

# SELF-REGULATION STRATEGIES & BELIEFS OF UNDERGRADUATE BIOLOGY STUDENTS

John Eric Lingat  
[@johnericIRL](#)

Cara E. Worick  
[@cara\\_worick](#)

Ellen L. Usher, Ph.D.  
[@p20motivation](#)

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

# What is SELF-REGULATION

Systematically organizing  
thoughts,  
actions,  
and feelings  
to meet a set goal

(Nilson, 2013; Usher & Schunk, 2018)





# SELF- REGULATION

(Burman, Green, & Shanker, 2015)

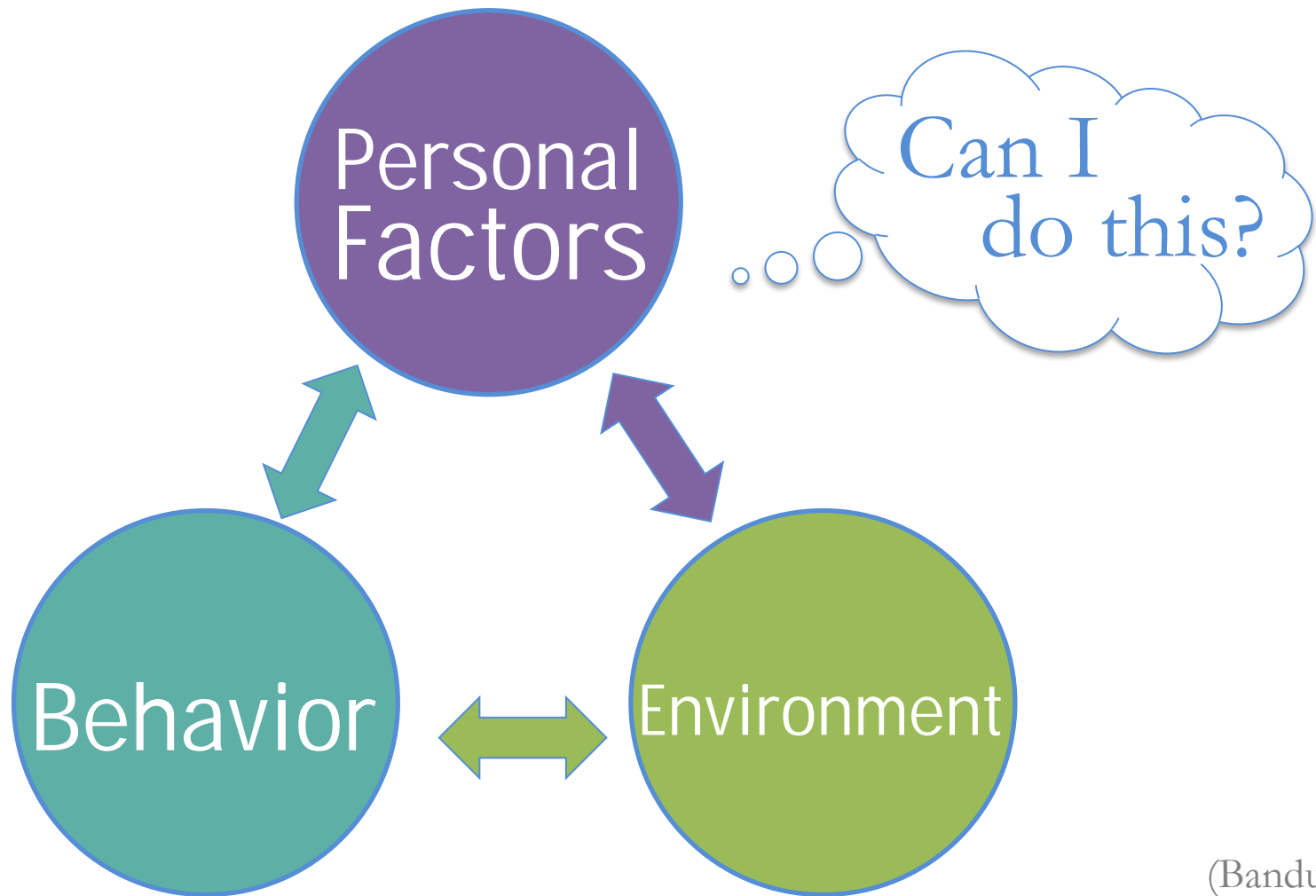
Learning  
Strategies

Self-  
Monitoring  
(Process)

