

**Advanced Topics in Clinical and Abnormal Psychology:
Scientific, Cultural, and Personal Understandings of Stress, Coping, and Adaptation**
(01:830:451:02) (Index: 18484)

Spring 2017

Wednesdays, Periods 2 and 3 (10:20 to 1:20)

Open to juniors and seniors; Prerequisites: 830:101 and Psychology Major

Tillett Hall, Room 258

Instructor: Richard J. Contrada, Ph.D. contrada@rci.rutgers.edu Office Hours: By Appointment

TA: Caitlin Bronson c.bronson@rutgers.edu Office Hours: By Appointment

Textbook:

Harrington, R. (2013). *Stress, health & well-being: Thriving in the 21st century*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

There are several purchasing options, e.g., eBook, online rental, paperback. The online resources that are bundled with the book are recommended but not required:

[Click here to purchase full eBook with all of the online resources for \\$75 from the publisher.](#) (Recommended)

[Other options from the publisher](#)

[Options at Amazon.com](#)

Other: Additional readings and other course material will be provided online through *Sakai*.

To see and download this syllabus: Sign in to the class website on *Sakai*.

Main Sakai portal <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>

Sakai will contain course materials including this syllabus, readings, assignments and their due dates, sample exam questions, practice quizzes, and exam review/preparation guides. Students are responsible for all information and materials on the course *Sakai* web pages. In addition, because information/materials are subject to change, ***students should check Sakai at least twice a week*** for changes and announcements and in response to email notifications about such changes. ***You must check your Rutgers email account for course-relevant messages, also about twice a week.***

Materials will be made available in Sakai under “***Resources***” unless otherwise indicated.

Lecture Outlines: These are made available in Sakai Resources. Although not always possible, they are usually posted the evening before each class. They outline much (***not all***) of the material presented in class on PowerPoint slides. It is strongly recommended that you download/print these outlines, bring them to class, and take notes using the comments feature (“Sticky Notes”) in Adobe Reader program. Or they can be copied into MS Word where you can take notes. Or they can be printed and notes taken by hand.

Videos: Excerpts from several videos will be shown in class and then made available on Sakai or online elsewhere.

In-Class Assignments: These will be ***unannounced***. They are a way to earn ***extra-credit***.

Out-of-Class Assignments: These will be ***announced***, made available, and submitted through Sakai. They are ***graded***.

Learning Goals: It is my purpose in teaching this class to foster your familiarity and understanding of:

1. The history, basic assumptions, main topic areas, concepts, and methods of stress science
2. The relationships between stress science and other areas of psychology
3. The contributions of disciplines other than psychology to understanding stress
4. The relationship between laboratory and non-laboratory research on stress
5. Social, cultural, economic, and political ramifications of psychological stress
6. Shared/cultural understandings of stress outside of science, e.g., in film, popular culture, and mass media
7. The way individuals, including yourself, think about stress, coping, and adaptation
8. How to think critically about scientific, cultural, and personal understandings of stress, coping, and adaptation
9. How to reduce stress and cope effectively with stress and its negative consequences
10. How to help manage stress experienced by your friends and family members

Class Schedule/Outline of Topics

First Class: Wednesday, January 18
Spring Break: No Class Wednesday March 15 (Spring Break)
Last Class: Wednesday, April 26
Final Exam: Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 9 from 4 to 7pm in Tillett Room 258

Main Topics, and Readings:

Introduction to the Course and to Stress Science

Harrington (2013): Chapter 1. Stress and Health

Biological Approaches: History and Overview

Harrington (2013): Chapter 3. Stress and the Nervous System

Psychological Stress Theory

Lazarus (1993): From psychological stress to the emotions: A history of changing Outlooks (Sakai)

Environmental Approaches

Harrington (2013): Chapter 8. Interpersonal Stress (pp. 243-257; 261-267)

Harrington (2013): Chapter 9. Job Stress

Coping

Harrington (2013): Chapter 10. Cognitive and Behavioral Approaches

Coping Resources I: Personality

Harrington (2013): Chapter 6: Personality and Stress

Coping Resources II: Social Relationships

Harrington (2013): Chapter 8. Interpersonal Stress (pp. 257-261)

