



Learning Processes Laboratory – Spring 2020

830:312 Section 05

Instructor: Dylan Crawford

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Office Hours: By appointment, or if you can catch me in my office (I'm there often).

Meeting Time: Thursday 3:20 PM - 6:20 PM

Meeting Location: Busch Psychology building room 361A

Required Text: None. I will supply any necessary reading materials on Sakai as needed.

****Disclaimer**** Everything in this syllabus is subject to change at my discretion. You will be informed if any such changes are made.

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students an opportunity to experience how research is conducted in a psychology laboratory and shared with the wider scientific community through scientific (in this case, APA) style writing while simultaneously observing some fundamental principles of learning and memory. Through a series of three experiments, students will learn how to successfully conduct themselves in a laboratory setting, collect their own data, and report their findings to fellow scientists. My expectations are such that a student who successfully completes this course will have the following outcomes:

- A basic understanding of methods and techniques used in animal conditioning research
- An understanding of the procedures for collecting data in animal conditioning research
- Ability to use basic statistics and statistical software to analyze data
- Ability to interpret the results of the statistical analyses
- Ability to produce an APA-style empirical paper
- Ability to think critically as a scientist and interpret the techniques and results described in scientific publications

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:

- Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision (WCR)
- Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry (WCD)
- Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly
- Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights

Course Requirements and Grading

Quiz 1 (10%)

- Material from Experiment 1
 - To be completed on Sakai
 - Due by 3:20PM on February 20th

Lab Report 1 (15%)

- Results, Discussion, and Bibliography sections written about experiment 1
 - Must be typed and follow APA formatting
 - Must be submitted on Sakai (under the “Assignments” tab)
 - Must be submitted by 3:20 PM on February 27th
 - Late reports will lose 10% of the available points for each day they are late

Quiz 2 (10%)

- Material from Experiment 2
 - To be completed on Sakai
 - Due by 3:20PM on March 12th

Lab Report 2 (15%)

- Introduction, Methods, and Bibliography sections written about experiment 2
 - Must be typed and follow APA formatting
 - Must be submitted on Sakai (under the “Assignments” tab)
 - Must be submitted by 3:20 PM on March 26th
 - Late reports will lose 10% of the available points for each day they are late

Quiz 3 (10%)

- Material from Experiment 3
 - To be completed on Sakai
 - Due by 3:20PM on April 16th

Lab Report 3 (30%)

- Full lab report (Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Bibliography) written about experiment 3
 - Must be typed and follow APA formatting
 - Must be submitted on Sakai (under the “Assignments” tab)
 - Must be submitted by 5:00 PM on April 27th
 - Late reports will lose 10% of the available points for each day they are late

Participation (10%)

Everyone who comes to class, is paying attention, and actively engages with me and the material should earn full participation credit in this class. If you don't come to class, or if you sleep in class, or if you text your friends while in class, or if you play on Facebook while in class, you will do poorly. If you don't want to come to class, it is probably best not to take this (or any) course (why are you in college?).

For each class you miss, it works out to losing 1 point on your overall grade in the course. As you will be working with a group, you have a responsibility to be an equal contributor. As such, arriving more than 20 minutes late to a meeting will result in a 0.5 point deduction from your overall course grade. Furthermore, **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 obtaining any information you may have missed.

Usage of Animals

It is imperative for everyone taking this course to realize that we will be experimenting with rats throughout this course. Everyone will be required to abide by all guidelines outlined in the OSHA and IACUC as they pertain to animal care and use (to be explained in week 1). I implore you all to carefully consider your personal willingness and ability to commit to these responsibilities before you begin this course. Furthermore, I want to be very clear that mistreating or mishandling of the rats **absolutely will** result in dismissal from the class and an “F” in the course. There will be **absolutely** no excuses; nor will there be any exceptions. I am always happy to hear any questions or concerns you may have as they pertain to the treatment of animals at any time during this course.

Academic Integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Rutgers University Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Policy. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Penalty for violation of the University Code of Student Conduct can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action. Visit <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students> for info and other useful links.

Throughout this course you will be asked to complete *original* writing in the form of laboratory reports. As such, it is imperative to recall that plagiarism is an explicit violation of the academic integrity policy. All lab reports will be checked for plagiarism using “Turnitin” via Sakai. If it is found that you have plagiarized a lab report, you will be reported to the Rutgers Academic Counsel **and** you will receive a zero on the report.

Accommodations

Appropriate accommodations are available for students with disabilities. In compliance with the Rutgers University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first week of the semester, unless for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with the Office of Disability Services to verify eligibility for appropriate accommodations and to provide me with documentation. Please see web site of the Office of Disability Services for Students (<https://ods.rutgers.edu/>) for more information.

Course Schedule

Date	In-Class	Assignments Due
Week 0 Thursday 1/23	No Class	
Week 1 Thursday 1/30	Course Intro Intro to Experiment 1 OSHA surveys and eIACUC	
Week 2 Thursday 2/6	Care and Handling Animals Data Collection: Experiment 1: Week 1 (Open Field)	OSHA form submitted eIACUC animal safety training completed
Week 3 Thursday 2/13	Data Collection: Experiment 1: Week 2 (Open Field)	
Week 4 Thursday 2/20	Review results for Experiment 1 Intro to Experiment 2 (STFP)	Quiz 1
Week 5 Thursday 2/27	Data Collection: Experiment 2: Week 1	Lab report 1 due (results, discussion, citations)
Week 6 Thursday 3/5	Data Collection: Experiment 2: Week 2	
Week 7 Thursday 3/12	Review results for Experiment 2	Quiz 2
Week 8 Thursday 3/19	No Class (Spring Break)	
Week 9 Thursday 3/26	Intro to Experiment 3 (Operant)	Lab report 2 due (intro, methods, citations)
Week 10 Thursday 4/2	Data Collection: Experiment 3: Week 1	
Week 11 Thursday 4/9	Data Collection: Experiment 3: Week 2	
Week 12 Thursday 4/16	Review results from Experiment 3	Quiz 3
Week 13 Thursday 4/23	No Class	Lab report 3 due Monday 4/27 by 5PM