

Learning Processes Lab – 01:830:312:05 LEARN PROCESSES LAB 05 F19

Instructor: Allison Matia

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Office hours: By appointment

Class meeting time/place: **Wednesday 3:20pm-6:20pm** - Busch Campus, Psychology building, 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.



Schedule for the class:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Material Covered:</u>	<u>Due:</u>
9/11/19 WEEK 1	Course Introduction, OSHA surveys, Plagiarism APA: Overview, Title page, Abstract, Introduction Introduction to Experiment 1	<b>-Animal Orientation training due</b>

9/18/19 WEEK 2	Experimental Design, Care and Handling of Lab Animals APA: Method Section & Results Data Collection Experiment 1 Week 1	
9/25/19 WEEK 3	Data Collection Experiment 1: Week 2	
10/2/19 WEEK 4	APA: Figures, Discussion, References Review Experiment 1 articles Review Data for Experiment 1 Intro to Experiment 2	<b>-Experiment 1 Critical Reflection due by 11:59pm 10/2/19</b>
10/9/19 WEEK 5	<b>Lab Report Due via Sakai: Experiment 1 (Results, Discussion, Citations)</b> Data Collection Experiment 2: Week 1	<b>- Lab Report 1 due by 11:59pm 10/9/19</b>
10/16/19 WEEK 6	Review Experiment 2 Articles Data Collection Experiment 2: Week 2	<b>-Experiment 2 Critical Reflection due by 11:59pm 10/16/19</b>
10/23/19 WEEK 7	<b>No Class</b>	
10/30/19 WEEK 8	<b>Lab Report 2 Due via Sakai (Intro, methods, citations)</b> Review Data for Experiment 2 Introduction to Experiment 3 Review Experiment 3 articles Discussion of Ted Talk assignment	<b>Lab Report 2 due by 11:59pm 10/30/19</b>  <b>-Experiment 3 Critical Reflection due by 11:59pm 10/30/19</b>
11/6/19 WEEK 9	Data collection Experiment 3: Week 1	
11/13/19 WEEK 10	Data collection Experiment 3: Week 2	
11/20/19 WEEK 11	Review Data from Experiment 3 Time to meet with presentation groups	
11/27/19 WEEK 12	<b>No Classes</b>	
12/4/19 WEEK 13	<b>Presentations</b>	<b>Ted Talk Assignment due by 11:59 pm 12/4/19</b>

12/11/19 WEEK 14	<b>No Class</b> <b>Full Lab Report Due: Experiment 3</b>	<b>-Lab report for Exp. 3</b> <b>due by 11:59pm 12/11/19</b>
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Allocation of course points:	
Lab Report 1	<b>15</b>
Lab Report 2	<b>15</b>
Lab Report 3	<b>30</b>
Participation/Attendance	<b>10</b>
Ted Talk Assignment	<b>11</b>
Presentations	<b>10</b>
Critical Reflections	<b>9 (3 points each)</b>

**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 (1<sup>st</sup> time: warning + 30% penalty, 2<sup>nd</sup> time: report to academic integrity + 100% penalty). Lab reports will be checked for plagiarism using “Turnitin”

**Participation:**

- Participation in the form of contributing to in-class discussions is expected.
- Being attentive and respectful during lectures and particularly during your peers’ presentations are also expected. That means no cell phone use please! (More on cell phone usage below).
- Questions/comments during lecture or presentations are strongly encouraged.
- Students will also participate by writing three critical reflections (see explanation below).

**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 attendance points.
- You will also have .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 note from the Dean's office. You are responsible for any information you missed.

### **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.

### **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 will lose 10% of the points for that report for each day it is late. Remember, **if you have an unexcused absence during the week of an active experiment, it will result in a failure to receive credit for that lab report.**

### **Presentations:**

Students will work in groups in order to present two relevant articles of the group's choice to their fellow classmates. All students are expected to equally contribute both in the creation and presentation of the article. Presentations should be roughly 20 minutes in length and presented via PowerPoint. The emphasis on these presentations is not only properly summarizing the article, but to also present your group's critical reaction to the paper.

### **Critical Reflections:**

Each experiment (3 experiments total) we conduct in class is assigned three scientific journal articles to be read by the student. For the critical reflections, you may choose one of the three articles assigned for that experiment and write your critical reaction to the article. **Please do not just summarize the article**; that is not a critical reflection. A critical reaction may include: your critique of the study, limitations and/or strengths of the study, suggestion of future research, and reflecting upon the study's implications. Each critical reflection should be at least one page in length (double-spaced). These assignments will be submitted on Sakai (Assignments). Because these assignments are aimed to promote in-class discussion of the articles, **no late assignments will be accepted.**

### **Ted Talk Assignment**

Towards the middle of the semester, we will be watching the Ted Talk "Battling Bad Science" and discussing bias in science and the misrepresentation of scientific studies in the media. For this assignment, you will write a summary and reflection of the Ted Talk. Then, you will find an example of either a scientific study in which a "bad science" technique discussed in the Ted Talk has been used or an article for the popular press that misrepresents or exaggerates the results of a scientific study and explain the ways in which the study or media report of the study is biased or misrepresented. The final product should be two pages (double-spaced).

### **Grade disputes**

You have seven days following the release of a grade to dispute it with me. Keep in mind that if you choose to dispute a grade with me, I may decide to give back points or deduct points at my discretion.

**Emails**

Please remember to SIGN (that means first and last name) your emails. I will not respond to emails asking for information that can be found on the syllabus, on Sakai, or that can be easily garnered from attending class.

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

The syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.