Neurobiology of Stress and Emotion

Harrington (2013): Chapter 3. Stress and the Nervous System

Cardiovascular System and Cardiovascular Disease

Harrington (2013): Chapter 5. The Impact of Stress on Health Conditions

The Immune System, Infectious Disease, Cancer, and HIV/AIDS

Harrington (2013): Chapter 4. Stress, Illness, and the Immune System

Mental Health

Harrington (2013): Chapter 7. Anxiety, Anger, and Depression

Appetitive Behaviors

Harrington (2013): Chapter 12. Nutrition

Stress Management

Harrington (2013): Chapters 13-15. Self-Regulation, Relaxation, Meditation

How to submit your assignments via Sakai:

1. Use MS Word or another word processor to complete the assignment
2. Save a copy for your notes—assignments contain material for which you are responsible
3. Log in to Sakai (<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/>)
4. Click on the Course tab: “ADV TPCS/CLIN&ABNOR 02 Sp17” or “01:830:451:02 S17”
5. Click on "Assignments" tab on the left
6. Click on the assignment you wish to submit (e.g., Assignment 1)
7. Scroll down to the text box
8. Copy and paste your assignment into the text box
9. Make sure it can easily be read and that there are no problems with special characters, formatting, or font
10. Click "Submit"
11. Be sure you see a screen that says that your assignment was submitted.

Exam Details

- About 3 Exams
- Not cumulative
- From 50 to 75 multiple-choice and true-false questions
- Based on all course material: lectures, readings, assignments, videos

Exam preparation

Study guides and practice quizzes will be provided for each of the exams

Determination of Final Grades:

Exam grades are combined (weighted in proportion to the number of questions) and together count for about 80% of the final course grade

Assignment grades are combined and together count for about 20% of the final course grade

Student-Teacher Agreement

This Syllabus defines a set of expectations that you acknowledge and with which you indicate understanding and agreement as a student in this course. Please read the entire syllabus carefully and let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

1. Please contact the ***TA and Instructor*** with questions about ***course material***. The ***TA*** should be contacted for all matters relating to ***course mechanics*** such as registration, assignments, exams, grade issues, and the like.
2. This class necessarily involves material having to do with anatomy, sickness, disability, death, and personal behaviors such as sex and drug/alcohol use that are related to stress.
3. Please do not talk during class; it is disruptive in a lecture room this size. Also, please mute cell phones and do not take calls/speak during class. If you must arrive late or leave early, please sit in/exit from the back.
4. Students are expected to attend all classes. If you must miss a class, get notes, and find out if you missed any announcements about changes in exam dates, lecture topics, etc. 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.

5. If you have trouble downloading materials from Sakai, please email sakai@rutgers.edu and/or get help at one of the University computer labs because it is unlikely that I will be able to help since the issues are usually local to your PC/browser/printer. Sometimes the problem is solved by: (a) making sure you respond to a question about copyright issues in a window that may be open but hidden somewhere on your screen; (b) saving the file before opening; (c) upgrading to the latest version of relevant software (e.g., Adobe Reader).
6. Exam format is multiple choice/true-false and requires scantron sheets; students must provide a #2 pencil.
7. You must bring a picture ID (student ID or driver's license) to the exams.
8. It is expected that you will be in attendance for all exams as scheduled (or rescheduled, as may be necessary and if so will be announced in class and on Sakai) and not make plans or commitments that will create schedule conflicts. Students who miss an exam because they are physically unable to take it as scheduled must inform me in advance of the exam or as soon as possible afterward and may request a make-up. If granted, the make-up may include short essays and other open-ended questions. There must be documentation of severe illness or other emergency, such as a letter from a physician that includes a phone number so that the physician can be contacted for verification. The letter must be received by the instructor within one week of the missed exam. Unexcused absences will result in a penalty of about 15% of the exam grade. Make-up exams are always scheduled after the regular exams and at the convenience of the TA.
9. ***In-Class Assignments*** that are missed ***cannot be made up under any circumstances***. For Out-of-Class Assignments, there will be a 1-point deduction in credit for assignments that are submitted up to 1 week late without a documented excuse as outlined above for exams. Credit for assignments submitted more than 1 week late, if any, will be worked out on a case-by-case basis.
10. Assignments must be completed based on the student's own, independent work. Plagiarism is unacceptable. ***Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy***: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>. For additional information and resources regarding plagiarism see the information and links at the end of this syllabus.
11. Because the instructor for this course may not be on campus after the end of the semester, all students must complete all assigned exercises and take all exams prior to the end of the semester.
12. All grades will be posted electronically. Students are responsible for contacting the TA in a timely fashion if they believe they have not received credit for submitted assignments or exams they have taken.
13. It is expected that students will complete course evaluations for this class. Course evaluations, both the ratings and especially the comments, provide critical feedback for improving courses and for helping students to make decisions about course selection. Over the past many years, student evaluations have led to many improvements. Please help your fellow/future students by providing evaluative ratings and comments when the time comes at the end of the semester.
14. All grades are final and non-negotiable. Exam grades may or may not be curved depending on overall class performance. ***In-class assignments are the only means of earning extra credit***. Note that many of the assignments, both In-Class and Outside-Class, are simple and only require following straightforward directions; several do not even have right or wrong answers, and just require thoughtfulness and effort in expressing your beliefs/opinions. And a lot of information will be provided to guide efforts to prepare for

