined on a case-by-case basis, and you should not assume that you will be able to make up an assignment just because you missed class.**

Academic Integrity

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. **All of your work will be turned in via the Sakai Assignments tab, which automatically checks Turnitin.com, so the authenticity of your work is visible to both you and the course instructor.** 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>.

830:341 Syllabus

Calendar and Course Schedule*

Date	Topic	Assignments	Due Date	Points
9/12/2013	Introduction and Hypotheses	Research Design and 3 Hypotheses	9/18 11:59pm	3
9/19/2013	Classical Conditioning, Operant Conditioning, Context, Literature Review, Finding Sources, and Citations	Mini Lit Review for 3 Articles with Behavior Change Proposal	9/24 11:59pm	8
9/26/2013	Functional Analysis, Modeling, Extinction, Alternative Strategies for Behavior Change, Assessment (if time)	Revise Behavior Change Proposal	10/2 11:59pm	2
10/3/2013	Anxiety, Methods, and Test Anxiety	Find and complete measures	In class	5
		Behavior Change log and reflection	10/8 11:59pm	2
10/10/2013	Test Anxiety, Methods Review, and Graduate School	Draft Methods	10/15 11:59pm	10
		Behavior Change log and reflection	10/15 11:59pm	2
10/17/2013	Depression, Introduction, and References Review	Draft introduction	10/29 11:59pm	10
		Behavior Change log and reflection	10/22 11:59pm	2
10/24/2013	NO CLASS!	Continue working on introduction	10/29 11:59pm	-
		Behavior Change log and reflection	10/29 11:59pm	2
10/31/2013	Substance use, suicide, and self-harm	Behavior Change log and reflection	11/5 11:59pm	2
11/7/2013	Mindfulness and Relapse Prevention	Behavior Change log and reflection	11/12 11:59pm	2
11/14/2013	Data Analysis and Results	Draft Results	11/25 11:59pm	10
		Final Behavior Change log and reflection	11/19 11:59pm	8
11/21/2013	Discussion and Behavior Change Presentations	Draft Discussion	12/3 11:59pm	10
11/26/2013	Revisions and Other DSM Diagnoses	Final Paper	12/12 11:59pm	30
12/5/2013	Positive Psychology	Strengths and Virtues Questionnaire	In class	2
ALL	Participation	Attend class, ask questions, have fun	Every day!	10

***Subject to change**