

Conditioning and Learning Lab – 01:830:312 section 01 Fall 2017

Instructor: Elena Rotondo

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Office hours: before or after class, or by appointment

Class meeting time/place: Mondays, 10:20am- 1:20pm, Busch psychology room 361A

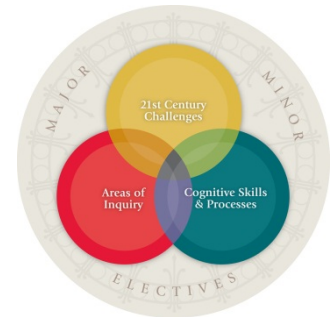
Textbook: None. Required readings will be provided on sakai throughout the semester

The aim of this course is to 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.

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.



### **Cell Phone Usage:**

It is disrespectful to use your cell phone while your peers or professors are lecturing. Thus, if caught using your cell phone not during a break period, you will be asked to leave the classroom and you will get a zero for participation that day. I understand situations arise, so if you're expecting an important phone call or text during the class time let me know and you can dismiss yourself from class to take the call.

### **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/integrity.shtml>
- Plagiarism is a violation of academic integrity. Lab reports will be checked for plagiarism using "Turnitin" (via Sakai)

- If you plagiarize your lab report, you will be reported to the Rutgers academic counsel as well as you will get a zero for that lab report.

### **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 .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 note from the Dean's office. You are responsible for any information you missed.

### **Creative Proposal Presentation (Group Project):**

You will be divided into groups, where you will design an experiment based off of a research question related to learning. In the presentation, propose how you will answer your question and why we should care about this question. Clearly, outline your experimental design (i.e. methods) for this project and your hypotheses. Be creative with this project, since it is imaginary you have unlimited funding, resources, and time. The presentation will be 12 to 15 minutes long (points will be deducted if you are shy or go over the time limit). Please cite all sources used!

### **Quizzes:**

Quizzes will be held during the first 15-20 minutes of class at 3 points during the semester. These quizzes will be based on the articles accompanying each experiment, APA style, and the basic statistics used with our data throughout the semester. 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.

### **Lab Reports:**

-All lab reports must be computer generated following the format presented in class (APA). Lab reports should be submitted on Sakai (Assignments). Students submitting reports late (after the class session START on the due date) will lose 10% of the points for that report for each day it is late.

### **Peer Review:**

You will be assigned an anonymous lab report written by one of your colleagues. You will read and critique it following the guidelines given in class. The goal is to give constructive feedback to your peers. You will be graded on the quality of the review you write, not the review that you receive.

**Mistreating or mishandling of the rats will result in a dismissal from the class and an 'F'.  
There are no excuses and no exceptions.**

Allocation of course points:	
Lab Report 1	15
Lab Report 2	20
Lab Report 3	25
Peer Review	5
Attendance/Participation	10
Quizzes	15 (5 points each)
Creative Proposal Presentation	10

### Course Schedule

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Material Covered</u>	<u>Assignments Due</u>
9/11 – 9/15 Week 1	Course Introduction Scientific Method, Experimental Design, & Hypotheses OSHA surveys and eIACUC training Introduction to Experiment 1	
9/18 – 9/22 Week 2	Care and Handling of Lab Animals APA: Introduction, Method Section, Title page, References Data Collection Experiment 1 week 1	OSHA form submitted eIACUC animal safety training completed
9/25 – 9/29 Week 3	<b>****QUIZ 1****</b> Review Exp. 1 Articles APA: Results, Figures, Discussion Data Collection Experiment 1: Week 2	Have read Exp. 1 articles
10/2– 10/6 Week 4	Review of statistics Review Data for experiment 1 Intro to Experiment 2 Data collection Experiment 2: Week 1	Introduction & Method Section Draft Due
10/9– 10/13 Week 5	<b>****QUIZ 2****</b> Review Exp 2 articles Data Collection Experiment 2: Week 2	Have read Exp. 2 articles
10/14 – 10/18 Week 6	Review Data for Experiment 2	Lab Report Due: Experiment 1

10/23 – 10/27 Week 7	Introduction to experiment 3	
10/30 – 11/3 Week 8	Data Collection Experiment 3: Week 1	
11/6 – 11/10 Week 9	Data Collection Experiment 3: Week 2 <b>Creative Proposal Presentations</b>	Creative Proposal Project Due
11/13 - 11/17 Week 10	<b>*** No Class***</b>	Lab Report Due: Experiment 2
11/20 – 11/24 Week 11	<b>***No Class***</b>	
11/27 – 12/1 Week 12	<b>****QUIZ 3****</b> Review Exp. 3 articles Review Data for experiment 3	Have read Exp. 3 articles
12/4 – 12/8 Week 13	<b>Peer review of Lab Report #3</b>	
12/11 – 12/15 Week 14	<b>***No Class**</b>	<b>Lab Report due: Experiment 3</b> <b>***BY WEDNESDAY 12/13, 5PM***</b>