

Conditioning and Learning Lab – 01:830:312 section 01 Spring 2018

**Instructor:** Christine Yohn

**Email:** cy253@scarletmail.rutgers.edu

**Office hours:** by appointment only

**Class meeting time/place:** Monday's 10:20 – 1:20 Busch psychology room 361A

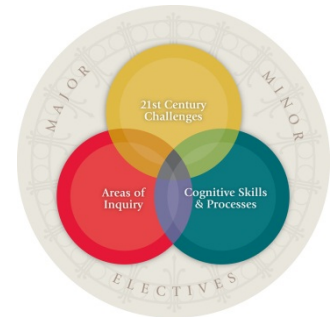
**Textbook:** None. Required readings will be provided on sakai throughout the semester

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"
- 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.
- Chronic late arrival to class will result in a loss of points from your grade.
- Arriving more than 20 minutes late to class will be counted as an unexcused absence (results in a loss of a point from participation grade).
- **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 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 6 to 10 minutes long. Please cite all sources used according to APA format.

**Quiz:**

Quizzes will be held during the first 15-20 minutes of class or will be take home quizzes for you to complete by the next class period. These quizzes will be based on the articles read for each experiment, APA style, and the basic statistics used with our data throughout the semester. Be sure to critically assess each article when reading it (not just memorize facts)...try to draw the connection from our experiment to the papers. 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 both submitted in person and 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.

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

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

Schedule for the class

<u>Date:</u>	
1/22 – 1/26 WEEK 1	Course Introduction, OSHA surveys, Plagiarism Introduction to Experiment 1 (Habituation)
1/29 – 2/2 WEEK 2	Experimental Design, Care and Handling of Lab Animals <b>Example review article in class-(Please read article)</b> APA: Overview, Introduction (Lit. Review, Hypotheses) Data Collection Experiment 1 week 1
2/5 – 2/9 WEEK 3	<b>Review Exp 1 articles in class-(have articles read!)</b> APA: Method Section, Title page, References Data Collection Experiment 1: Week 2 <b>*****QUIZ 1*****</b>
2/12-2/16 WEEK 4	<b>Introduction &amp; Method Section Draft Due</b> Review Data for experiment 1 APA: Results, Figures, Discussion Intro to Experiment 2 (food preference)
2/19 – 2/23 WEEK 5	Data collection Experiment 2: Week 1 <b>Review Exp 2 articles in class-(have articles read!)</b>
2/26 – 3/2 WEEK 6	<b>Lab Report Due via Sakai: Experiment 1</b> Data Collection Experiment 2: Week 2

3/5 – 3/9 WEEK 7	Review Data for Experiment 2 <b>*****QUIZ 2*****</b>
3/12 -3/16 WEEK 8	<b>*****SPRING BREAK NO CLASS*****</b>
3/19-3/23 WEEK 9	Introduction to experiment 3 (operant conditioning) Review results section write-up
3/26 – 3/30 WEEK 10	Review Exp 3 articles in class-(have articles read!). <b>Lab Report Due: Experiment 2</b>
4/2 – 4/6 WEEK 11	Data Collection Experiment 3: Week 1
4/9-4/13 WEEK 12	Data Collection Experiment 3: Week 2 <b>*****QUIZ 3*****</b>
4/16- 4/20 WEEK 13	<b>Peer-Review of Lab Report #3</b> Review Data for Experiment 3
4/23 – 4/27 WEEK 14	<b>No class this week:</b> <b>Lab Report for Experiment 3 Due by 5:00 PM Wednesday 5/2</b> <b>Submit lab reports via Assignments</b>