the exams, including practice quizzes, specifics about what will and will not be covered, and study guides. Some may feel they “just missed” the next highest final course grade, for example, because they were sick or under a lot of stress during exam periods. But remember, you will have come that close to the next highest grade only after the curve and fairly easy assignments. If I were to lower the cutoff to raise the letter grade for a student who “just misses” the next highest grade, there would be another student who scored slightly lower who now would “just miss” the new cutoff, and the logical conclusion would be to keep lowering the cutoff until everyone receives an “A”. Such grades would be meaningless.

15. There are no individualized extra credit opportunities. I cannot negotiate extra credit opportunities for individual students because it would not be fair to the others. And I cannot work separately with each student until all students are satisfied with their grades. Please do not contact me to request further extra credit opportunities or just to let me know you were not satisfied with your grade. I do not under any circumstances offer individualized “extra credit” opportunities because I believe a grading system is only fair if it is based on the same exams/assignments for all students.
16. The lectures and course web page are my personal intellectual property. I view the sale or purchase of these materials as a violation of copyright laws.

Student-Wellness Services

Just In Case Web App: <http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS): www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

(848) 932-7884/17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/

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

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA): www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

(848) 932-1181/3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 /

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.

Students with Disabilities

Disability Services: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

(848) 445-6800/LSH, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854

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>.

Scarlet Listeners: (732) 247-5555/ <https://rutgers.collegiatelink.net/organization/scarletlisteners/about>
Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

Cheating and Plagiarism

(Adapted from the spring 2010 syllabus for Prof. Andy Egan's 01:730: 252 Eating Right:
The Ethics of Food Choices and Food Policies)

Longer version: Cheating or plagiarizing deprives you of the educational benefits of preparing these materials appropriately. It is personally dishonest to cheat on a test or to hand in a paper based on the unacknowledged words or ideas of someone else. It is also unfair, since it gives you an undeserved advantage over fellow students who are graded on their own work. In this class we will take cheating very seriously. Suspected cases of cheating/plagiarism may be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs. I advise you to familiarize yourself with University policy on Academic Integrity: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>

Since what counts as plagiarism is not always clear, I quote the definition given in Rutgers' policy: "Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of another person's words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit." To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course. Some common examples of plagiarism are:

- Copying word for word from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution
- Paraphrasing without proper attribution
- Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement
- Incorporating into one's work graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other non-textual material from other sources without proper attribution.

A SPECIAL NOTE: Students often assume that because information is available on the Web it is public information, does not need to be formally referenced, and can be used without attribution. This is a mistake. *All* information and ideas that you derive from other sources, whether written, spoken, or electronic, must be attributed to their original source. Such sources include not just written or electronic materials, but people with whom you may discuss your ideas, such as your roommate, friends, or family members. They deserve credit for their contributions too!

Judgments about plagiarism can be subtle. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask for guidance from your TA.

Useful Links

Online schedule of classes: <http://sis.rutgers.edu/soc/>

Building search: <http://rumaps.rutgers.edu/>

Plagiarism/Documenting your work:

General academic integrity Link: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

Academic integrity resources for students: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students>

The Camden plagiarism tutorial (INTERACTIVE):

<http://library.camden.rutgers.edu/EducationalModules/Plagiarism/>

Consult don't plagiarize: Document your research! For tips about how to take notes so that you don't plagiarize by accident. http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/avoid_plagiarism

Online learning tools from Rutgers University Libraries including Rutgers RIOT, Searchpath and RefWorks:

<http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/tutorials>

Academic support programs: <http://newbrunswick.rutgers.edu/academics/academic-support>

Final Exams:

Policies: <http://www.sas.rutgers.edu/cms/sasoue/policies-resources/policies/15-policies-resources/policies/65-final-exams>

Schedule: <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>

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