

**PSYC 165 Drugs, Behavior, and Society**

**Spring 2019 Lab Section Syllabus**

**TA:**  Vita Droutman

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**Office:** SGM 808

**Office hours:** by appointment

**Learning Objectives**

* Classify the types of scientific datasets or studies, and what inferences can be drawn from each (correlational, causal, etc.)
* Interpret science news articles and evaluate merit of claims
* Appraise arguments/claims made in scientific research through an understanding of statistics and experimental design
* Share your own opinions on issues related to drugs, behavior, and society

**Class Expectations**

I expect every student to be proactive in creating a classroom atmosphere where each person feels they are able to share their thoughts. This means considering multiple perspectives, discussing others’ statements and ideas without personal attacks, and being open to constructive feedback. If there is ever anything I can do to make the class more accessible for you, please let me know.

**Components of Your Grade**

**Attendance and participation:** As explained in Prof. Monterosso’s lecture syllabus, lab section attendance and participation are, together, worth ***25% of your total class grade***. There will be 11 lab section meetings. This means that each day we meet is worth about 2% of your final class grade. You can earn full credit by arriving on time, participating in discussion, completing all assigned activities, and remaining engaged during class time while avoiding distractions such as cell phones.

**Lateness:** Please be on time to class. Often we will start presentations right away, and walking in during the middle of another student’s presentation can be a huge distraction. Anyone arriving to class late (after your name was called for attendance) more than twice will lose half a day’s attendance and participation points. If you know of a scheduling conflict that will cause you to be late, please contact me to make arrangements.

**Absences:** There are two kinds of absences: excused and unexcused.

**Unexcused absences:** Receive a 0 for the day.

**Excused absences: Must always be made up** **to receive credit** for the day. Simply being excused does not give you credit. Excused absences include athletic events or other planned absences, as well as illness or other emergency.

**Process for making up credit for excused absences:**

If you have an athletic event or other planned absence, you must let me know the first week of lab section.If you must miss class due to illness or other unexpected emergency, please e-mail me **before class** time and I will excuse you.

There are two ways to make up credit:

1. (Preferred) Arrange to attend another section. First, e-mail me for permission. Once I’ve granted permission, then e-mail the TA whose class you’d like to attend, letting them know you’ll be attending, and CC me on the e-mail. (You can find TAs’ e-mail addresses on Prof. Monterosso’s syllabus). Third, introduce yourself to the TA when you arrive to their session (so they know you are there). Last, immediately after attending, e-mail both the other TA and me, asking the other TA to confirm your attendance.
2. If it is impossible for you to attend another section, e-mail me for a writing assignment. This assignment will be due within two weeks of the missed section.

**Individual presentation:** Your individual presentation is worth ***5% of your total grade.***Your slides/presentation visual aids are due via email to me **exactly 24 hours** **before your presentation**. Late slides will result in an automatic 5% deduction. You will get a good grade on your presentation if you: 1) Show up, 2) Demonstrate that you have practiced your presentation thoroughly, 3) Use several quality sources (see me with any questions), and 4) Have a central argument, which you should decide on after reviewing your research. Presentations should be **5-7 minutes long.**

**Final paper:** Your final paper is worth ***10% of your total grade.*** Please see the main lecture syllabus for details. Your grade will be determined as follows:

*Argument*: After gathering and thinking about information relevant to your topic, choose a central argument you would like to defend. Every paragraph should relate to the central point in some way.

*Organization*: A well-organized paper includes an introduction, several body paragraphs and conclusion. It also uses transitions between thoughts that are easy to follow. I highly recommend everyone make use of the writing center or other campus resources before turning in your paper.

*Sources*: You will be expected to use *quality* sources of information (materials from class are fine), and cite them appropriately, using the citation style of your choice. See me if you are not confident about how to cite sources in scientific papers.