

Learning Processes Lab – 01:830:312:04

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

Spring 2021

Meeting Days, Times, and Venues

-Synchronous class meetings will be via zoom- info on canvas 'zoom' tab on **Thursdays, 3:20pm -6:20pm** (Eastern time zone)

-All course materials will be available on canvas

Instructor's Name

Elena Rotondo

Contact information: elena.rotondo@rutgers.edu – I will always try to respond quickly as possible

Office hours: day, time and location: all office hours are on zoom by appointment, email me to find a suitable time

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

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 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/>

Attendance Policy and Late/Missed Work

Absence Reporting: Students are expected to attend all lab class meetings synchronously; 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 your TA.

In order to maximize your learning potential in a lab course, your “virtual” attendance each and every week is critical. Every class meeting builds up to the lab reports you will be writing throughout the semester, which will report on data that YOU collect in class. Data collection will be done within small groups that consist of your lab team/group members.

Participation Policy: Since your lab group works together to collect and organize the data for each experiment, participation matters and will play a role in determining your final lab report grade.

You can earn up to 85 percentage points for each lab report based on your writing alone. The remaining 15 percentage points will be awarded based on participation evaluation by your lab group teammates.

On data collection days, each lab group member will evaluate your effort working in the team on a scale of 0 to 5 (0 being no effort, 5 being ideal effort) in 3 categories: (1) Did you attend for the entire data collection period? (2) Did you communicate with the group for the entire data collection session?, and (3) Did you satisfactorily complete your assigned role in data collection? Teammate ratings will be considered when allotting the remaining 15 percentage points to the lab report.

Policy on missed labs: You must complete all work for the labs (data scoring) to earn full points for the lab reports. If you are absent on a data collection day, please contact me to make arrangements to make up the work. Failure to make up the work within 2 weeks will result in 50% reduction in lab report score.

Policy on late assignments: There will be a 10% point reduction for each day an assignment is late.

Policy for chronic absences: After 2 unexcused absences, I will contact the Dean of Students. If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from attending class, please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

Course Structure and Requirements

Assignment Point Values:

Lab Report 1 (Experiment 1) Intro, Methods, Citations only –15 points
Lab Report 2 (Experiment 2) Results, Discussion, Citations only –15 points
Lab Report 3 (Experiment 3) Full lab report –30 points
Presentation –10
Reading Quizzes (Take Home)–15 (5 points each)
Peer Review – 15

Explanation of Assignments:

-Lab Reports- You will submit 3 APA-style scientific lab reports (one per experiments 1,2, and 3) based on behavioral data observed in class.

-Reading Quizzes (Take Home)- You will answer short questions for each background reading to identify important factors such as the experimental hypothesis, the experimental variables, the results, and conclusion. Readings may be found on canvas.

-In-Class Presentation- You will pick a unique, class-relevant topic (to be approved by me) and give a short, informative presentation to the class.

-Peer review- You will submit a draft of your final lab report to be reviewed by a classmate, and conduct a peer review for a classmate. To earn full points, you must both submit a draft and complete your review on time.

Grading Rubric Rutgers Letter Grade Scheme will be as follows:

| | |
|----|-------------------|
| A | 100 % to 89.5% |
| B+ | < 89.5 % to 84.5% |
| B | < 84.5% to 79.5% |
| C+ | < 79.5 % to 74.5% |
| C | < 74.5 % to 69.5% |
| D | < 69.5 % to 59.5% |
| F | < 59.5 % to 0% |

Schedule *Note that class meetings will not start until the 2nd week of Rutgers NB scheduled classes

| Date | In Class | Assignments DUE Prior to Class Time |
|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1/21 wk 1 | **NO CLASS** | -- |
| 1/28 wk 2 | (1) Class intro, (2) Animal use in research | -- |
| 2/4 wk 3 | (1) Intro to writing (2) Measuring baseline behaviors- Exp. 0: Elevated Plus Maze | -- |
| 2/11 wk 4 | (1) Review Exp 0 Data; (2) Habituation intro & "behind the scenes", (3) review Exp 1 readings; (4) Exp. 1: Open Field | Reading Quiz 1 (based on Exp 1) |
| 2/18 wk 5 | (1) Review Exp 1 (OF) Data; (2) Writing review (Intro, Methods) | -- |

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|------|-------|--|---|
| 2/25 | wk 6 | (1) Intro to Exp 2 (CPP), context-reward learning & behind the scenes (2) Exp. 2- Conditioned Place Preference, part 1 | Lab Report 1 (based on Exp 1)- intro, methods, citations ONLY |
| 3/4 | wk 7 | (1) CPP Reading review (2) Exp. 2- Conditioned Place Preference, part 2 | Reading Quiz 2 (based on Exp 2) |
| 3/11 | wk 8 | (1) CPP Data Review (2) Lab Report 2 Writing Review (results, discussion) | Topic Approval for Presentations |
| 3/18 | wk 9 | **NO CLASS** (Spring Break) | |
| 3/25 | wk 10 | (1) Student presentation day (2) Lab Report 2 Questions | Presentation slides |
| 4/1 | wk 11 | (1) Intro to Operant Conditioning (2) Exp 3, part 1: Operant | Lab Report 2 (based on Exp 2)- results, discussion, citations ONLY |
| 4/8 | wk 12 | (1) Intro to Extinction, reading review (3) Exp 3, part 2: Operant | Reading Quiz 3 (based on Exp 3) |
| 4/15 | wk 13 | (1) Exp 3 (Operant) Data Review, (2) Writing review for Lab Report 3 (intro, methods, results, discussion) | |
| 4/22 | wk 14 | Extinction of Operant Behavior and Relevance to CPP | |
| 4/29 | wk 15 | 1) Writing workshop- in class peer review | Lab report draft 3 (due 4/29); peer review due following day (5/30) |

****LAB REPORT 3- FINAL, DUE ON MAY 3rd, 11:59pm****

Student-Wellness Services: All of these services are being provided remotely during Spring 2021.

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/

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>.

