Learning Processes Lab Syllabus

Spring 2018 — 01:830:312:03

Instructor:	Andrea Shang
Email:	andrea.shang@rutgers.edu
Office Hours:	By appointment (email/talk to me after class to schedule a time)
Class meeting time/place:	Tuesday, 3:20-6:20pm. Busch Psychology, Room A361
Textbooks:	None, required readings will be posted on Sakai

I.   Course Aims and Outcomes

The aim of this course is to acquaint students with scientific research within the context of learning psychology.

By the end of this course, you will:

*   have a basic understanding of the methods and techniques used in animal learning research
*   understand the procedures for collecting data in animal learning research
*   interpret the results of statistical analyses
*   produce an APA-style empirical paper

Additionally, 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.

II.   Course Requirements and Assignments

1.   *Lab reports (600 points)*

All lab reports (drafts and final versions) must be computer generated (i.e. typed) and submitted as a word document. They should be written and formatted following APA guidelines, which we will go over in class.

Lab reports must be submitted on Sakai (under the "Assignments" tab). Reports are due **at the start of class**, i.e. by 3:20.

This is an *individual assignment*.

The experiments are a group activity, but these lab reports are not. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Copying and turning in someone else's work as your own – even with their permission – is a form of academic dishonesty. Should copying occur, both the student who copied work *and* the student who gave material to be copied will automatically receive a zero.

Deadlines: All lab reports are due at the start of class (3:20pm) unless otherwise specified.
Late submissions: 10% of the total points for that report will be deducted for <u>each</u> day it is late.

2. *Quizzes (3 x50 points each; 150 points total)*

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 article presentations for 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.

3. *Presentations (150 points)*

For each experiment, three supporting articles are provided as relevant background information. Students will work in groups in order to present the relevant information from these articles to their fellow classmates in an **8-10 minute presentation.** HOWEVER, each student in the class is responsible for knowing the information from all three articles. This information will be on the quiz for the relevant module, and be necessary to complete the lab report for that experiment.

Over the course of the semester, each group will present article review for <u>two out of the three modules</u>.

4. *Attendance/participation (100 points)*

Attendance in this class is critical to the success of the experiments, and therefore, mandatory. Class begins promptly at 3:20pm. It is your responsibility to arrive on time. Arriving late will not only affect your attendance, but your group's ability to carry out the experiment.

An absence will be excused only with a note from the Dean's office. You are responsible for any information you miss.

Everyone starts off with 100 attendance points.

Lateness: Arriving late (up to 15 minutes after the start of lab) will result in an automatic 10 point deduction.

Unexcused absence: Arriving more than 15 minutes late will count as an unexcused absence, and will result in a 20 point deduction. **An unexcused absence during the data collection period(s) of any experiment will result in a zero for that lab report.**

Tl;dr Don't be late, especially during experiment weeks.

5. *Reading/Resources*

There is no textbook for this course. Three articles will be provided as background information for each experiment. These will be posted on Sakai. You are responsible for reading these articles before the lab and knowing the information. We will be discussing them in class before the experiments. The information will also be necessary to complete the lab reports.

Additionally, you may want to check out the following resources for APA style writing:
   http://www.apastyle.org/
   https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

6. *Grading*

The maximum total is 100.

Assignment	Maximum Points

Lab Report #1	200
	    Introduction & Methods (100)
	    Results & Discussion (100)

Lab Report #2* *abbreviated version focusing on the Results & Discussion sections	100
Lab Report #3	300
Quizzes	150
Presentation (article review)	150 (75 pts each)
Attendance/participation	100
Total Points	**1000 (=100%)**

III. Academic Integrity and conduct

You are expected to abide by the Rutgers University Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Policy. The policy on academic integrity can be found at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers/

Plagiarism is a violation of academic integrity and will result in an automatic zero for that assignment. Penalty for violation of the University Code of Student Conduct can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action. I will be using Turnitin to check all writing assignments for plagiarism.

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

IV.   Course Schedule

[*This is a tentative schedule and subject to change. I will announce any changes/updates in class. Updated versions of the syllabus will be posted on Sakai under 'Resources.' It is your responsibility to keep up with any changes.*]

Week/Date	Topics	Assignments Due
Week 1 Jan 23	Course Introduction, Plagiarism, Intro to the Scientific Method. Introduction to Experiment 1. Animal Orientation & OSHA surveys.	
Week 2 Jan 30	Experimental Design, Care and Handling of Lab Animals. APA: Title Page, Introduction, Methods, References. Article review example. Introduction to Experiment #1 (continued). **Data collection for Experiment #1: week 1**	Read articles for Experiment #1.
Week 3 Feb 6	APA: Results, Figures, Discussion. **Article Presentations: Groups 1, 2, 3** ***Data collection for Experiment #1: week 1***	Article Review Presentations (Groups 1, 2, 3)
Week 4 Feb 13	Review of Statistics. Review data from Experiment #1. Introduction to Experiment #2.	Lab Report #1 (Introduction & Methods) due.
Week 5 Feb 20	***Data collection for Experiment #2: week 2*** *** QUIZ 1***	Read articles for Experiment #2
Week 6 Feb 27	**Data collection for Experiment #2: week 2**	Lab Report #1 (Results & Discussion) due.
Week 7 Mar 6	**Article Presentations for Experiment 2.**	Article Review Presentations (Groups 4, 3, 1)
Week 8 Mar 13	Spring Break (no class)	
Week 9 Mar 20	*** QUIZ 2 *** Introduction to Experiment 3.	
Week 10 Mar 27	**Article Review Presentations for Experiment 3.** Review Results section write-up	Article Review Presentations (Groups 4, 3, 1) Lab Report #2 due.
Week 11 Apr 3	**Data collection for Experiment 3: Week 1.**	
Week 12 Apr 10	**Data collection for Experiment 3: Week 2.**	Article Review Presentations (Groups 2, 1, 4)
Week 13 Apr 17	***QUIZ 3*** Review data for Experiment 3.	
Week 14 Apr 24	No class.	Lab Report #3 due by 5pm on 5/2.