

## CORS 236: Assignments for Honors students, Spring 2023

There are two assignments for the semester, with due dates in the Syllabus and below. Each is worth 15 points. Each requires you to develop a quiz (similar to the online quizzes). The intent is to build your quiz around an article of your choice and develop questions that require applying the course material (as do our existing online quizzes). Details include:

- 1) Your quiz will be based on an article that you choose. You must provide/upload that article as a pdf. You may not reuse any articles that have been used in our online quizzes or lecture.
- 2) The possible topics for each quiz are listed below. They overlap with the material presented in class up to the assignment deadline (and topics allowable for assignment 2 do not include the topics allowable for assignment 1).
- 3) The quiz questions should emphasize how the scientific method or its elements were crucial to making an advance or developing a new understanding that is describe in the article. That is, the overall quiz should not ask for a mere regurgitation of the material (such as just asking 'what are the models in this article?' etc.) This will be the most challenging part of the assignment, and the ease of fulfilling this request will depend a lot on the article. The article should thus be chosen accordingly.  
For example, recall the Rat Park article on which quiz 3 was based. That was a case in which the rat's social environment was suggested to be critical to the rat's interest in 'hard' drugs. The background for that study was that most drug work had been done on rats housed in isolation, but the person about whom the article was written had housed rats in social groups and obtained a different outcome than found in other studies. The article was arguing that all prior work was suspect because housing rats in isolation was unnatural. That story was used to illustrate the essential role of models in drawing conclusions: the two models were housing rats in isolation versus in groups, with strikingly different outcomes. The article did not use the word 'model.' Rather, our understanding of models was something that could be applied to the study to get you to realize the fundamental effect possible from choice of a good or poor model. Likewise, you should try to find an article in which some aspect of our course material proves central to the conclusion being drawn, even though the article may not use our language.
- 4) You should create 3-5 questions based on the article, provide 3-4 answer options for each. Then explain why you propose one of them for the answer.
- 5) The point breakdown will be 7 points for the article, 8 for the questions and answer options.
- 6) You should use the existing quizzes for a general sense of how to do this. The first deadline is somewhat late relative to the calendar of those topics in class; this delay in due date is to allow you more exposure to the quizzes given in class.

Assignment 1 (due 1 April) Topics: scientific method in general, models, data (and errors in data).

Assignment 2 (due 28 April) Topics: correlations, causation, third variables, controls, experiments