

COURSE SYLLABUS

Meeting time: **Tues. & Thurs. 2:30-4:20 P.M. in [SAV 164](#) or
Woodland Park Zoo CWC Building (on West Side of Zoo)
*Additional time outside of class required***

Instructor: Dr. Renee Robinette Ha
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Course Website: <http://faculty.washington.edu/robinet/rlr419.html>

Extra help/office hours: Dr. Ha's office hours are **by appointment in Guthrie 330**. If you feel that you need extra help, please let me know so that I can help you. You can contact me before or after class or by e-mail.

Supplies for class:

Readings (provided).

Supplies (Required) Poster print-out (approximately \$25-\$35) if you print on campus (much more at Kinko's).

Class Description: You will learn to design and conduct a research study on a zoo species. Each research study is based on at least 30 hours of observational data outside of class time. We will discuss appropriate data collection methods, research design and technology for behavioral studies and there will be readings, guest lectures and assignments related to these topics. Additionally, the history of zoos, the role of zoos in conservation, and housing and enrichment for zoo animal species will be presented through readings, lecture, tours and guest speakers. In addition to Woodland Park Zoological Gardens, you can also do a research project at the Seattle Aquarium, and the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. Discuss these options with the instructor.

Course goals: Psychology 419 is a course in the behavioral studies of zoo animals, research design and scientific writing. The goals of this course are:

1. To give you the opportunity to apply your knowledge of experimental design and behavior. By letting you actually use what you know in designing, conducting, and reporting on a fairly major project, we hope that you will
 - (a) gain an appreciation for what you have learned about animal behavior,
 - (b) get experience with, and gain an understanding of what it takes to carry through on a research project from beginning to end, and
 - (c) get a better understanding of data interpretation and summarization.

2. To give you a basic understanding of the role of zoological parks and aquariums in conservation and research, the history of zoos, and housing and enrichment for zoo animal species.
3. To give you practice writing. You will be asked to write a scientific proposal and a poster presentation, and you will have writing homework assignments. You will interpret your data in relation to your hypothesis and summarize it so others can understand it. Being able to make others understand your ideas is one of the most important goals in science, and in almost every job.

Recommended preparation: It is highly recommended that you have taken a course in Comparative Animal Behavior or Behavioral Ecology. It is important to understand and be familiar with current theories in animal behavior and behavioral ecology in order to write a research proposal and final poster presentation for the class.

Course format: Psychology 419 is scheduled as a two day per week course. For the first few weeks of the quarter, there will be lectures or other planned activities. For the rest of the quarter, there will often be lectures or planned activities, but some of your time will be spent working on your project, doing outside research, or meeting with the instructor regarding your proposal, results or poster presentation.

Responsibilities: A copy of your poster presentation will be placed in an electronic archive at the zoo for the staff of Woodland Park or other zoos to use. Therefore, final projects must be written in scientific format and your work should be of the highest quality. In addition, you are expected to act in a mature and pleasant manner with zoo personnel and zoo visitors. Many visitors will perceive you as zoo staff and will be offended if you ask them to “get out of the way” so you can view the animals. Please do not jeopardize the working relationship between the University and the Zoological Gardens by upsetting paying customers and please respect the zoo keepers by limiting your requests for information. We can often find the information that you seek in past student papers (which your instructor has on file). Ask your instructor before you ask the keeper. **You will be responsible for participation in class, homework assignments, one short answer/essay exam, a project proposal and a written “poster” presentation of your study, as well as two formal rough drafts.**

Note on writing:

1. There will be a lot of writing in this class. Your assignments will be handed back with comments. Do not be shocked if there is a lot of red ink on them, I tend to write comments on good as well as not-so-good papers.
2. There are a couple of resources you can use to help with the assignments
 - a. Make an appointment with me to discuss your assignment.
 - b. The Psychology Writing Center is a wonderful resource for improving your writing. The writing center will help you with organizing and clearly explaining your ideas. For some of the bigger assignments, you may wish to visit the writing center twice before turning in your assignment. To make an appointment with the writing center you can go to their website at <http://web.psych.washington.edu/writingcenter/>

Assignments:

1. All work should be a Xerox copy or a computer printout. This ensures that you have a replacement copy if either you or I misplace the assignment.
2. All work should be **typed or word-processed and double-spaced**, and the type should be clear and

easy to read. An exception to the double-spacing rule is the poster presentation.

3. Assignments are due on the dates indicated on the homework portion of the syllabus. **Assignments are to be handed in during class time unless otherwise indicated.**
4. **Late assignments:** Because so many assignments build on previous assignments, it is very important that everything is handed in on time. Late assignments will have 10% of their points taken away for each day they are late.

Grading Scale: Your final grade will be calculated from the total points on assignments, an exam, your proposal, and your poster (see information on specific assignments and student responsibilities provided in the syllabus). Your grade will be calculated as follows:

- 1) $\text{Score} = (\text{Points} / 400) * 100$
- 2) $\text{Decimal score} = (\text{Score} - 55) / 10$ (a score of less than 62 receives a 0.0)

For example, a course-end total of 345 points would produce a score of:

$$(345 / 400) * 100 = 86.25$$

Therefore, your decimal score, reported to the registrar, would be:

$$(86.25 - 55) / 10 = 3.125 \text{ or } 3.1.$$

You can calculate your grade point average on a per-assignment basis by dividing your score by the possible number of points in step one. The other steps are identical to calculating your final grade.

Extra credit: There are no extra credit opportunities in this class.

Plagiarism: I hate to mention this but there have been problems in the past. If your assignment, or a part of your assignment is identical (or very similar) to another student's, it will appear that you are guilty of plagiarism. "Very similar" means that the papers are alike, but a few words are changed, or the sentences are alike, but in a different order, etc. This applies not only to papers in this class this quarter, but also to papers from previous quarters AND to the writing of others that you may find in books, articles, the web, etc.

Disabled Students: To request academic accommodations due to a disability, contact Disability Resources for Students (<http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/>; 206-543-8924 (Voice & Relay). If you have a letter from DRS indicating that you have a disability that requires accommodation, please present the letter to your instructors promptly, or make sure that DRS forwards that information directly so that I can help you with accommodations.

Assignment Sheet

I will attempt to stick with the following schedule for class assignments but due to the nature of this type of lab course changes may be made to the due dates of class assignments and their point values. If any changes are made, you will be informed **BEFORE** they are due. Below, **BOLD** indicates the assignment is not listed in chronological order.

Assignment	Percentage	Points	Date
Assignment #1 (ad libitum sampling)	2.50%	10	Thur 4/06/17
Draft Project Proposal	5.00%	20	Thur 4/13/17
Project proposal	25.00%	100	Tues 4/18/17
Assignment #2 (pilot study data)	7.50%	30	Thurs 5/04/17
Exam	25.00%	100	Tues 5/09/17
Draft Poster	5.00%	20	Thurs 5/25/17
Poster Presentation	25.00%	100	Thurs 6/01/17
Participation	5.00%	20	On-going
100.0%		400 points	