

# **Abnormal Psychology Lab**

**830:341:02**

**Spring 2023**

**Monday 12:10-3:10PM**

**Psychology Building, Busch Campus, Rm 101**

**Faculty Supervisor:** Edward Selby, Ph.D.

**Instructor:** Lauren Davis, B.S.

**Office Hours:** By Appointment, via Zoom

**Contact Information:** [lauren.e.davis@rutgers.edu](mailto:lauren.e.davis@rutgers.edu)

**Textbooks:** Any required reading for this class will be distributed during class or posted on Canvas. However, it is recommended that you purchase the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association: 6th 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. First, we will learn the basic steps involved in conducting a study in clinical psychology (e.g., ethical considerations, formulating hypotheses, choosing measures, collecting and analyzing data). Then we will work on how to disseminate findings regarding clinical psychology. 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 in APA format is due at the end of the term.

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 Assignments**

Because this course is challenging and we cover a lot of material in every class, ***you are expected to attend every class. In the event that you have an excused absence, you are expected to meet with the instructor to review materials.*** Inconsistent attendance will result in a lowered grade. In addition, ***you must arrive on time to lectures.*** If you are more than 15 minutes late, you may not be allowed to participate in that lab, and will receive a 0 for the assigned homework. Missed assignments that are not excused will be given a "0." You CANNOT make up any of the take-home assignments. If you have an excused absence for an in-class exercise, with dean's note or other comparable notification, you may either a) pro-rate your final grade, or b) do a make-up assignment that will usually consist of a 1–2-page reaction paper to an article in the field of psychology. ***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.*** Late and excused assignments will be docked one deserved point for

up to 3 days. **Assignments more than 3 days late will not be accepted.** If you miss two classes, you will be placed on probation. Please type all assignments in 12-point Times New Roman font and use double spacing.

### **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:

- 1) Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision (WCR)
- 2) Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry (WCD)
- 3) Evaluate & critically assess sources & use the conventions of attribution & citation correctly
- 4) 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 Canvas. There you will find copies of all slides and handouts, study guides, and special notices. **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 Canvas so that you are aware of these changes. It is also vital that you check your email and look at the announcements on the Canvas site for additional important updates and tips.

**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 they have 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 copies so that we can check for plagiarism by matching content to information on the web (the Rutgers assignment submission portal on Canvas 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>

### **Turning in Assignments:**

- All assignments, drafts, and final papers will be turned in on Canvas. 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 Canvas 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 noon, 12pm, the day of the class period, unless otherwise noted.

- 8 Homework Assignments: 15 points each (120 points total)
  - Class Participation and Attendance: 35 points
  - Daily Logs: 15 points total
  - Peer Reviews: 15 points each (30 points total)
  - Final Paper: 60 points
- TOTAL: 260 points**

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 how a mindfulness-based intervention affects positive mood, negative mood, emotion regulation, and grit. 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 2023 Schedule (M 12:10-3:10pm)

Day 1 (M 1/23): Introduction to Class

**Due: Nothing**

1. Course introduction – Intro to Instructor and Classmates; Overview of Course

**Homework: Read “Writing a Scientific Paper”; write reflection**

Day 2 (M 1/30): The Scientific Method

**Due: “Writing a Scientific Paper” Reflection**

1. Asking and answering scientific questions, creating hypotheses
2. Discussion of mindfulness and class project
3. In Class Activity #1 Reading Full Catastrophe Living

**Homework: Measures (if not finished in class); Begin Log**

Day 3 (T 2/6): Academic Writing and Literature Reviews

**Due: Baseline Measures**

1. What research articles are, how to read them, how to do a literature review

**Homework: Assignment #1 (Lit Review for class project); Continue Log**

Day 4 (T 2/13): Research Methods & Study Design

**Due: Assignment #1 (Literature Review)**

1. How to conduct research, different types of study designs
2. Design and present a project in groups

**Homework: Assignment #2 (Class Project Hypotheses); Continue Log**

**Finalize Logs**

Day 5 (T 2/20): APA Style Writing & Introduction Section

**Due: Assignment #2 (Class Project Hypotheses)**

**Finalize Logs**

1. Present Class Project Hypotheses
2. Introduction to APA Style Writing
3. Overview of Introduction Section

**Homework: Assignment #3 (Introduction Section)**

**Post-intervention measures**

Day 6 (T 2/27): APA Style Method Section

**Due: Assignment #3 (Introduction Section) (due by noon/12pm on Canvas and to your partner)**

**Finalized logs**

**Post-intervention measures**

1. Overview of APA Style Method Section

**Homework: Assignment #4 (Method Section)**

**Peer Review #1 (Feedback on Introduction)**

Day 7 (T 3/6): SPSS & Data Processing & Analysis

**Due: Assignment #4 (Method Section)**

**Peer Review #1 (Introduction)**

1. Discuss introduction peer review
2. Introduction to SPSS & Data Processing/Analysis

**Homework: Assignment #5 (Outline results)**

**Peer Review #2 (Feedback on Method)**

**3/13 NO CLASS – SPRING RECESS**

Day 8 (T 3/20): APA Style Results Section

***Due:* Assignment #5 (Outline results)**

**Peer Review #2 (Method)**

1. Discuss method peer review
2. Overview of APA Style Results Section Writing

**Homework: Assignment #6 (Results Section)**

Day 9 (T 3/27): APA Style Discussion Section

***Due:* Assignment #6 (Results Section)**

1. Overview of APA Style Discussion Section Writing

**Homework: Assignment #7 (Discussion Section)**

Day 10 (T 4/3) Overview of Discussion Section, Abstract, and Informal in-class peer review

***Due:* Assignment #7 (Discussion Section)**

1. In-class peer review of discussion section
2. Review of APA Style Discussion Section
3. How to write an abstract

**Homework: Assignment #8 (Abstract)**

Day 11 (T 4/10) Optional Extra Help Session, by appointment

***Due:* Assignment #8 (Abstract)**

**Homework: FINAL PAPER!**

**FINAL PAPER DUE AT 11:59 PM ON 4/24 (feel free to turn in early)**