

Abnormal Psychology Lab

Spring 2020

Section: 830:341:05

Tuesday 6:40PM – 9:30PM

Faculty Supervisor: Edward Selby, Ph.D.

Instructor: Joanne Kim, B.A.

Office Hours: By Appointment

Office Location: Tillett 527

Contact Information: joanne.s.kim@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 Late/Missed 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, special notices, and the syllabus. **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. It is also vital that you check your email and look at the announcements on the Sakai site for additional important updates and tips.

Computer Room (Room 101):

- 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 and points may be docked off your Class Participation/Attendance grade.

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 before 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>.

Assignments:

- All assignments, drafts, and final papers will be turned in on Sakai. All assignments will be turned in on the assignments tab.
- All assignments must be:
 - Typed in 12-point font (Times New Roman) with double spacing
 - Formatted with one-inch margins all around
 - Word documents (NOT pdfs), unless otherwise specified
- You will participate in peer reviews of each other's papers. As noted further down in the syllabus, the peer reviews you write for others and submit to me through Sakai will be incorporated into your grade. We will review the requirements and grading rubric for these peer reviews in class.
- I will be giving feedback on your homework assignments and paper drafts, and you should make edits and incorporate my feedback, as well as peer review feedback, into your final drafts.

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

- 8 Homework Assignments: 10 points each (80 total)
- Class Participation and Attendance: 35 points
- Peer Reviews: 10 points each (20 points total)
- Daily Logs: 10 points total
- Final Paper: 60 points

Total: 205 points

Grade Breakdown:

A = 90% and higher

B+ = 87-89%

B = 80-86%

C+ = 77-79%

C = 70-76%

D = 60-69%

F = Below 60%

Description of 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).

Spring 2020 Schedule

| Class | Date | Topic | In Class Activities | Homework Assigned |
|--------------|-------------|--|--|---|
| 1 | 1/28 | Introduction to Class – Intro to Instructor and Classmates, Overview of Course | | |
| 2 | 2/4 | The Scientific Method – Asking and answering scientific questions, review of mindfulness, intro to class project | 1. Read Full Catastrophe Living 2. Baseline Measures 3. Hypotheses | 1. Begin Log 2. Homework #1: Hypotheses |
| 3 | 2/11 | Academic Writing and Literature Reviews – What research articles are, how to read them, how to do a literature review | 1. Begin literature review 2. Read and summarize two articles for class project | 1. Continue Log 2. Homework #2: Finish Lit Review for class project |
| 4 | 2/18 | Research Methods & Study Design – How to conduct research, different types of study designs | Design and present a project in groups | 1. Continue Log 2. Homework #3: Write hypotheses for class project |
| 5 | 2/25 | APA writing and Introduction Section – Intro to APA Style writing; Overview of how to write an introduction section | 1. Present class project hypotheses 2. Introduction outline | 1. Continue Log 2. Homework #4: Class project introduction |
| 6 | 3/3 | Methods Section – Overview of how to write a methods section | 1. Course feedback 2. Introduction peer review 3. Methods outline | 1. Finalize Logs 2. Homework #5: Class project methods section 3. Peer review #1 (intro) |
| 7 | 3/10 | Post-Test Measures and Review of Introduction Section | 1. Post-test measures 2. Discuss introduction peer review 3. Methods peer review | 1. Peer review #2 (method) |
| | 3/17 | No Class – Spring Break! | | |
| 8 | 3/24 | Data Analysis – SPSS data analysis | 1. Discuss methods peer review 2. Class project data analysis in SPSS | 1. Homework #6: Outline results |
| 9 | 3/31 | Results Section – Overview of how to write a results section | 1. Results outline | Homework #7: Class project results section |

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| 10 | 4/7 | Discussion Section, References, and Appendix – Overview of how to write a discussion section, references, and appendix | 1. Class project title page and appendix | Homework #8: Class project discussion section |
| 11 | 4/14 | Overview of Discussion Section, Abstract, and Informal in-class peer review | 1. In-class peer review of discussion 2. Abstract | Work on Final Paper – Due on 4/22 at 11:55pm on Sakai |
| 12 | 4/21 | Extra help – In-class extra help on final paper <i>(Optional) Class Choice – Topic(s) of class' choosing, graduate school and careers in psychology</i> | Work on Final Paper | Work on Final Paper – Due on 4/22 at 11:55pm on Sakai |