

**Learning Processes Lab – 01:830:312:04**

Main Canvas page <https://canvas.rutgers.edu/>

**Fall 2020****Meeting Days, Times, and Venues**

-Class will be conducted **synchronously**. That means you must login to Canvas every Friday (unless otherwise specified – see schedule below) from 12PM – 3PM.

**Instructor's Name**

Contact information: My email address is: [jennifer.francesconi@rutgers.edu](mailto:jennifer.francesconi@rutgers.edu). Please include the course title in the subject line for all email correspondence. Generally, you should expect a response back from me in 48 hrs. If I do not respond after 48 hrs. of your initial email, please feel free to send a kind follow-up email.

**Office hours: day, time and location:** Office hours will be by appointment. Please contact me and we will work out a time to meet.

*Faculty Coordinator: Dr. Mimi Phan (mphan@scarletmail.rutgers.edu)*

*Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Kasia M. Bieszczad (kasia.bie@rutgers.edu)*

**List of Required Books &/or Materials**

Required readings will be provided on CANVAS throughout the semester

**Technology/Software Requirements:**Software:

Rutgers Box account: (<https://box.rutgers.edu/>)

Rutgers Zoom Account: (<https://it.rutgers.edu/zoom/>)

Technology:

Computer: Laptop or desktop computer. A tablet may be used in some cases.

Internet Connectivity: Preferably a high-speed connection. You may also use a wireless hotspot through your mobile provider.

Microphone (optional): This may be built into your device, but an external microphone or headset will provide better sound.

Webcam (optional): Many computers have one built in, but you can easily connect an external USB camera.

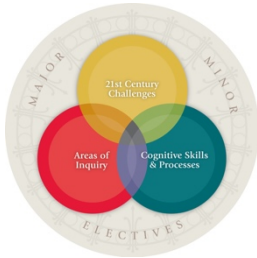
Note:

Learning remotely presents new challenges. For assistance with learning how to address these challenges, please consult the resources

available here: [https://rlc.rutgers.edu/remote\\_instruction](https://rlc.rutgers.edu/remote_instruction)

Please visit the [Rutgers Student Tech Guide](#) page for resources available to all students. If you do not have the appropriate technology for financial reasons, please email Dean of Students [deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu) for assistance. If you are facing other financial hardships, please visit the Office of Financial Aid at <https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/>.

## Learning Goals



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.

## The Division of Student Affairs Diversity & Inclusion Statement

Excerpted (<http://inclusion.rutgers.edu/>):

*“The Division of Student Affairs works to create an environment of inclusion which respects and affirms the inherent dignity, value, and uniqueness of all individuals, communities and perspectives. Our practices reflect awareness and understanding of the complexity of identity and the increasing interconnectedness of our world. It is our responsibility to promote and maintain a community of compassion, embracing the rich dimensions of diversity, and facilitating opportunities for understanding and the expression of both individual and shared truths.”*

## Current Academic Integrity Policy and Honor Pledge:

Overview: Rutgers University takes academic dishonesty very seriously. By enrolling in this course, you assume responsibility for familiarizing yourself with the Academic Integrity Policy and the possible penalties (including suspension and expulsion) for violating

the policy. As per the policy, all suspected violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to):

- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- Aiding others in committing a violation or allowing others to use your work
- Failure to cite sources correctly
- Fabrication
- Using another person's ideas or words without attribution—re-using a previous assignment
- Unauthorized collaboration
- Sabotaging another student's work in doubt, please consult the instructor

Honor pledge: All students will need to sign the Rutgers Honor Pledge on every major exam, assignment, or other assessment as follows:

- *On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).*

Summary:

<http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home-2/academic-integrity-policy/>

Resources for Students:

<http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home-2/for-students/>

### **Self-Reporting Absence Application:**

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

**Please note: Given the challenging times, my policy for missed labs and missed assignments is to please try to the best of your ability to submit assignments on time and attend each lab session, especially lab days in which we are collecting data. If you are facing some extenuating circumstances that may impact your ability to submit an assignment on time or attend a lab class, please reach out to me before the assignment is due or before the day of lab. I will try to the best of my ability to be flexible if need be. However, granting an extension on an assignment or excusing an absence from lab during data collection days is up to my discretion.**

## Course Structure and Requirements

**Schedule** \*Note that class meetings will not start until the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Rutgers NB scheduled classes

