

Infant & Child Development Lab
830:332:H1 – Summer 2013
T/Th 9:00am -12:40pm, Tillett 205*

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- have a basic understanding of the methods and techniques related to research design
- understand the procedures of collecting and coding data in a daycare setting
- 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:

- respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision (WCR)
- communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry (WCD)
- evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly
- analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to general new insights

STRUCTURE

Throughout the course, students should adopt a scientist's approach to research experiences. The course is designed around three hands-on studies in child development to be conducted at the *Douglass Child Study Center located in Douglass Campus. This requires 3 visits to the DCSC during the session/semester. **Students are responsible for their own transportation to the DCSC and timely attendance is crucial. If you are late you will be unable to complete the assigned material and will receive a zero**

The course content progresses from simpler to more complex research designs and statistical analyses. Mirroring the progressive structure of the course content, the assignments slowly build APA report-writing skills and give the student increasing autonomy to use these skills in their writing. **You will have to write three full research reports**, one for each research unit, throughout the course. For the first two units, you will work with partners. Most of your assignments will be done in the lab, during class hours. Please use this time to learn from each other and to ask for my help too. For the third unit, you will work alone and you will be asked to apply what you learned so far in the course to demonstrate you know how to write a scientific APA style report.

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, resources and assignments. **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.

LATE POLICY & MAKE UP POLICY

Late work will not be accepted 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. **If you are absent you should submit the assignment to me via email before the due date.**

CHEATING & PLAGIARISM:

I will not tolerate plagiarism or cheating without exception. **A first offense will be reported on your college record and will result in the failure of the class. Consider this your warning.** 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. I routinely check Google, Wikipedia and other popular websites to check for plagiarism. Additionally, I 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>.

GRADING POLICY

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|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. writing assignments | 60% |
| 2. final lab report | 25% |
| 3. attendance/active participation | 15% |

A = 90-100%	C+ = 77-79%
B+ = 87-89%	C = 70-76%
B = 80-86%	D = 60-69%
F = Below 60	

Participation: You will receive participation points for showing up to class on time, with all the necessary materials. Part of participation includes being an active partner in group tasks and being respectful of the other students (absolutely **no cell phones/texting**). As the class is designed to give you additive experience in methodology within the field of psychology, the course builds on work completed in previous sessions and therefore, **your presence at all lab meetings is required.**

One unexcused absence results in an official warning. Two unexcused absences result in an automatic final grade deduction of one full letter grade. Three unexcused absences result in an automatic final grade of F. Unexcused absences include arriving to class more than 20 minutes late. *This is true for all lab courses in the Psychology department.* Arguing with me will not change anything.

Writing assignments: In the first two experimental units you will work with a partner, submit the same assignment, and receive the same grade. All assignments will be submitted through the Sakai site. During this time, most of your assignments will be done in the lab during class. Evaluation of your work is based on the content **as well as APA format.**

Peer review: When you are peer-editing another student's assignment, refer to the resources provided and make sure your comments are based on these standards. Each peer-reviewed assignment will be graded (out of 3.5 possible points) based on your submission of a paragraph summarizing the edits and suggestions you and your partner made while peer reviewing. This paragraph will also be submitted on Sakai.

Final lab report: The final report is due on **August 13 by the end of the class period.** Unlike many of the previous assignments, you will be required to complete the final report on your own.

Tentative Detailed Schedule of Classes (subject to change)

- July 09: Research Methods**
Review syllabus, assignments and expectations
Find your partner
Assignment 1: structure an APA research report (complete with partner, due 7/9)
- July 11: Infant-Mother Interactions and Peer Interaction**
Prepare for DCSC observation of peer interactions
Assignment 2: PI Method (write with partner in class, due 7/16)
Read Howes (1980) & Fagot, Leinbach & Hagan (1986)
Assignment 3: PI Intro & References (write with partner, due 7/18)
- July 16: Douglas Child study Center (DCSC) Observation**
- July 18: Data Analysis for Peer Interactions Study**
Correlations in SPSS, Results & Discussion sections in APA Style
Peer Review PI Intro
Read Gopnik & Astington (1988) before next class
Assignment 4: PI Results & Discussion (write with partner, due 7/23)
- July 23: Theory of Mind (ToM)**
Introduction to Theory of Mind
Prepare for DCSC experiment with ToM
Find 2 additional, relevant, articles on PsycInfo
Assignment 5: ToM Method (write with partner, due 7/25)
- July 25: DCSC Observation**
Assignment 6: ToM Introduction & References (write with partner, due 7/30)
- July 30: Data Analysis for ToM**
ANOVA in SPSS, reporting ANOVA in APA style
Assignment 7: ToM Results and Discussion Section (write with partner, due 8/1)

August 1: Contagion and Contamination Theories
Prepare for DCSC Contagion Study
Read assigned articles (Kalish, 1996, one from list, one you found on your own)
Assignment 8: CCT Method section (write on your own, due 8/8)
Assignment 9: CCT Introduction & References (write on your own due 8/8)

August 6: DCSC Observation

August 8: Data Analysis for Contagion and Contamination Study
Repeated Measures ANOVA, reporting RM ANOVA in APA Style
Peer Review Intro & Methods
Assignment 10: CCT Results and Discussion

August 13: Wrap UP
Turn in Final Research Report

Unit	Assignment #	Due Date	What are you doing?	Points	Notes
	1	July 9	Structuring an APA report	3.5	Complete with your partner
Peer Interactions	2	July 16	PI Method	13	Complete with your partner
	3	July 18	PI Article summaries & References	3.5	Complete with your partner - peer reviewed
	4	July 23	PI Results & Discussion	13	Complete with your partner
Theory of Mind	5	July 25	ToM Method	3.5	Complete with your partner - peer reviewed
	6	July 30	ToM Introduction and References	13	Complete with your partner
	7	August 1	ToM Results and Discussion	3.5	Complete with your partner - peer reviewed
Contagion & Contamination	8	August 8	CCT Method	3.5	written out of class on your own; peer-review out of class; negotiate exchange dates with your partner
	9	August 8	CCT Introduction & References	3.5	Finish out of class, on your own. Should include title page, abstract, introduction, method, results, discussion & references
	10	August 13	Final Paper	25	