

## **Abnormal Psychology Laboratory**

Fall 2016

Busch Campus- Psychology Building

**CLASS:** 830:341:02

**INSTRUCTOR:** Neela Karikhalli

**MEETING TIME:** Wednesday 5-8PM

**EMAIL:** nk392@scarletmail.rutgers.edu

**OFFICE HOURS:** By Appointment

### **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.

### **Required materials:**

**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.

**Course Website:** If you are properly registered for the course, you have access to the course website through Sakai. Copies of all slides and handouts, study guides, and special notices will be posted here. It is important to note that the syllabus is subject to change – 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.

**Computer Room (Room 105):** *No food or drink allowed in the computer lab!*

- You are supposed to use the same computer throughout the entire semester.

- Backing 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.
- You should NOT be saving anything on the computers.
- You should NOT be downloading anything non-class related to the computers.

### **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:

- 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 & critically assess sources & use the conventions of attribution & citation correctly
- Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

### **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>.

### **Grading:**

- Homework assignments- 50 points (10 points each)
- Final Research Paper- 25 points
- Lab (In class) activity assignments, participation and attendance- 25 points

Total: 100 points

A= 90 points and higher

B+= 85-89 points

B= 75- 84 points

C+= 70-74 points

C=60-69 points

D= 50-59 points

F= Below 50 points

## Schedule of Classes and Assignments

Class 1: September 14- Overview and Introduction to Clinical Research

1. Overview and syllabus review
2. Lecture: Introduction to clinical research; Ethics in research and practice; How to develop a hypothesis
3. *In Class Assignment #1 (Hypothesis Workshop). Submit via Sakai Assignments by end of class*
4. Group Work: Present hypotheses

Class 2: September 21- Behavioral Activation and Literature Search

1. Lecture: Introduction to Behavioral Activation
2. *In Class Assignment #2: Select Behavioral Activation Construct (in groups)*
3. Lecture: Discuss purpose of lit review and how to lit search
4. Practice literature search
5. **Take Home Assignment #1 (Reference Section). Submit via Sakai Assignments by 4PM on September 28**

Class 3: September 28 – Introduction and Outlines

1. Lecture: Introduction Section and outlines
2. Develop scientific hypothesis for final project
3. Review of your scientific hypothesis
4. Work on introduction outline
5. **Take home assignment #2 (Hypothesis and Outline). Submit via Sakai Assignments by 4PM on October 5.**

Class 4: October 5 – Measurement

1. Peer review of Take-Home Assignment 2
2. Lecture: Introduction section
3. Measurement
4. *In Class Assignment #3: Create Group Measure*
5. **Take Home Assignment #3 (Introduction Section). Submit via Sakai Assignments by 4PM on October 19.**

Class 5: October 12- Introduction to SPSS

1. Complete behavioral activation measure 1
2. Lecture: Introduction to SPSS
3. In-Class work of Introduction section drafts
4. **Behavioral Activation Log Assignment: due on October 26, November 2 and November 9!**

**October 19- CLASS CANCELED.**

Class 6: October 26 – Introduction Peer Review and Revision

1. Lecture: Introduction Peer Reviews
2. Peer review of introductions

3. Lecture: Revising the introduction section
4. In-Class work on introduction section

Class 7: November 2- Methods

1. Lecture: Methods section
2. In Class Work on Methods Section Draft
3. **Take Home Assignment #4 (Methods Section), Submit via Sakai Assignments by 4PM on November 9**

Class 8: November 9- Data Entry and Cleaning

1. Enter Behavioral Activation Study Data
2. Lecture: SPSS Data Cleaning
3. Discussion of Test Anxiety Intervention and Measures

Class 9: November 16 – SPSS Data Analysis and Interpretation

1. Lecture: Frequencies and Descriptive Stats
2. *In Class Assignment #4 (Descriptive Stats and T-Tests): Submit on Assignments by end of class*

November 23<sup>rd</sup>- **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Class 10: November 30- SPSS Data Analysis and Results

1. Lecture: Data Analysis for Behavioral Activation Study
2. *In Class Assignment #5- Results Section*
3. **Take Home Assignment #5 (Final Paper Draft)- Due December 14 at 4PM.**

Class 11: December 7- Discussion and Abstract

1. Lecture: Discussion section and abstract
2. In-Class work on results, discussion and abstract

Class 12: December 14- Final paper and professional development and other fun stuff

1. Peer Review of Final paper Draft
2. Professional Development plus other fun stuff

**FINAL PAPER IS DUE ON SAKAI ASSIGNMENTS BY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 by 5PM.**