Date:	Material Covered:	Assignments Due:
9/18 Week 1	<b>Animal Use in Research</b> [3R's - use of rodents (& different species)] <b>APA Style</b>	
9/25 Week 2	<b>Measuring Baseline Behaviors</b> [Experiment 0 – Elevated Plus Maze (EPM)]	
10/2 Week 3	<b>Habituation</b> [Experiment 1 – Open Field (OF)]	<i>Quiz 1: Due by 10/2 11:59 PM</i>
10/9 Week 4	<b>Associative Learning: Context-Reward</b> [Introduction to Experiment 2 – Conditioned Place Preference (CPP); integration with baseline performance (EPM) and habituation (OF)]	<i>Lab Report 1 (Expt. 1) – Intro, Methods, Citations only: Due by 10/9 11:59 PM</i>
10/16 Week 5	Experiment 2, Part 1 – Conditioned Place Preference (CPP) (pre-training)	<i>Ted Talk Assignment: Due by 10/16 11:59 PM</i>
10/23 Week 6	Experiment 2, Part 2 – Conditioned Place Preference (CPP) (post-training)	<i>Quiz 2: Due by 10/23 11:59 PM</i>
10/30 Week 7	<b>Associative Learning: Operant Behavior</b> [Experiment 3, Part 1 – Shaping]	
11/6 Week 8	<b>Associative Learning: Operant Behavior</b> [Experiment 3, Part 2 – Extinction]	<i>Lab Report 2 (Expt. 2) – Results, Discussion, Citations only: Due by 11/6 11:59 PM</i>
11/13 Week 9	<b>Associative Learning: Operant Behavior</b> [Recap of experimental group data analysis & review]	<i>Quiz 3: Due by 11/13 11:59 PM</i>

11/20	Week 10	<b>Associative Learning: Extinction of Operant Behavior &amp; Relevance for CPP</b> [Expt. 2 & Expt. 3] [Integration & Overview of Associative Learning in Extinction, highlighting recovery processes in lecture: renewal, reinstatement or recovery, spontaneous recovery]	<i>Critical Reflection: Due by 11/20 11:59 PM</i>
11/27	Week 11	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
12/4	Week 12	<b>Writing Workshop</b> Guide and Review for Final Lab Report 3 ( <i>Expt. 3</i> ) write-up	
12/11	Week 13	<b>Open Office Hours</b>	<i>Lab Report 3 (Expt. 3) – Full lab report: Due by 12/11 11:59 PM</i>
12/18	Week 14	NO CLASS	

Allocation of course points:

Lab Report 1	15 pts
Lab Report 2	15 pts
Lab Report 3	30 pts
Quizzes	15 pts (5 pts each)
Critical Reflection	15 pts
TED Talk Assignment	10 pts

**Lab Reports:**

Each student will hand in 3 lab reports for the semester, corresponding to the 3 experiments done in class. Writing these lab reports is exclusively independent (meaning these reports are not group-work). Although you will work in groups to conduct the experiment, each student will hand in their own lab report. All lab reports must be computer generated following the format presented in class (APA). Lab reports should be submitted on Canvas (Assignments).

**Quizzes:**

Quizzes will be held at 3 points during the semester. These quizzes may be based on the readings for each experiment, APA style, and/or the basic statistics used with our data throughout the semester. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Quizzes will be timed. Meaning, after starting the quiz you will have 15 minutes to complete it. Thus, before starting a quiz, be sure that you have 15 minutes of time to commit.

**Critical Reflection:**

For the critical reflections, you will read a scholarly article of your choice that relates to one of the topics discussed in class. To find a scholarly journal article you can use google scholar (<https://scholar.google.com/>) or search for one using Rutgers Libraries (<https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/>). You will write your critical reaction to the article. **Do not just summarize the article**; that is not a critical reflection. You will need to have a brief summary so that I know what the article is about. Your critical reaction may include: your critique of the study, limitations and/or strengths of the study, suggestions for future research, and reflecting upon the study's implications. Your critical reflection should be at least two pages in length (double-spaced). This assignment will be submitted on Canvas (Assignments).

**Ted Talk Assignment:**

The Ted Talk, "Battling Bad Science" discusses bias in science and misrepresentation of scientific studies in the media. For this assignment, 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 1-2 pages (double-spaced).

**Grading disputes (shall you have any):**

You have 7 days after an assignment grade is posted to dispute your grade. Whether or not I feel the dispute is warranted is up to my discretion.

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

**Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)**

**(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/>**

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professionals 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.

**Crisis Intervention** : <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/crisis-intervention/>

**Report a Concern:** <http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/>

**Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)**

**(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://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>.