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Summer 2012

Cognition Lab

TA: Peter Pantelis

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## Syllabus

**Class Time/Location:** Tuesdays, 6:00pm-9:55pm, Psych Building Rm 105

**TA Office Hours:** by appointment only

**Overview:** The aim of this course is to provide hands-on experience and training in some of the methodologies, experimental designs, and analytical methods that are commonly applied to research in cognitive psychology. Most of the course will be devoted to running some simple in-class experiments, analyzing the data, and interpreting the results.

**Handouts:** Online versions of handouts can be found at

<http://ruccs.rutgers.edu/~jacob/Psych306/labman.html>

**Sakai** will be a *very* important tool for communication within the class and the dissemination of announcements and materials, so please check it periodically. Lecture slides will contain important information for the completion of assignments, and will be posted to sakai after class. Written assignments will all be submitted to sakai: *I request that they be submitted in PDF format.*

**Schedule:** During the first half of each unit, I will give theoretical background and motivation for an experiment in cognitive psychology, and then students will act as subjects in an experiment. During the second half, the class will analyze and interpret the results. I will discuss the relevant statistical methods, both in general and as they apply to the results at hand.

The schedule of units is, tentatively, as follows (subject to change at the discretion of the T.A.). The associated writing assignment for each unit is also given here.

- Lab 1 (7/10): **Class Introduction**  
**Categorization and typicality I**
- Lab 2 (7/12): **Categorization and typicality II**  
**Assignment: Abstract**
- Lab 3 (7/17): **Mental Rotation I**  
**Assignment: Introduction**
- Lab 4 (7/19): **Mental Rotation II**  
**Numerical Estimation I**  
**Assignment: Methods**
- Lab 5 (7/24): **Numerical Estimation II**
- Lab 6 (7/26): **Category Learning I**
- Lab 7 (7/31): **Category Learning II**  
**Assignment: Results**
- Lab 8 (8/2): **Decision making I**  
**Assignment: Collect and submit data for next class**
- Lab 9 (8/7): **Decision making II**  
**Assignment: Discussion**  
**Working memory I**
- Lab 10 (8/9): **Working memory II**
- Lab 11 (8/14): **Working memory III, Final paper workshop**

**Grading:** Each unit will include a writing assignment, usually one section of a lab report on the experiment conducted in class. The assignment will be explained in the handouts and discussed at lab. 50% of the final grade will be based on these five partial lab reports and attendance; 50% will be based on the final assignment, a full write-up of our final experiment. This final paper will be tentatively due **August 15 at noon**, the final day of the summer session (though this is subject to change).

Because our summer class meetings are long, time will typically be allotted during class time for you to work on a particular writing assignment. This will give you the opportunity to complete a draft, and have me look over your assignment, before you leave. You may then revise your paper and resubmit it by the time of the next class meeting. The five unit assignments will be submitted on Sakai and graded pass/fail. **We will discuss this schedule of assignment submission in greater detail at the first class meeting.**

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory because so much of the class depends on the hands-on experience of running in the experiments. In addition, you will work on data analysis and written assignments during class, so that if questions come up you will have the opportunity to ask for help. If you need to miss a class with a good excuse, please provide me with documentation. Otherwise, your grade may be reduced.

**Current Academic Integrity Policy:**

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.