Cognition Lab

01:830:306:06 Spring 2012
Busch Psychology Building, Rm 105
Thursday 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Instructor: Aaron Kheifets
E-mail: kheifets@rci.rutgers.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

General goals for the course:

1. To provide an opportunity to experience cognitive phenomena first hand.
2. To learn how to design, conduct, analyze, and write-up experiments.
3. To learn how to use software tools to analyze and plot data.

This laboratory class is meant to serve as a companion to the lecture class PSYCH-305. The conceptual and theoretical basis for the exercises and demonstrations are developed in lecture. For this reason, concurrent or past registration in PSYCH-305 is required.

Grading:

Your final grade will be based on three things:

1. Weekly lab assignments
2. The final project (original project report and presentation completed during the last several class meetings)

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 proficiency in using software tools
- Clarity of graphs
- Clarity of writing
- Demonstration of understanding basic perceptual concepts introduced in the labs

Final Project:

The final project is the writing of a full laboratory report based on an original experiment carried out in class during the final weeks of the semester. This final will be half your grade for the course (the other half being weekly assignments).

Weekly Assignments:

We will be working on labs at each class meeting. After each lab is completed (data collection and analysis), you will be assigned a write-up of the lab that is due at the beginning of the next class period. Write-ups will often consist of brief (1-2 page) reports on methods, raw data, data analysis (graphs, charts, statistical tests, etc.), results and conclusions.

Students will have a one-week window in which they can revise a failing homework to get a better grade. No revisions of a failed assignment will be accepted after this one-week delay, and no subsequent revisions will be accepted after the first revision, although I will be available to meet with you to discuss the material and your performance. Each weekly assignment will be worth ten percent of your grade (total: fifty percent).

All laboratory assignments and reports must be completed by the individual student. Collaborative reports will be given a 0 grade. Please see Academic Dishonesty Policy below.

Attendance Policy:

A missed class is a missed class. No absences will be excused for any reason and therefore students will be responsible for all work in the course.

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 15 minutes late you will not be allowed to enter and participate that day and you will be counted as absent.

Schedule of Labs:

The following is a rough schedule of the course. Changes and amendments may be made as the course progresses.

January 26	Introduction to the course, Lab 1: Categorization & Typicality
February 2	Lab 1: Categorization & Typicality (continued)
February 9	Lab 2: Mental Rotation
February 16	Lab 2: Mental Rotation (continued)

February 23	Lab 3: Numerical Estimation
March 1	Lab 3: Numerical Estimation (continued)
March 8	Lab 4: Category Learning
March 15	**NO LAB** spring break
March 22	Lab 4: Category Learning (continued)
March 29	Lab 5: Decision Making
April 5	Lab 5: Decision Making (continued)
April 12	Lab 6: Working Memory
April 19	Lab 6: Working Memory (continued)
April 26	Turn in and present **FINAL PROJECTS**
May 3	**NO LAB** – finals, see http://scheduling.rutgers.edu/calendar.shtml

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Absolutely no dishonesty will be tolerated. Reading outside sources is a very good thing, so by all means quote them and comment on them in your work, but be completely honest about where your information is coming from. If you present something as someone else's idea and then comment on it, you will be rewarded. If you present other peoples' ideas as your own, you will be severely punished (see Rutgers Academic Dishonesty Policy below). Cite anything and everything. If there is any doubt about whether or not to cite something, the answer is that it should be cited. If you fail to give credit to the original source, it will be impossible to convince anyone that this was an accident after you turn it in. Do it before you turn in your work!

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.

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.

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.