

Cognition Lab Section 04
01:830:306:04 Fall 2012
Thursday 3:20PM -6:20PM
Busch Psychology Building, Room 105

Instructor

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Course Objectives

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 (a) running in-class experiments, (b) analyzing the data, (c) interpreting the results, and (c) writing APA-style lab reports.

SAS Core Goal

This course has been certified as satisfying four of the Writing and Communication Learning Outcome Goals (including WCR and WCD) of the SAS Core Curriculum.

Specifically, students will be able to:

- (a) Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision (WCR);
- (b) Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry (WCD);
- (c) Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly; and
- (d) Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.



Course Material

No text book. All course materials can be found on <http://sakai.rutgers.edu> after you log in. It is expected that you *print out Instruction materials before class*. (The printer in the classroom is for printing data-related materials *only*.)

Exam

No exam for this class.

Attendance

- Attendance is *mandatory*. There is *no make-up* lab unless the absence is because of religious observation or participation in intercollegiate athletics.
- If you miss a class, you must return official documents (i.e. an official excuse note from the Dean, etc.) to be excused for class exercise.
- Contact instructor *earlier* if you have any problem of your attendance.
- If you have more than two unexcused absences, you will fail the class.

Schedule

Each lab follows a two-week cycle.

- Week 1
 - Theoretical background and motivation of the week's experiment
 - Students run the experiment and act as subjects in the experiment.
- Week 2
 - Analysis methods for the experiment including
 - Students analyze and interpret their results of the first week with the methods.

The schedule of units is as follows. Amendments may be made as the course progresses.

Date	Lab	Week	Assignment
09/13	Lab 1: Categorization and Typicality	Week 1	Abstract section (Due: 09/26)
09/20		Week 2	
09/27	Lab 2: Mental Rotation	Week 1	Introduction section (Due: 10/10)
10/04		Week 2	
10/11	Lab 3: Numerical Estimation	Week 1	Methods section (Due: 10/24)
10/18		Week 2	
10/25	Lab 4: Category Learning	Week 1	Discussion section (Due: 11/07)
11/01		Week 2	
11/08	Lab 5: Decision Making	Week 1	Results section (Due: 11/19)
11/15		Week 2	
11/20	Lab 6: Working Memory	Week 1	Final full lab report (Due: 12/05)
11/29		Week 2	
12/06	Reserved for class changes/amendments		

Grading

	Points
12 Class Exercises	35
5 Assignments	35
Final Report	30
Total	100

Letter Grade

Point Grade	Letter Grade
90	A
85	B+
80	B
75	C+
70	C
60	D
Below 60	F

Grade for this course will *not* be curved or scaled.

Class Exercise

- For each class, the instruction for running experiment/analyzing data will be provided on Sakai. Students follow the instruction, (1) to set up the experiment, (2) to act as a subject, and (3) to analyze the data.
- At each class, a quiz will be distributed. Students are asked to answer the questions about (1) design, (2) data analysis result, and (3) various exercise for writing lab report.
- Each class exercise including the quiz is finished in the class room and is confirmed by instructor before each student leaves the class room.
- Each class exercise will be graded on the scale of Pass (3 points) / Fail (0 point) except the first class (Pass (2 points) / Fail (0 point)).

Assignment

- For each lab unit, a partial section of a lab report (i.e. an abstract, an introduction, a methods section, etc.) is asked.
- Return the assignment on Sakai>Assignments. Late assignments get 0 point.
- Writing assignments are graded on the following scale:
 - P+ : excellent work (7 points + 3 extras, thus 10 points)
 - P : good, pass (7 points)
 - P- : minor problems, needs improvement (4 points)
 - F : fail, required redo (0 point)
- Revision option:
 - Student can have one more chance to revise the report to get a P *in three days* of the receipt of graded assignment.
 - No subsequent revisions will be accepted after the first revision.
 - You may not revise a P to receive a P+.
 - No revision for final report.
- The email inquiries about assignments and final project in 24 hours before the due will *not* be answered. Start assignments earlier.

Final Report

- For the last lab (Working Memory lab), students are asked to write a complete lab report that enables students integrate the skills throughout the semester as the final project of this class.
- Final project is graded on the following scale:
 - A (30 points) / B (25 points) / C (20 points) / D (15 points) / F (0 point)

Academic Integrity Policy

- *Any outside sources* must be appropriately referenced. Cutting and pasting from the Internet sources and rewording other's text without proper citation are examples of plagiarism. Be careful not to forget to put proper citation and reference of *any* sources that is not your own.
- All writing assignments and reports that students turn in must be done their own work. Students should not work collaboratively on assignments.
- Plagiarism results in failing the course.
- See Rutgers' policy on Academic Integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>.

Classroom Decorum

- Cell phones should be off.
- No web surfing in the class room.

** 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.*