

Instructor: Chris Medvecky

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Office hours: By Appointment Only

Class meeting time /place: Mondays, 10:20-1:20 / Psychology Building, Busch Campus, 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.

<u>Date:</u>	
1/28 – 2/1 WEEK 1	Course Introduction, OSHA surveys, Plagiarism APA: Overview, Introduction Introduction to Experiment 1
2/4 – 2/8 WEEK 2	Data Collection: Experiment 1 Week 1 Experimental Design, Care and Handling of Lab Animals APA: Method Section, Title Page, References
2/11 – 2/15 WEEK 3	Data Collection: Experiment 1 Week 2 Article Presentations: Experiment 1 APA: Results, Figures, Discussion
2/18-2/23 WEEK 4	Review of Statistics Review Data for Experiment 1 Introduction to Experiment 2
2/25 – 3/1 WEEK 5	Data Collection Experiment 2: Week 1 Quiz 1
3/4 – 3/8 WEEK 6	Data Collection Experiment 2: Week 2 Lab Report Due: Experiment 1

3/11 – 3/15 WEEK 7	Article Presentations: Experiment 2 Review Data for Experiment 2
3/18 -3/22 WEEK 8	SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS
3/25-3/29 WEEK 9	Data Collection Experiment 3: Week 1
4/1 – 4/5 WEEK 10	Data Collection Experiment 3: Week 2 Quiz 2
4/8 – 4/12 WEEK 11	Data Collection Experiment 3: Week 3 Lab Report Due: Experiment 2
4/15-4/19 WEEK 12	Article Presentations: Experiment 3 Review Data for Experiment 3
4/22 - 4/26 WEEK 13	Quiz 3 Peer-Review of Lab Report 3
4/29 – 5/3 WEEK 14	NO CLASS Lab Report for Experiment 3 Due by Monday, 5/6 Submit Report via Assignments on Sakai

Allocation of Points:	
Lab Report 1	15
Lab Report 2	20
Lab Report 3	25
Participation	8
Quizzes	24 (8 points each)
Presentation	8

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 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>. Plagiarism 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. You will lose participation points if you miss class or are late to class. You are responsible for any information you missed.

Any unexcused absence during the data collection of an experiment will result in failure to receive credit for that lab report. The criteria for an excused absence will be left to my discretion. Proper documentation must be provided.

If you know that you have to miss class, inform me ahead of time, and we can arrange for you to make up the class in another section of the course. If you do so, you will not lose any participation points, or risk receiving a zero on your lab report. If you miss class on a day that a lab report is due, you still must hand in your paper that day. You should notify me that you cannot make it to class, and you should submit the paper via Assignments on Sakai.

Presentation:

For each experiment, three supporting articles are provided as relevant background information. Students will work with a partner 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 the quiz for the relevant module, and be necessary to complete the lab report for that experiment.

Quizzes:

Quizzes will be held during the first 15-20 minutes of class. If you are late on the day of a quiz, you will only be allotted the remaining time to complete the 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.