Agency

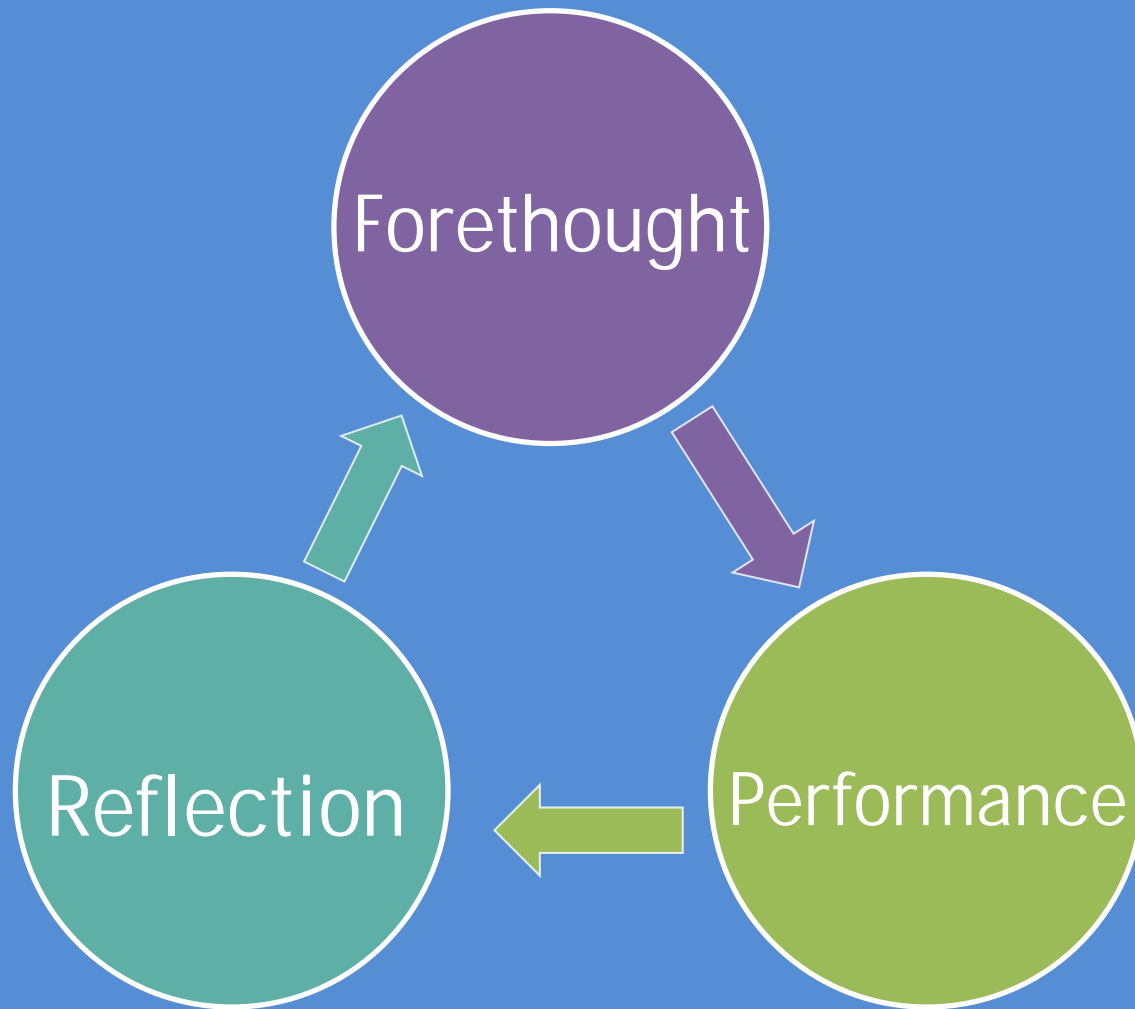
# *Theoretical Framework*

## SOCIAL COGNITIVE THEORY & SELF-EFFICACY



# *Theoretical Framework*

## SELF-REGULATION PHASES



Metacognition

# LITERATURE REVIEW



**LIMITED  
RESEARCH**

(Stanton, Neider, Gallegos, &  
Clark, 2015; Dent & Koenka, 2016)

