Abnormal Psychology Lab

Spring 2019
Section: 830:341:01
Tuesday 3:20 – 6:20PM

Faculty Supervisor: Edward Selby, Ph.D.
Instructor: Rachel Rosen, B.S.
Office Hours: By Appointment
Contact Information : r.rosen@rutgers.edu

Textbooks: Any required reading for this class will be distributed during class or posted on Sakai. However, it is highly recommended that you purchase the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association: Current Edition ($28.00) if you do not own it already.

Purpose: The ability to understand and conduct empirical research is essential for students interested in clinical and abnormal psychology. This course is designed to help you develop the necessary knowledge and skills to engage in research as a clinical scientist. We will learn the basic steps involved in conducting a study in clinical psychology (e.g., formulating hypotheses, choosing measures, collecting and analyzing data). As a student in this course, you will be immersed in every step of the process, and will come away with a solid foundation in research in abnormal and clinical psychology, which is necessary for graduate training. A comprehensive research report (i.e. a research paper) **in APA format** is due at the end of the class. The course is restricted to undergraduate majors in psychology who have taken Quantitative Methods and Abnormal Psychology. It is designed to meet one lab course requirement of the psychology major. Like any lab course, *this class requires more than the average amount of work for you to earn a high grade.*

Attendance and Assignments: Because this course is challenging and we cover a lot of material in every class, you are expected to attend *every class*. Inconsistent attendance will result in a lowered grade. In addition, **you must arrive on time to lab.** If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will receive a "0" for attendance. Missed assignments that are not excused will be given a "0." **Make up assignments will be determined on a case by case basis, and you should not assume that you will be able to make up an assignment just because you missed class, even if it is excused.** You CANNOT make up any of the in-class assignments. Late assignments will be docked 2 deserved points per day for up to 3 days. **Assignments more than 3 days late will not be accepted.**

NOTE: Absences will only be excused with the presentation of a dean's note or other comparable notification. If you miss two classes, you will be placed on probation. **If you miss three or more classes, you will automatically receive an "F" for the course. Missed classes include those to which you arrived more than 15 minutes late.**

Core Requirements: 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 & critically assess sources & use the conventions of attribution & citation correctly

d) Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

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. **If you have questions about the course this should be the first place you look for an answer.** It is important to note that the syllabus is subject to change, so please consistently check the syllabus on Sakai so that you are aware of these changes.

Computer Room (Room 105):
- No food or drink is allowed in the computer lab!
- 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. Please remember to do this, as the computers in the lab make a habit of disappearing people's data. You have been warned.
    - Do NOT save things on the desktops! They can be cleared every time you log off.
    - Do NOT download anything non-class related!
- Use of the computers is a privilege, and inappropriate use of the computers may result in loss of that privilege. The computers are to be used for **class work only,** that means that you should not be using them during lecture. If you are on the computer and not paying attention during lecture, your computer privileges will be revoked.

Students with disabilities: Any student who feels he or she needs accommodation for a physical or learning disability should contact the Office of Disability Services (151 College Ave, Suite 123; phone 732-932-2848) and read more about Rutgers' policy at https://ods.rutgers.edu. If you request accommodations for this course, you will need a letter from Disability Services. This letter must be provided to me *by our second class*, at which point you may make a request for course-specific accommodations. The Chair of Undergraduate Psychology and I will review your request and may choose to modify it before it is approved.

Office hours: My office hours are by appointment only. Please try to contact me several days in advance. We can also meet after class if you schedule with me in advance. I welcome and encourage any student to contact me if he or she has any questions concerning an assignment, or something covered in class.

Plagiarism: All work that students turn in must be their own work. Students *should not* work collaboratively on assignments without prior approval from the instructor. Any outside sources (including help from other people) must be appropriately referenced in all written work. Turning in someone else's work as your own is completely unacceptable. This includes downloading information from the web and pasting it into your paper. For each written assignment, I use Google, Wikipedia, etc. to check for plagiarism. Additionally, we require that your paper be turned in as electronic as well as hard copies so that we can check for plagiarism by matching content to information on the web (the Rutgers assignment submission portal on Sakai automatically checks for plagiarism as well)**. Any student who plagiarizes on any assignment will,** *at the very least***, receive a failing grade for the course**. More severe consequences (e.g., expulsion) are also possible. More about academic integrity can be found at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu.

