

Abnormal Psychology Lab

830:341:H2

Summer 2016

Monday - Thursday 10:00-11:15

Instructor: Mark Versella, M.S.

Office: Tillett 515

Office Hours: By Appointment

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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 (i.e. a research paper) **in APA format** is due at the end of the class.

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. Missed classes include those that you were more than 15 minutes late to.** 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. Please note that I will be posting the slides from each class **after** every class. **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. Please remember to do this, as the computers in the lab make a habit of disappearing people’s data. You have been warned.**
 - Do NOT save things on the desktops! They can be cleared **every time you log off.**
 - 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 fourth 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, since my schedule tends to change week-to-week. 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. For each written assignment, I use Google, Wikipedia, etc 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 (the Rutgers assignment submission portal on Sakai automatically checks for plagiarism as well). **Any student who plagiarizes on any assignment 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

13 Homework Assignments: 10 points each (130 total)

Behavioral Activation Log: 20 points

Class participation and attendance: 50 points

B.A Final Paper: 50 points

Total: 250 points

A = 90% and higher

C+ = 77-79%

F = Below 60%

B+ = 87-89%

C = 70-76%

B = 80-86%

D = 60-69%

Summer 2016 Schedule

A quick note: For each class, the syllabus lists an “Assignment” and a “Due” section. The “Due” section is what you’re supposed to hand in on that day. The “Assignment” section is the homework you will be assigned that day, which is due the next class.

July 11th: Introduction to the Course

- 1) Overview of the course
- 2) Introduction to Instructor & Classmates

Assignment: Nothing

Due: Nothing

July 12th: Psychology & the Scientific Method

- 1) Discussion of the various fields of Psychology
- 2) What is the scientific method?
- 3) What are hypotheses? How do we construct them?

Assignment: Write 3 scientific hypotheses, about 3 separate topics of your choosing.

Due: Nothing

July 13th: Behavioral Activation & Mindfulness

- 1) Discussion & presentation of your hypotheses
- 2) Overview of Depression
- 3) Discuss Reading Assignment

Assignment: Kabat-Zin Chapter (on Sakai)

Due: Scientific Hypotheses Assignment. Bring two copies to class, typed.

July 14th: Our Lab Project

- 1) Reading Quiz
- 2) Overview of Behavioral Activation
- 3) Overview of Mindfulness & Positive Psychology
- 4) Discussion: So what’s our project?

Assignments: (1) What’s your hypothesis about our project? Write out a hypothesis about what you think the results will be, and a few sentences about *why* you think the results will look like that. (2) Begin your BA log.

Due: Kabat-Zin Reading (for Quiz)

July 18th: APA Style, Introduction Section

- 1) Present and critique hypotheses
- 2) Introduction to APA style writing
- 3) Overview of APA style introduction

Assignment: Nothing

Due: Class hypothesis and rationale. Bring two copies to class, typed.

July 19th: APA Style Introduction, Continued

- 1) Further overview of how to write an APA style introduction
- 2) APA style formatting

Assignment: Nothing

Due: Nothing

July 20th: Literature Review

- 1) Discuss literature review process
- 2) How-to for library resources
- 3) In Class Activity: Literature review exercise

Assignment: Nothing

Due: Nothing

July 21st: APA Style References

- 1) How to we cite and reference our work?
- 2) In Class Activity: Reference exercise

Assignment: (1) Write a first draft of your introduction. (2) Cite all references that you used to complete your intro, in APA style.

Due: Nothing

July 25th: Peer-Work on Introduction

- 1) Assignment of Peer Teams
- 2) Peer-Review work on Introduction Drafts

Assignment: Revised Introduction, to reflect peer-review feedback

Due: Three copies of your Introduction section, including APA style references, brought to class (typed)

July 26th: APA Style Methods Section

- 1) Overview of APA style Participants, Materials/Measures, and Procedure section
- 2) Class discussion: What *are* our methods?

Assignment: Write up draft of Participants section

Due: Revised Introduction (Sakai)

July 27th: Data Analysis

- 1) Conceptual introduction to data analysis
- 2) Peer-review of Participants section

Assignment: Write up draft of Measures and Procedures sections

Due: Three copies of your Participants section brought to class (typed)

July 28th: Conducting Data Analysis: SPSS

- 1) Introduction section returned by professor, with feedback
- 2) Introduction to SPSS & Data Processing/Analysis
- 3) In Class Activity: Practice Data Processing/Analysis
- 4) Peer-review of Measures and Procedures section

Assignment: (1) Write up draft of your full APA style Methods section. (2)

Due: Three copies of your Measures and Procedures section brought to class (typed)

August 1st: Peer-Work on Methods

- 1) Peer-Review work on Methods Drafts

Assignment: Revise your Methods section, based on peer-review feedback

Due: (1) Three copies of your full Methods section brought to class (typed). (2) Return your completed BA logs.

August 2nd: APA Style Results Reporting

- 1) Overview of APA Style Results Section Writing
- 2) In Class Activity: Practice Interpretation of SPSS Output

Assignment: Run SPSS analyses on BA data

Due: Revised Method (Sakai)

August 3rd: APA Style Results Reporting, Part 2

- 1) Discussion of SPSS Analysis Homework
- 2) Further overview of APA Style Results Writing

Assignment: Nothing

Due: SPSS Analysis output (email 1 copy to professor, print 1 copy for class)

August 4th: CLASS CANCELLED

- 1) Methods section returned by professor, with feedback (by 5 PM)
- 2) SPSS data analysis homework returned by professor, with feedback (by 5 PM)

Assignment: Write up first draft of APA-style results section, including data you have analyzed

Due: Nothing

August 8th: Peer-Review work on Results

- 1) Peer-review work on Results drafts

Assignment: Revise Results section, based on peer-review feedback

Due: Three copies of your full Results section brought to class (typed).

August 9th: APA Style Discussion Section

- 1) Overview of APA style Discussion Section

Assignment: Nothing

Due: Revised Results (Sakai)

August 10th: In-Class Discussion Writing Workshop

- 1) What do we discuss in *our* discussion?
- 2) In-class assignment: Writing workshop with professor feedback

Assignment: Write up first draft of APA-style discussion section

Due: Nothing

August 11th: Peer-Review work on Discussion

- 1) Results section returned by professor, with feedback
- 2) Peer-review work on Discussion drafts

Assignment: Revise Discussion section, based on peer-review feedback.

Due: Three copies of your full Discussion section brought to class (typed).

August 15th: How to Write an APA-Style Abstract

- 1) Overview of how to write an APA-style abstract

Assignment (OPTIONAL): Write up APA-style abstract, and complete references. (NOT OPTIONAL) Email professor about desired topic for last class.

Due: Revised Discussion (Sakai)

August 16th: Class choice

- 1) Discussion sections returned by professor, with feedback
- 2) Class choice: Paper writing workshop, with professor feedback, OR discussion of graduate school in psychology.

Assignment: Finish your papers!

Due (OPTIONAL): APA-style abstract and references. If handed in by start of class, will be returned by 6 PM that day.

August 17th: CLASS CANCELLED

Due: Turn in final papers by 5 PM – Sakai