(Dunn & Lo, 2015)

INDIVIDUAL STUDY  
**STRATEGIES**  
COLLECTIVE  
*STRENGTH*

HIGH USE OF SELF-  
REGULATION

STRATEGIES

STRONGER  
SELF-EFFICACY

BELIEFS

BETTER

*STUDENT*

*PERFORMANCE*



(Eilam & Reiter, 2014; Nelson, Shell, Husman, Fishman, & Soh, 2015 ; Seo & Ilies, 2009; Zusho, Pintrich, & Coppola, 2003)



# THE PURPOSE

of this study was to identify self-reported study strategies by high, average, or low self-regulators and to examine their beliefs about their capabilities to self-regulate and perform in an introductory biology course.

# QUESTIONS

What study strategies are used by high, average, and low self-regulating students enrolled in an introductory biology course?

Is self-efficacy different for high, average, or low self-regulators?

What is the relationship between self-regulation, self-efficacy for self-regulation, and self-efficacy for biology?

# Participants

428

Undergraduate students in an introductory biology course

53%

Female

47% Male

42%

First Year

21%

Sophomore

10% Junior

7% Senior

# Participants

Caucasian

60.5%

Asian/Pacific Islander

5.8%

African-American

4.2%

Hispanic/Latino

2.6%

Middle Eastern

1.2%

Alaskan/Native American

0.2%

53%

Female

47% Male

42%

First Year

21%

Sophomore

10% Junior

7% Senior

# Measures

## Self-Regulation

(Pintrich & DeGroot, 1990; Pintrich, Smith, Garcia, McKeachie, 1991)

- 12 items for **metacognitive self-regulation**
- Motivated Strategies for Learning Questionnaire ( $\alpha = .77$ )
- 6 point Likert-type scale  
1 (Definitely False) to 6 (Definitely True)

## Student Performance

- Overall Course Grade

## Study Strategies

- Students select from a list

*“If course materials are difficult to understand, I change the way I read the material.”*

# Measures

*Which of the following resources did you use while studying?  
(check all that apply)*

- PowerPoint Presentations
- Textbook
- Learning Strategies Handout
- Reviewing Learning Objectives
- Clicker Questions
- Lecture Recordings
- Studying in a Group
- In-Class Notes
- Practices Exams
- Unit Study Recommendations
- Online Resources
- Other

# Measures Self-Efficacy

*HOW  
CONFIDENT  
ARE YOU...*

*... that you  
can get back  
on track with  
your biology  
work if  
you are  
distracted?*

- **Self-Efficacy for Self-Regulation** ( $\alpha = .93$ )
  - 11 items (Zimmerman, Bandura, & Martinez-Pons, 1992)
    - Pre-course survey only
- 6 point Likert-type scale
  - 1 (Not at all confident) to 6 (Completely Confident)

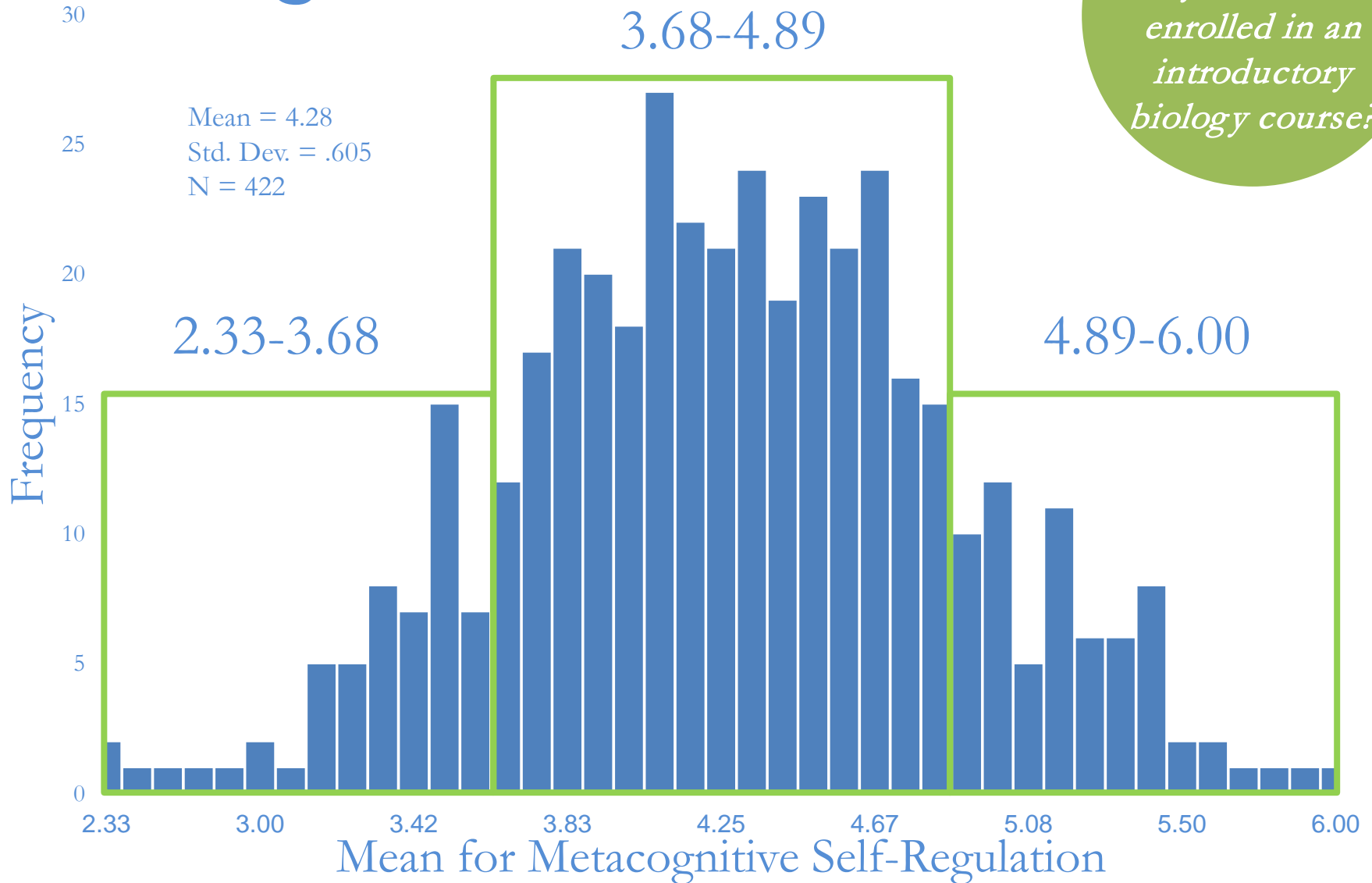
- **Biology Self-Efficacy** (Bandura, 2006)
  - 8 items Pre-course survey ( $\alpha = .91$ )
  - 7 items Post-course survey ( $\alpha = .95$ )
- 6 point Likert-type scale
  - 1 (Not at all confident) to 6 (Completely Confident)

*...that  
you can  
learn  
materials  
taught in  
biology  
class?*





# Findings



# Findings

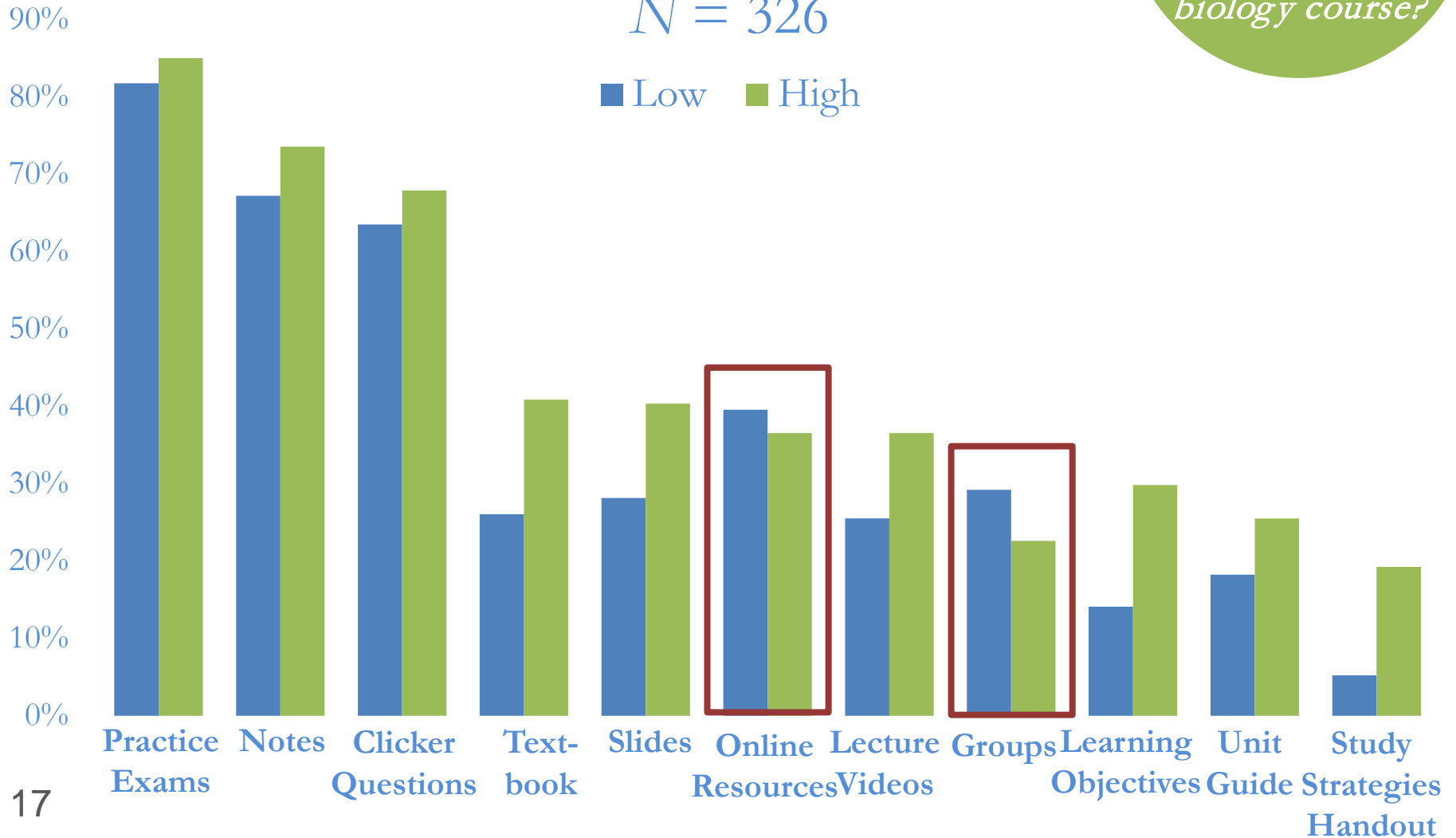
- PowerPoint Presentations
- Textbook
- Learning Strategies Handout
- Reviewing Learning Objectives
- Clicker Questions
- Lecture Recordings
- Studying in a Group
- In-Class Notes
- Practices Exams
- Unit Study Recommendations
- Online Resources
- Other

*What study habits are used by students enrolled in an introductory biology course?*

# Findings

Study Strategies by SRL Group  
 $N = 326$

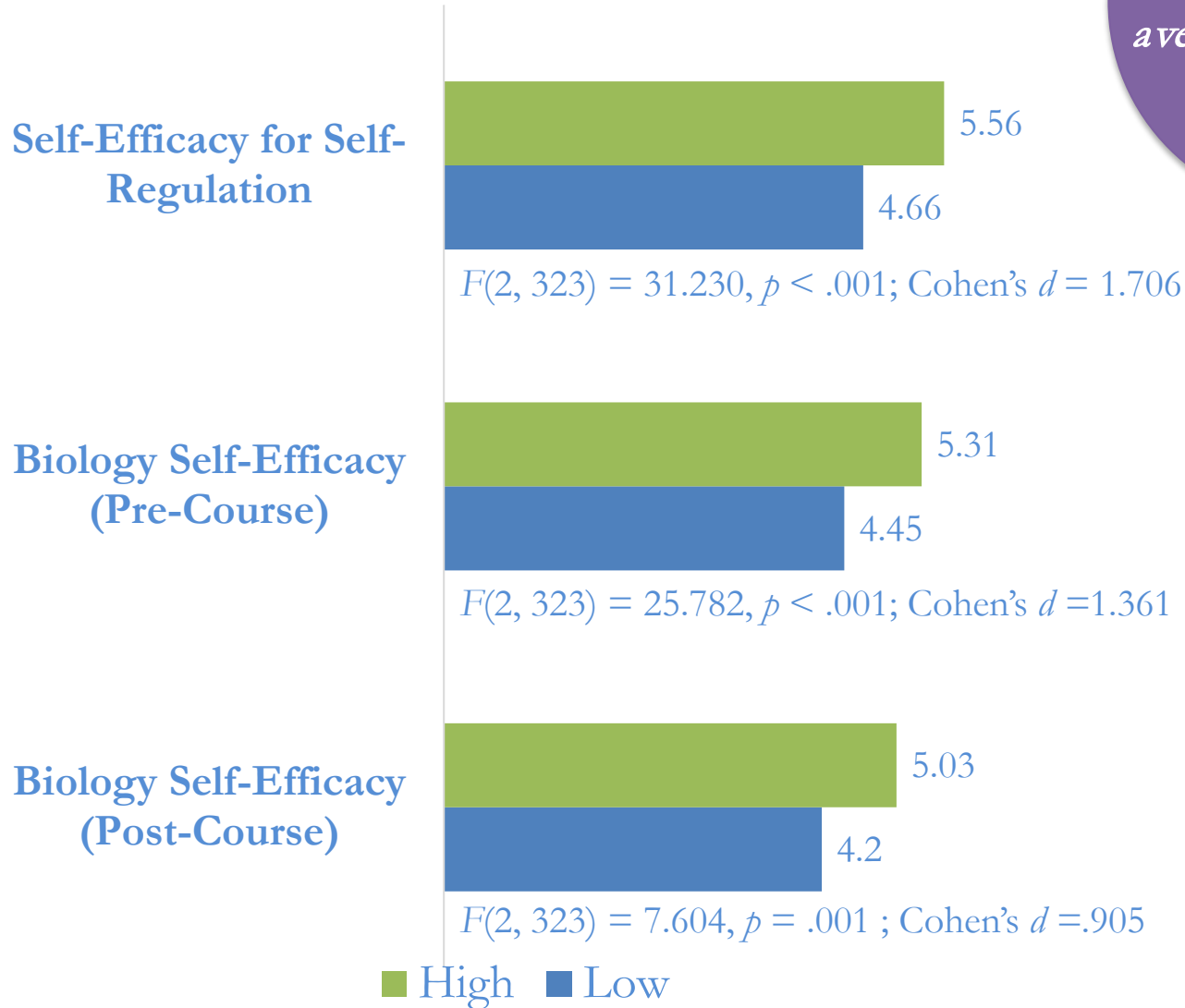
*What study habits are used by students enrolled in an introductory biology course?*



