Learning Processes Lab
section 04

Course Information:

Instructor:	Mingwen Dong.
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Class time:	Wednesday, 3:20 pm to 6:20 pm
Place:	Psychology room 361A, Busch Campus
Office hours:	by appointment
Textbook:	None. Required readings (paper & protocol) are on sakai.

Course Requirements:

- **Experiment participation:** Three experiments. You have to complete health evaluation & Online Animal Training to touch the rats and thus participate in the experiment.
- **Lab reports:** Three lab reports in APA format, one for each experiment. Plagiarism is a serious violation of academic integrity (penalty policy see below).
- **Presentations:** One group presentation & one individual presentation.
- **Reading & quizzes:** Three quizzes, one for each experiment.

Grading:

Lab Report 1:	20
Lab Report 2:	5 (results only)
Lab Report 3:	30 (report) + 5 (peer review)
Attendance:	10
Quizzes:	21 (7 points each)
Presentation:	9 (individual presentation)

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

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/academic-integrity-policy/
- Plagiarism is a violation of academic integrity. Lab reports will be checked for plagiarism using Turnitin. If the similarity score from Turnitin >= 45%, it is considered plagiarism.
  If a report was determined as plagiarism, the grade on that report will be calculated in the following equation:

$$\text{grade} = 0.9 * \text{original score} * (1 - \text{similarity score})$$

  e.g., if a report's original score is 20 and its similarity score is 45%, the final grade will be $0.9 * 20 * (1 - 0.45) = 9.9$.

Schedule:

Date:	Schedule:	Dues:
Week 1:	Course Introduction, OSHA surveys, Plagiarism; APA: Introduction section Review of probability Introduction to Experiment 1	**Health Form & Online Animal Training**
Week 2:	APA: Method Section, Title page, References. Care and Handling of Lab Rats **Data Collection Experiment 1 week 1**	Read articles for Experiment 1
Week 3:	*****QUIZ 1***** APA: Results, Figures, Discussion; **Data Collection Experiment 1: Week 2**	
Week 4:	Review Exp 1 articles in class (have articles read!); Review of Statistics; Review Data for experiment 1	Draft of Lab Report 1 (Method)
Week 5:	Intro to Experiment 2 **Data collection Experiment 2: Week 1**	Draft of Lab Report 1 (Method & Results)
Week 6:	*****QUIZ 2***** **Data Collection Experiment 2: Week 2** Read articles for Experiment 2	**Report for Experiment 1**
Week 7:	Review Exp 2 articles in class (have articles read!) Review Data for Experiment 2 *****2nd Presentation****	
Week 8:	Spring break, no class!	
Week 9:	Introduction to experiment 3	Read articles for Experiment 3
Week 10:	Data Collection Experiment 3: Week 1	**Report for Experiment 2**
Week 11:	Data Collection Experiment 3: Week 2	
Week 12:	*****QUIZ 3***** Review Data for Experiment 3	
Week 12:	****3rd Presentation**** Peer-review for report 3	
Week 14:	No Class	**Lab Report for Experiment 3**

Lab Reports:

- All lab reports must be computer generated following the APA format and 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.
  Note: **only documents in .doc, .docx, or .pdf will be accepted.** Submission of any other format wont be graded until the right format is submitted, during which the 10% penalty will be imposed.
- For the 1st and 3rd lab report, your classmates and I will give you feedback based on your draft. To ensure you respond effectively to these feedback, you have to change your final lab report according to the appropriate suggestions. **In addition, at the end of the lab report, everyone has to write a feedback summary, including the original suggestion, why it is appropriate or not, and how you have changed.** If one did not make any changes and did not explain why, one will lose double the points listed on the grading rubric.

Attendance:

- 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 0.5 pts deduced 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 doctor note or note from the Deans office. You are responsible for any information you missed.

Presentations:

- Each student will prepare an individual presentation. The topic will be either about the 2nd or 3rd experiment.

Quizzes:

Quizzes will be held during the first 15-20 minutes of class. They consist of short-answer questions based on the reserved articles for each experiment. 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. If you are absent on that day, you would also receive a zero. However, if the absence is excused, a make-up quiz would be given at the end of the next class.

Extra credit:

- 1.5 points: complete APA online quiz and get at least 22 of the questions right.

One Time Exemption

To account for unexpected situations, students have one (and only one) exemption to use without needing any excuse. The exemption could be used to:

1. avoid penalty from late submission of lab report (3 days maximum);
2. request of rewriting and regrading one lab report (before due date of next report);
3. count for absence from one non-experiment class (you have to make up for possibly missed quiz and presentation).

Course Objective:

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:

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