

Learning Processes Lab

– 01:830:312, section 07, 2015Fall

Course Information:

Instructor: Mingwen Dong Email: mingwen.dong@rutgers.edu
Class time: Friday, 12:00 am to 15:00 pm
Place: Psychology room 361A, Busch Campus
Office hours: by appointment
Textbook: None. Required readings will be provided on sakai throughout the semester

Course Objective:

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

Course Requirements:

Experiment participation:	You have to complete “OSHA survey” & “Animal Care and Use Course” to touch the rats and thus participate in the experiment. If you haven’t finished them by October 2nd, you would fail the class.
Lab Report:	Three lab reports in APA format, one for each experiment. Plagiarism is a serious violation of academic integrity (1 st time: warning + 50% penalty, 2 nd time: report to academic integrity + 100% penalty).
Presentations:	Presentation after each experiment. Three presentations in all.
Reading & Quizzes:	To check whether the assigned papers were read, a small quiz about the assigned papers would be given for every experiment.
Extra Credit:	3 + 2. Extra credit would be added to your lowest lab report and quiz, but wouldn’t bring it over the report/quiz’s maximum credit.

Grading Policy: (no curve)

Lab Report 1:	15
Lab Report 2:	20 (report) + 5 (peer review)
Lab Report 3:	20
Attendance:	10
Quizzes:	21 (7 points each)
Presentation	9 (3 points each)

Course schedule:

Date:		Stuff Due
WEEK 1: 9/18	Course Introduction, OSHA surveys, Plagiarism APA: Overview, Introduction (Lit. Review, Hypotheses), Introduction to Experiment 1	
WEEK 2: 9/25	Experimental Design, Care and Handling of Lab Rats APA: Method Section, Title page, References Data Collection Experiment 1 week 1	Read articles for Experiment 1.
WEEK 3: 10/2	APA: Results, Figures, Discussion Data Collection Experiment 1: Week 2	OSHA & Orientation Training Due.
WEEK 4: 10/9	*****QUIZ 1***** Review Exp 1 articles in class-(have articles read!) Review of Statistics; Review Data for experiment 1. ----- 1st Presentation ----- Intro to Experiment 2	Draft of Lab Report 1 Due by 11:59 pm, Oct 9th.
WEEK 5: 10/16	Data collection Experiment 2: Week 1	Read articles for Experiment 2.
WEEK 6: 10/23	Data Collection Experiment 2: Week 2	Lab Report for Experiment 1 Due by 11:59 pm.
WEEK 7: 10/30	*****QUIZ 2***** Review Exp 2 articles in class-(have articles read!) Review Data for Experiment 2. ----- 2nd Presentation ----- Introduction to experiment 3.	
WEEK 8: 11/6	Data Collection Experiment 3: Week 1	Read articles for Experiment 3.
WEEK 9: 11/13	Data Collection Experiment 3: Week 2	
WEEK 10: 11/20	Data Collection Experiment 3: Week 3 Peer-Review of Lab Report #2. Lab report ready for peer review (2.5 points); constructive review for assigned report (2.5 points).	!!! For peer-review !!! Lab Report for Experiment 2 Due by Nov 18th 11:59 pm.
WEEK 11: 11/27	*** No Class***	
WEEK 12: 12/4	*****QUIZ 3***** Review Exp 3 articles in class-(have articles read!). Review Data for Experiment 3. ----- 3rd Presentation -----	
WEEK 13: 12/11	*** No Class***	Lab Report for Experiment 3 Due by 11:59 pm, Dec 11th.

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 (after the due date) will lose 10% of the points for that report for each day it is late.** If you think you deserve more credits for your lab report, you **have to contact me within 7 days** after grade and feedback are released. Otherwise, there would be no change to that grade.

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/>
- Plagiarism is a violation of academic integrity. **Lab reports will be checked for plagiarism using "Turnitin"** (40% or higher similarity would be considered as "Plagiarism" and subject to discipline).

Attendance/Participation:

- Attendance in this class is critical to the success of the experiments, and therefore, mandatory.
- Any unexcused absence will take one point away from the participation point.
- **You will also have 0.5 pts deducted for a late arrival to class.**
- Arriving more than 20 minutes late to class will be counted as an unexcused absence.
- **Any unexcused absence during the data collection of any experiment will result in failure to receive credit for that lab report.**
- An absence will be excused *only* with a doctor note or note from the Dean's office. You are responsible for any information you missed.

Presentation:

For each experiment, students will work in groups. Upon completion of one experiment, students (group as grading unit) would give a presentation summarizing the previous experiment in front of the class before we start a new experiment. **The presentation should be around 7 minutes (8 minutes at most)** and include: **hypothesis, experimental design, results from the group, interpretation, and summary of the responsibility of every member of the group.** All members should evenly participate in the presentation.

Quiz:

Quizzes will be held during the first 15-20 minutes of class during the semester. These quizzes will be based on the reserved articles for each experiment. If you are late on the day of a Quiz, you will **ONLY** be allotted the remaining time to complete the quiz. If you arrive after the quiz has finished, you will receive an automatic zero for that quiz. If you're absent on that day, you would also receive a zero. However, if the absence is excused, a make-up quiz would be given at the end of the next class.

Extra Credit:

- 2 points: OSHA questionnaire & Animal Care Course;
- 1 point: short report (self-bio);
- 2 points: complete APA online quiz and get 70% of the questions right.

Note:

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.

