ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY LAB

Psychology 341:04 – Spring 2017

RUTGERS
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

Instructor	Email	Office
Bruno Sauce	sauce.bruno@rutgers.edu	Busch Psych, room 315

When and Where: Wed, 6:40-9:30 PM, at room 105 of Busch Psychology Building

Textbook: None. Required readings are on Sakai

Office hours: Tue 4:00-5:00 PM at room 315 of Busch Psychology building
(For simpler questions, send me an email or ask during class)

Course Description

The ability to understand and conduct empirical research is essential for students interested in abnormal psychology. This course is designed to help you develop the necessary knowledge and skills to engage in clinical research. You will experience all the basic steps involved in a study in clinical psychology: ethical considerations, formulating hypotheses, choosing measures, collecting and analyzing data, as well as communicating your findings to the scientific community. At the end of this course, you will (hopefully!) have a solid foundation in research in abnormal and clinical psychology, which is critical for graduate training.

Learning Goals

1. Develop scientific thinking skills, including how to form and test hypotheses and how to draw sound conclusions from results.
2. Demonstrate some well-known cognitive phenomena by running lab experiments.
3. Learn-by-doing the main research methods of the field.
4. Learn how to analyze data and evaluate hypotheses.
5. Learn research communication skills.
6. Improve computer literacy.

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. Among other things, you will learn how 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.

Grading

The assignments in this course cover the three main intellectual activities as a clinical psychologist: proposing a study ("Behavioral Activation Logs", as well as the activities needed for the "Final Paper"), reporting your study to the community ("Homework Assignments", "Full Draft", and "Final Paper"), and reviewing the work of your peers ("Peer Review").

Grade calculation

The maximum total is 100.

Assignment	Maximum Points
Homework Assignments	40 (5 each)
Behavioral Activation Logs	10
Peer Review	10 (5 each)
Full Draft	10
Final Paper	30

Academic Integrity and data collection

You are required to abide by the Rutgers policy on academic integrity. You can view it at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers/

The policy states, among other things, that "every Rutgers University student…make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of unsanctioned materials or unsanctioned collaboration." This includes having someone else run your experiment, having someone else read the material for you, and having someone else run the analysis for you. Also, keep in mind that university policy does not allow reusing your own material from classes taken previously or concurrently.

I always use Turn-it-in for assignments to check for plagiarism. If I believe there was any violation of integrity, this will be investigated in accordance with the university's procedures and policies.

Data Collection: All data in this lab should be collected with either you or your classmates serving as the participants. Collecting data from anyone else (roommates, friends, family members) is never permitted.

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.

Rules for the 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 desktop!
- Do NOT download anything non-class related!

Course Schedule

Like any other complex phenomenon, the development of this course has a considerable degree of uncertainty. Therefore, the course schedule might change. Keep up!

Date	Content	Stuff due
January 25th	Introduction to the course	Nothing
February 1st	Reading quiz Introduction to Behavioral Activation (BA) Discussion on Mindfulness and Positive Psychology	Readings for the quiz
February 8th	Introduction to the scientific method	Baseline Measures
February 15th	Present and critique hypotheses from Assignment #1 Introduction to literature review In class activity: Group BA literature review	Assignment #1 (Create 3 hypotheses)
February 22nd	Present and critique summaries from Assignment #2 Overview of study design/research methodology Discussion of BA Study Design	Assignment #2 (Literature Review & Topic Summary)
March 1th	Present and critique study designs from Assignment #3 Introduction to APA Style Overview of Method Section	Assignment #3 (Study Design)
March 8th	Present and critique Methods Overview of Introduction Section In Class Activity: Outline BA Introduction Section in groups	Assignment #4 (BA Methods Section)
March 15th	Spring Break	Enjoy!
March 22nd	Present and critique Introductions Introduction to SPSS and Data Processing/Analysis	BA Logs Assignment #5 (BA Introduction Section)

Date	Content	Stuff due
March 29th	Overview of Results Section In Class Activity: Practice Data Processing/Analysis	Assignment #6 (BA Data Analysis)
April 5th	Meeting with Peer Reviewer In Class Activity: Practice Interpretation of SPSS Output	Peer Review #1 Assignment #7 (BA Results)
April 12th	Overview of Discussion Section	Peer Review #2 Assignment #8 (BA Discussion)
April 19th	Review for the Final Paper	Full Draft
April 26th	Optional class for help on the final paper	Final Paper

Additional Stuff

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.

If you miss any assignment, you need to provide me with a reasonable explanation in order to replace it. Please use the University absence reporting website https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/ to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.
Late submissions lose 10% of the points for the assignment.

If you want to do extra work in order to get a better grade, do it during the course, not after it is over. Study, ask questions, prepare for the assignments, and get engaged!
And remember: A grade is not something given to you; it is something you earn.

At last, because you had the patience to read this syllabus, here is a quote for your delight:

"The truth may be puzzling. It may take some work to grapple with. It may be counterintuitive. It may contradict deeply held prejudices. It may not be consonant with what we desperately want to be true. But our preferences do not determine what's true. We have a method, and that method helps us to reach not absolute truth, only asymptotic approaches to the truth — never there, just closer and closer, always finding vast new oceans of undiscovered possibilities. Cleverly designed experiments are the key."

– Carl Sagan in "Wonder and Skepticism". Skeptical Inquirer 19 (1), 1995.