Turning in Assignments: All assignments, drafts, and final papers will be turned in on Sakai. These must be typed (times new roman, double-spaced, 12pt font) and submitted as a word (or pages) document. PDF files will not be accepted. All assignments will be turned in on the assignments tab.

Assignments and Grading: All assignments are due by 12pm on Tuesdays, unless otherwise noted.

- 8 Homework Assignments: 8 points each (64 total)
- Class Participation and Attendance: 30 points
- Peer Reviews: 10 points each (20 points total)
- Daily Logs: 6 points
- Individual Project/Presentation: 20 points
- Final Paper: 60 points
- Extra Credit: up to 6 points

Total: 200 points

Grade Breakdown:

A = 90% and higher	C+ = 77-79%	F = Below 60%
B+ = 87-89%	C = 70-76%	
B = 80-86%	D = 60-69%	

Description of two main projects:

Individual Project: Each student will select a topic of interest, choose a research question and propose a hypothetical study to test their idea. Ultimately, students will do a PowerPoint presentation on their topic, research question, hypotheses, methods and anticipated results.

Class Project: As a class, we will investigate whether meditation improves positive mood and decreases negative mood. Students will be involved in data collection, analysis and report writing. Students will write an APA style research paper with all required sections (i.e., Abstract, Introduction, Method, Results, Discussion, References).

Extra Credit:
Students can write two, 1-page literature reviews on a clinical psychology research article for 2 extra credit points at any point during the semester (limited to 2 reviews)
- You must send me the article you plan to write about beforehand, so that I can approve it
- Unlike other assignments, you will not get any points if you turn this in late
    - *All literature reviews must be submitted by April 16th at 12pm*
- Additionally, 2 extra credit point will be given for attending the last day of class

Spring 2019 Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	In Class Activities	Homework Assigned
1	1/29	**Introduction to Class** – Intro to Instructor and Classmates, Overview of Course		**Homework # 1: Select Individual Project Topic**
2	2/5	**The Scientific Method** – Asking and answering scientific questions, review of mindfulness, intro to class project	1. Read Full Catastrophe Living 2. Baseline Measures	**Begin Log**
3	2/12	**Academic Writing and Literature Reviews** – What research articles are, how to read them, how to do a literature review	Read and summarize two articles for class project	**1. Homework #2: Lit Review for Individual Project (minimum of 8 articles)** **2. Continue Log**
4	2/19	**No Class – Instructor at Research Conference**		
5	2/26	**Hypotheses** – How to formulate hypotheses	Write class project hypotheses	**1. Homework #3: Write hypotheses for individual project** **2. Continue Log**
6	3/5	**APA writing** – Intro to APA Style writing	Present individual project lit review and hypotheses	**Continue Log**
7	3/5	**Introduction Section** – Overview of how to write an introduction section	1. Informal Course feedback 2. Outline class project introduction	**1. Homework #4: Class project introduction** **2. Finalize Log**
8	3/19	**Spring Break – No Class**		
9	3/26	**Methods Section** – Overview of how to write a methods section	1. Introduction Peer Review 2. Individual project methods 3. Follow-up Measures	**1. Homework #5: Class project method section** **2. Finish Peer review #1 (Intro)**
10	4/2	**Data Analysis** – SPSS data analysis	1. Discuss intro peer review 2. Class project data analysis in SPSS 3. Method Peer Review	**1. Homework #6: Class Project Outline Results** **2. Finish Peer Review #2 (Method)** **3. Finalize Individual Project**
11	4/9	**Results Section** - Overview of how to write a results section	1. Individual Project Presentations 2. Discuss method peer review 3. Begin class project method section	**Homework #7: Class project results section**
12	4/16	**Discussion Section, Abstract and References** – Overview of how to write a discussion section, abstract and references	1. Class project title page and abstract	**Homework #8: Class project discussion section**
13	4/23	**Class Choice Day** - Topic(s) of class' choosing, graduate school and careers in psychology	Work on final paper	**Work on Final Paper**
14	4/30	**Extra Credit: Feedback**– Discuss ways to improve the course		**Final Paper - Due at 12pm on Sakai**