

# **Abnormal Psychology Lab**

**830:341:04**

**Fall 2015**

**Thursday 6:40-9:30**

**Faculty Supervisor:** Eddie Selby, Ph.D.

**Instructor:** Chris Hughes, M.A.

**Office:** Psychology A233

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Contact Information:** [CDH118@rutgers.edu](mailto:CDH118@rutgers.edu)

**Textbooks:** Any required reading for this class will be distributed during class or posted on Sakai. However, it is highly recommended that you purchase the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association: Current Edition (\$28.00) if you do not own it already.

**Purpose:** 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). Then we will work on how to disseminate findings regarding clinical psychology.

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.

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.*

## **Attendance and Assignments**

Because this course is challenging and we cover a lot of material in every class, 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." You CANNOT make up any of the take-home assignments. If you have an excused absence for an in-class exercise, with 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 be 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, even if it is excused.** Late and excused assignments will be 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 in 12 point font and use double spacing.

### **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 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 and handouts, study guides, and special notices. **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.**

### **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
  - **Back 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**
  - Do NOT save things on the desktops!
  - Do NOT download anything non-class related!
- Use of the computers is a privilege, and inappropriate use of the computers may result in loss of that privilege. The computers are to be used for **class work only**, that means that you should not be using them during lecture. If you are on the computer and not paying attention during lecture, your computer privileges will be revoked.

**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.

**Office hours:** My office hours are by appointment only. We can also meet before or after class if you schedule with me in advance. I welcome and encourage any student to contact me if he or she has any questions concerning an assignment, or something covered in class.

**Plagiarism.** 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. **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>.

### **Assignments and Grading:**

All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period.

- 8 Homework Assignments: 10 points each (80 points total)
- Behavioral Activation Logs: 10 Points
- Peer Reviews: 10pts each (20 Points Total)
- B.A. Draft: 15 Points
- B.A. Final Paper: 35 Points
- Class participation and attendance: 40 points

**TOTAL: 200 points**

A = 90% and higher

C+ = 77-79%

F = Below 60%

B+ = 87-89%

C = 70-76%

B = 80-86%

D = 60-69%

## Spring 2015 Schedule

### September 17<sup>th</sup>: Introduction To Class

- 1.) Overview of Course
- 2.) Introduction to Instructor and Classmates
- 3.) Expectations Survey
- 4.) Discuss Reading Assignment

***Due: Nothing***

### September 24<sup>th</sup>: The Scientific Method & Hypotheses

- 1.) Reading Quiz
- 2.) Discussion of The Scientific Method
- 3.) Discussion of Hypotheses
- 4.) Introduction to Behavioral Activation (BA)
- 5.) Discussion of Mindfulness and Positive Psychology
- 6.) Discussion of BA Project
- 7.) Discuss Assignment #1
  - a. Write 3 Scientific Hypotheses (Bring 2 copies to class)
  - b. Needs to be Typed

***Due: Reading (for quiz)***

### October 1<sup>st</sup>: Literature Review

- 1.) Present & Critique Hypotheses
- 2.) Discuss Literature Review Process
- 3.) In Class Activity: Group BA Literature Review
- 4.) Discuss Assignment #2 (Literature Review & Topic Summary)

***Due: Assignment #1 (3 Hypotheses)***

### October 8<sup>th</sup>: Research Methods/Study Design

- 1.) Present & Critique Literature Review Summaries
- 2.) Overview of Study Design/Research Methodology
  - a. Variables
  - b. Measures
  - c. Sampling/Distribution
  - d. Common Study Designs in Psychological Research
- 3.) Discuss BA Study Design
- 4.) Discuss Assignment #3 (Study Design)

***Due: Assignment #2 (Literature Review & Topic Summary)***

### October 15<sup>th</sup>: APA Style Writing & Method Section

- 1.) Present & Critique Study Designs
- 2.) Introduction to APA Style Writing
- 3.) Overview of Method Section
- 4.) In Class Activity: Group BA Methods Section
- 5.) Discuss Assignment #4 (Individual Paper Methods)

***Due: Assignment #3 (Study Design)***

October 22<sup>nd</sup>: APA Style Introduction Section

- 1.) Present & Critique Methods
- 2.) Overview of APA Style Introduction
- 3.) In Class Activity: Group BA Introduction Section
- 4.) Discuss Assignment #5 (Individual Paper Introduction)

**Due: Assignment #4 (Individual Paper Methods Section)**

November 5<sup>th</sup>: SPSS & Data Processing & Analysis

- 1.) Present & Critique Introductions
- 2.) Introduction to SPSS & Data Processing/Analysis
- 3.) In Class Activity: Practice Data Processing/Analysis
- 4.) Discuss Peer Review #1
- 5.) Discuss Assignment #6 (BA Data Analysis)

**Due: Assignment #5 (Individual Paper Introduction Section)  
BA Logs**

**November 12<sup>th</sup>: NO CLASS—INSTRUCTOR AT CONVERENCE**

November 19<sup>th</sup>: SPSS & APA Style Results Section

- 1.) Meet with Peer Reviewer
- 2.) Overview of APA Style Results Section Writing
- 3.) In Class Activity: Practice Interpretation of SPSS Output
- 4.) Discuss Assignment #7 (BA Results)

**Due: Peer Review #1  
Assignment #6 (BA Data Analysis)**

**November 26<sup>th</sup>: NO CLASS—Thanksgiving**

December 3<sup>rd</sup>: APA Style Discussion Section

- 1.) Overview of APA Style Discussion Section Writing
- 2.) Discuss Assignment #8 (BA Discussion)

**Due: Assignment #7 (BA Results)  
BA Rough Drafts  
Peer Review #2**

December 10<sup>th</sup>: Lecture on Bonus Topic

**Due: Final Paper  
Assignment #8 (BA Discussion)**