# Findings

## Variables Compared by Self-Regulation Groupings

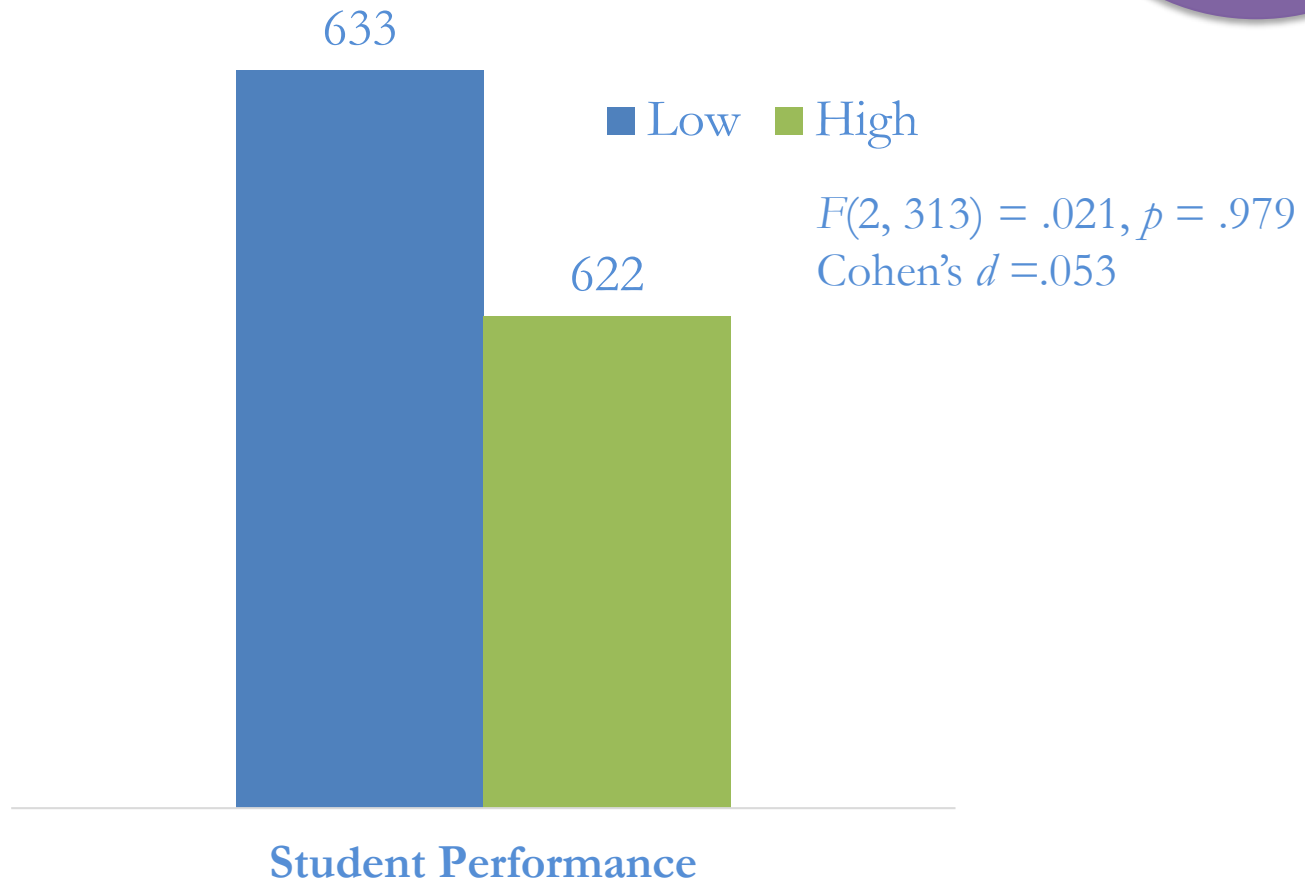
*Is self-efficacy different for high, average, or low self-regulators?*



# Findings

## Student Performance by Self-Regulation Groupings

*Is self-efficacy  
different for high,  
average, or low self-  
regulators?*



# Findings

- Student performance, self-regulation, and self-efficacy for self-regulation are not related.
- Biology self-efficacy is correlated to all variables.

*What is the relationship between self-regulation, self-efficacy for self-regulation, and self-efficacy for biology?*

*Correlations and Descriptive Statistics for Student Performance, Metacognitive Self-Regulation, Self-Efficacy for Self-Regulation, and Biology Self-Efficacy (Pre- and Post-Course)*

Measures	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	Correlations				
				1	2	3	4	5
1. Student Performance	320	631.29	87.255					
2. Metacognitive Self-Regulation	422	4.28	.605	-.033				
3. Self-Efficacy for Self-Regulation	328	5.09	.626	.080	.436**			
4. Biology Self-Efficacy (Pre-Course)	328	4.93	.650	.221**	.401**	.631**		
5. Biology Self-Efficacy (Post-Course)	254	4.41	.843	.440**	.294**	.244**	.408**	

\*\*  $p < .01$ .

# Discussions

- Biology students adapt, change, and replace strategies
- Self-regulation groupings reflected self-efficacy biology and self-efficacy for self-regulation mean scores
- Biology self-efficacy is predictive of student performance
- Further research for self-regulation in Science courses

*Takeaways*  
*Limitations*  
*Future*  
*Directions*



# Questions and Answers



## Contact Us

**John Eric Lingat**

johneric.lingat@uky.edu

@johnericIRL

**Cara E. Worick**

cara.worick@uky.edu

@cara\_worick

**Ellen L. Usher, Ph.D.**

ellen.usher@uky.edu

@p20motivation



[www.p20motivationlab.org/research](http://www.p20motivationlab.org/research)



**College of  
Education**

*Educational, School and  
Counseling Psychology*