

# Cognition Lab

01:830:302:B6 Summer 2012

Busch Psychology Building, Room 105

Monday/Wednesday 6:00 PM – 10:20 PM

**Instructor:** GauravKharkwal

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**Office Hours:** By appointment.

## **General goals for the course:**

The aim of this course is to provide hands-on experience and training in the experimental designs and analytical methods that are common in research in cognitive psychology. The course will be devoted to running in-class experiments, analyzing the data, interpreting the results, and writing lab reports.

## **Schedule of Labs:**

The labs will follow a two-week cycle. During the first week of each unit, you will act as subjects in an experiment. During the second week, you will be analyzing the results. The following is a rough schedule of the course. Changes and amendments may be made as the course progresses.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
May 30	Numerical Estimation	Methods and Graphs
June 4	Mental Rotation	
June 6	Mental Rotation	Introduction
June 11	Category Learning	
June 13	Category Learning	Results & Table
June 18	Typicality	
June 20	Typicality	Discussion & Abstract
June 25	Working Memory	Final Report
June 27	Working Memory	
July 2	Final Paper Due	

## **Grading:**

Your final grade will be based on three things:

1. Weekly lab assignments (4 x 15%)
2. Final paper (40%)

Every assignment will count towards your grade. There are no tests or quizzes planned. *Grades for this course will not be curved or scaled.*

The criteria for grading your work will be:

- Effort and class participation
- Demonstration of progress in understanding and using software tools
- Clarity of graphs
- Clarity of writing
- Demonstration of understanding basic cognitive concepts introduced in the labs

## **Weekly Assignments:**

For each lab, there would be an assignment that would need to be submitted before the next lab begins. Each of the 4 assignments would carry 15% of the course grade.

All laboratory assignments and reports must be completed by the individual student. Collaborative reports will be given an F grade. Please see Academic Dishonesty Policy below

## **Final Paper:**

The last assignment would be the final paper where you will have to turn in a complete report. These reports will be worth 40% of the course grade.

## **Attendance Policy:**

If you miss a lab meeting for a legitimate reason (e.g. illness, religious holiday) you must bring an official excuse note (e.g. doctor's note). This will excuse you from performing that part of the assignment. Missed assignments that are not excused will be given a failing grade. ***There can and will be no make-up sessions.***

***You must arrive on time to class.*** Excessive lateness prevents you from learning about the goals and content of the lab projects. If you are more than 20 minutes late you will

not be allowed to enter and participate that day and your absence will be counted as an unexcused absence.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Any student who feels he/she needs accommodation for a physical or learning disability should speak with me so that appropriate arrangements can be made. You may also contact the Office of Disability Services (151 College Avenue, Suite 123; Ph – (732) 932-2848) and read more about Rutgers’ policy at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu>

**Academic Dishonesty Policy:**

In science, there is absolutely no room for fraud or untruth. Our job as scientists is to search out facts, not just for ourselves but for society as a whole. Consequently, you should be very clear that, just as I expect you to learn about the topic matter, I also expect you to learn about scientific honesty. In the work that you present to me, falsifying, plagiarism, or copying without attribution will not be tolerated. Intentional ethical violations will result in failure for the material in question. Please check the school guidelines for further clarification of violations.

**All course materials can be found on <http://sakai.rutgers.edu> after you log in. It is expected that you print out ALL materials before class. The printer in the classroom is for printing out SPSS output and data-related materials ONLY.**

**If you decide to stay enrolled in this class after receiving this syllabus, I will assume you have read the entire syllabus and have agreed to all the policies outlined.**