

Honors Research Design, Analysis, and Presentation

Fall Semester, 2020

Rutgers University Psychology Department

Course Information:

Rutgers Course Number: 01:830:490

Day and Time: Fridays from 10:20-1:00 **for synchronous courses**

Location: Zoom from your couch

Credit hours: 3

Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Psychology Honors Program.

Instructor:

Benjamin Samuels

Email: ben.samuels@rutgers.edu

Office Hours: email to setup a Zoom appointment

Learning Goals for this Course: Performing original scientific research in Psychology can be a highlight of your Rutgers career, but it is also a novel challenge for most students. There are four main goals for this course. First, it will broaden your formal education in research design, analysis, and presentation. Second, it will give you the opportunity to get feedback from your peers and professor as you formally present your project in class. Third, it will provide hands-on training in scientific writing. Fourth, it will expose you to the extraordinarily broad range of subjects explored and techniques applied in the many different areas of Psychology.

Attendance in Synchronous Course Periods: We are going through strange times because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This honors course is typically an in-person seminar with personal interactions and time set aside for discussion and Q&A. Lectures from me are very limited. You will be required to present a few times throughout the semester. Therefore, this will be a “blended” course consisting of synchronous and asynchronous meetings. We will have 3 or 4 synchronous class meetings, and in another week (Week 11) you will have Zoom appts with some of your classmates. **The dates of the synchronous class meetings are: Sept. 18, Oct. 9, Oct. 30, and Nov. 6 (if necessary).** This means we all will log on to Zoom and meet at 10:20am on these days. Your attendance at these synchronous course periods is mandatory. Exceptions will be made in accordance with Rutgers policy, which means absences for religious observance, participation in Rutgers-approved activities, or research-related reasons (e.g. presenting your Honors project at a scientific conference) will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Sakai: The course has a dedicated Sakai site at sakai.rutgers.edu. All registered students should automatically be members of the site. The site includes downloadable readings for the course, this syllabus, and a venue for announcements to the class. This is the tool I will use to email the entire class when necessary.

Student Writing Disclaimer: Student writing, including both graded and ungraded components, will be publicly edited as part of the lectures. If you turn it in, it might end up on a lecture slide. Your name will NEVER be explicitly mentioned in this scenario. However, it is sometimes possible for other students to guess the author based on content. Please understand that this is an essential part of the teaching process.

Evaluation:

Ungraded assignments: (TOTAL of 25% of your final grade – full credit given if turned in on time)

- Essay on an example of a paradigm shift (2 pages MAX)
- Essay on a data figure (2 pages MAX)
- The first in-class (5 minutes MAX) presentation on your Honors project, no materials allowed.
- Peer critiques of student presentations
- Initial presentation of your experimental flow chart

Graded:

- The second, in-class presentation (10-12 minutes) on your Honors project (25%)
- Your flow chart illustrating your experimental design (20%)
- Your Introduction and Methods sections for your thesis (25%)
- In-class participation during synchronous courses, including questions during student presentations (5%)

ALL written assignments must be emailed to: **RUPsychHonors2020@gmail.com**

Send assignments as a Microsoft Word file or Google document. I will provide comments back to you in the documents. As mentioned above, anything you send me may be used in a future lecture. **Assignments are due by 1pm on the date listed. Late assignments will not receive full credit.**

Course Schedule

PLEASE NOTE: The due dates for assignments are definite, but the exact schedule of which material is covered on which day may vary.

First Week of Semester – Submit application for Psych honors to Dr Lou Matzel. You will then enroll in this course once accepted into the honors program.

Week 1 – Lecture Posted by Sept. 11

Topics: Introduction; Overview of Honors research process; Intro to Public Speaking (How to Give a Short Talk); Responsible Conduct of Research (Responsibilities as an Honors student, plagiarism, authorship, etc.)

Week 2 – Sept. 18 – SYNCHRONOUS MEETING

Assignment due: All students will present the topic of their honors thesis without the use of any materials (Assignment is to PRACTICE). You will have a maximum of 5 minutes for your presentation.

Topics: Personal Intros; Student Presentations; What is a Paradigm Shift?

Week 3 – Lecture Posted by Sept. 25

Assignment due: Paradigm Shift Essay (2 pages MAX)

Topics: Graduate school (choosing programs, preparing an application, interviewing)

Week 4 – Lecture Posted by Oct. 2

Topics: Experimental Design and Statistics; Experimental Flow Charts

Week 5 – Oct. 9 – SYNCHRONOUS MEETING

Assignment due: All students will present an experimental flow chart describing their thesis research

Topics: Student Presentations and Verbal Feedback

Week 6 – Lecture Posted by Oct. 16

Assignment due: Experimental flow chart (final version integrating feedback from last week)

Topics: Data display; What makes a great data figure?

Week 7 – Lecture Posted by Oct. 23

Assignment due: Essay on a data figure (2 pages MAX)

Topics: Literature review and writing the introduction and methods section; 12-minute presentation overview

Week 8 – Oct. 30 – SYNCHRONOUS MEETING

Assignment due: All students will give a 10-12 minute presentation based on their thesis

Topics: Student Presentations and Peer Reviews

Week 9 – Nov. 6 –POSSIBLE SYNCHRONOUS MEETING (IF NECESSARY)

Assignment due: Peer critiques of student presentations from Oct. 30

Topics: Student Presentations Continued (if necessary), Data Analysis

Week 10 – Lecture Posted by Nov. 13

Assignment due: FIRST DRAFT OF INTRO & METHODS SECTIONS

Topics: Challenges in student research (null results, no results, weird results)

Week 11 – Editing Your Methods and Intro – Peer Meetings This Week

Assignment due: Peer Comments on Intro & Methods Sections

Topics: Editing of Student Intro & Methods

Week 12 – Lecture Posted by Nov. 25 (THIS IS A WEDNESDAY)

Topics: How to write Results and Discussion sections, preparing a scientific poster, and preparing for a poster session

Week 13 – Lecture Posted by Dec. 4

Topics: Course wrap-up and review of outstanding requirements for the Honors program

DECEMBER 11: FINAL INTRODUCTION AND METHODS SECTIONS DUE BY EMAIL; MUST ALSO CC YOUR ADVISOR

Student-Wellness Services (All of these services are being provided remotely during Fall 2020):

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating on tests or plagiarizing materials in your papers deprives you of the educational benefits of preparing these materials appropriately. It is personally dishonest to cheat on a test or to hand in a paper based on unacknowledged words or ideas that someone else originated. It is also unfair, since it gives you an undeserved advantage over your fellow students who are graded on the basis of their own work. In this class we will take cheating very seriously. All suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism will be automatically referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs, and we will recommend penalties appropriate to the gravity of the infraction. The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>. I strongly advise you to familiarize yourself with this document, both for this class and for your other classes and future work.

Since what counts as plagiarism is not always clear, I quote the definition given in Rutgers' policy:

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of another person's words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course. Some common examples of plagiarism are:

- Copying word for word (i.e. quoting directly) from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution.
- Paraphrasing without proper attribution, i.e., presenting in one's own words another person's written words or ideas as if they were one's own.
- Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.
- Incorporating into one's work graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other nontextual material from other sources without proper attribution.

Students often assume that because information is available on the Web it is public information, does not need to be formally referenced, and can be used without attribution. This is a mistake. All information and ideas that you derive from other sources, whether written, spoken, or electronic, must be attributed to their original source. Such sources include not just written or electronic materials, but people with whom you may discuss your ideas, such as your roommate, friends, or family members. They deserve credit for their contributions too!

tldr: Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize.