

Infant & Child Development Lab
830:332:B2 Summer 2014
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00p-5:40p, Tillet 205

Instructor: Yasmine Omar

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Office Hour: Wednesdays from 1:00p-2:00p or by appointment

Office Hour location: Institute for Health, room 202A (second floor). For directions, visit:
<http://www.ihhpar.rutgers.edu/directions.asp>

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

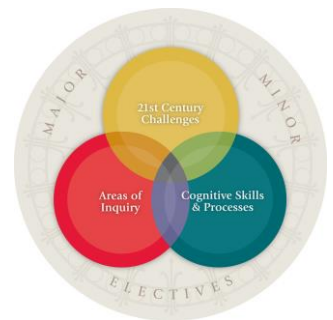
- **have a basic understanding of the methods and techniques related to research design**
- **understand the procedures of collecting and coding data in a daycare setting**
- **be able to use basic statistics and statistical software to analyze data**
- **be able to interpret the results of the statistical analyses**
- **produce an APA-style empirical paper**

The SAS Core Writing and Communication Goals:

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, upon successful completion of this course, 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.



Structure of the Course:

This course is designed to place the student in the role of a research scientist studying psychology. The semester is built around three primary units and three corresponding hands-on studies in child development, to be conducted at the Douglass Child Study Center (DCSC) located in Douglass Campus. Therefore, this course requires 3 visits to the DCSC throughout the semester. Students are responsible for their own transportation to the DCSC and **timely attendance** is crucial!

The three studies associated with the course units progress from simpler to more complex research designs and statistical analyses.

Mirroring the progressive structure of the course content, the assignments build American Psychological Association (APA) report-writing skills and require increasingly independent use of these skills in your writing.

Assignments:

You will write the 4 main contributing sections of an APA style research report (introduction, methods, results, discussion) for each of the three units during this course. For the third and final unit, you will be asked to submit a completed APA style research report to demonstrate your ability to incorporate everything that you have learned throughout the semester into a final, highly polished paper. You will be given ample in-class time to work on assignments, but also expect there to be out of class work, especially toward the end of the semester.

- **Collaborative Work:** You will work with a partner for the first and second (primary) units. For those assignments completed with a partner, the two of you will submit the same assignment (and therefore earn the same grade) that you have worked on collaboratively. Please use this time to learn from each other and to ask for assistance and feedback.
- **Individual Work:** For the third unit, you will work alone and will be asked to apply what you have learned in the course to demonstrate your knowledge of APA-style scientific report writing. During this unit, feel free to talk to others about their work and to ask me questions, but please do not share your written work with other students.
- **Submission Guidelines:** All written assignments are submitted through Sakai. Please clearly title your file with your last name(s) as well as the course unit and paper section (e.g., "Omar_execfunc_method.doc").

Writing Guidelines: When preparing the assignments, please review the appropriate standards (supplied during class and available on Sakai) and check your work to be sure it complies. The standards of APA-style writing should be constant point of reference during your completion of assignments!

Peer Review: The peer review process is consistently utilized throughout this course. When you are peer-editing another student's assignment, again refer to the resources provided and make sure your comments are based on these standards. Each peer-reviewed assignment will

be graded (out of 2 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.

Academic Integrity: By participating in this course you will be accepting the principles defining academic integrity. You are responsible for knowing and following standards of academic integrity in all of your work. Please familiarize yourself with Rutgers' Policy on Academic Integrity: <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>

Evaluation:

- Evaluation of your work is based on the content as well as APA format.
- A penalty of one point per day will be administered for late assignments unless we have made special arrangements *in advance*.
- 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.**
 - In all cases, if you are absent or need to leave class early, this must be justified with written documentation from the Dean's office.
 - One unexcused absence results in an official warning; Two unexcused absences results in an automatic final grade deduction of one full letter grade; Three unexcused absences results in an automatic final grade of F
- **Grading:** Your final grade will be comprised of three components:
 1. Attendance/ Active Participation 15%
 2. Writing Assignments 50%
 3. Final, Full Lab Report 35%
- Extra Credit: On the first day of class, graduate student researchers will make an announcement about the possibility of research participation. Participation in the studies announced will result in extra credit points toward your grade in this course. [Two extra credit points will be awarded for each of the two studies you can participate in.](#)

Weekly Schedule for Infant and Child Development Lab

Summer 2014 - Omar

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO REVISION

5/27/14: Introduction to Course and the Scientific Method
Topics: Overview of syllabus, class assignments, and expectations

--- UNIT 1: Preschool Peer Interactions ---

5/29/14: Infant-mother interactions and peer interactions
Topics: Correlational studies; SPSS; Determining hypotheses; Preparation for DCSC observation of peer interactions

6/3/14: DCSC observation of peer interactions

6/5/14: Peer interaction data analysis
Topics: Peer interactions in preschoolers; Correlations in SPSS; Writing Results and Discussion Sections in APA style; Writing an Introduction in APA style

--- UNIT 2: Theory of Mind ---

6/10/14: Pretend play and theory of mind
Topics: PsychINFO; Prepare DCSC experiment on preschoolers' theory of mind

6/12/14: DCSC experiment on theory of mind

6/17/14: Theory of mind data analysis
Topics: Theory of mind in preschoolers, ANOVA; reporting ANOVA in APA style

--- UNIT 3: Executive Functioning ---

6/19/14: Executive Functioning
Topics: Intro to executive functioning in children; Prepare DCSC experiment (Card Sorting Task and Variation on Card Sorting Task)

6/24/14: DCSC experiment on executive functioning

6/26/14: Executive functioning data analysis
Topics: Repeated Measures ANOVA; reporting repeated measures ANOVA in APA style

7/1/14: Wrap-up, peer review, and final questions

--- Additional Dates to Note ---

6/26/14: Optional draft of Intro and Methods for final paper due by 11:55pm

7/2/14: Final paper due by 11:55pm

****You may notice that the final class date included in this syllabus is July 1st, 2014. If all goes according to schedule, we will have our last class on that day. If, however, we need additional time to cover all the important material, I may push the final class date to July 3rd, 2014.**

Overview of Assignment Due Dates and Points

[Due by the end of class when assignment is completed in class, all other assignments due by 11:55pm]

#	Unit	Assignment	Due Date	Points	Writing Notes
1		Research Design	Tuesday, May 27	2	written in class with a small group
2	Peer Interactions	Method [instructor will grade]	Thursday, May 29	8	written with partner in class
3		Results and Discussion [instructor will grade]	Thursday, June 5	8	written with partner in class
4		Introduction [instructor will grade]	Sunday, June 8	8	written individually outside of class
5	Theory of Mind	Method [peer review only]	Tuesday, June 10	2	written with partner and peer reviewed in class
6		Introduction [instructor will grade]	Thursday, June 12	8	written out of class with your partner
7		Results and Discussion [instructor will grade]	Tuesday, June 17	8	written with partner and peer reviewed in class
8	Executive Functioning	Method [peer review only]	Thursday, June 19	2	written in class individually, peer reviewed in class
9		Introduction [peer review only]	Thursday, June 26	2	
10		Optional: Draft of Peer-Reviewed Intro & Method [instructor will comment] (outside of class)	Thursday, June 26		
11		Results and Discussion [peer review only]	Tuesday, July 1	2	
12		Full Paper	Wednesday, July 2	35	
13		Participation		15	