

General Information

Psychology 306:05 Fall 2012

Dr. Cordelia Aitkin

Wednesday, 3:20 - 6:20 pm Busch Psychology Building, Room 105

SAS Course Objectives

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;
- d) Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

Course Objectives

The aim of this course is to acquaint students with scientific research within the context of cognitive psychology. Upon successful completion of this course, students will

- have a basic understanding of the methods and techniques related to research design
- be able to use basic statistics and statistical software to analyze data
- be able to interpret the results of the statistical analyses
- produce an APA-style empirical paper.

Contact Information

Please email me at cdaitkin@rci.rutgers.edu whenever you need to, but be aware that it may take up to a full business day for me to respond. If you have not received a response after 2 business days, please resend the email. Lengthy or complex issues will be discussed in person.

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 and Assignments

The labs generally follow a two-week cycle. During the first week of each unit, students will act as subjects in an experiment. The instructor will give some of the theoretical background and motivation of the week's experiment, and explain the experimental design. During the second week, the class will analyze and interpret the results. The instructor will discuss the relevant statistical methods, both in general and as they apply to the results at hand.

The schedule of units is as follows (subject to modification at the TA's discretion):

Date	Lab	Assignment
------	-----	------------

09/12	Lab 1: Categorization and Typicality	Week 1	Abstract section (Due: 09/24)
09/19		Week 2	
09/26	Lab 2: Mental Rotation	Week 1	Introduction section (Due: 10/8)
10/04		Week 2	
10/10	Lab 3: Numerical Estimation	Week 1	Methods section (Due: 10/22)
10/17		Week 2	
10/24	Lab 4: Category Learning	Week 1	Discussion section (Due: 11/05)
10/31		Week 2	
11/07	Lab 5: Decision Making	Week 1	Results section (Due: 11/19)
11/14		Week 2	
11/28	Lab 6: Working Memory	Week 1	Final full lab report (Due: 12/10)
12/5		Week 2	

Plagiarism

Don't do it.

For a longer explanation, please see Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

Please note that all assignments will be run through Turnitin.

Grading

Each unit will include a writing assignment, usually a lab report (or part of a lab report) on the experiment conducted in class. The assignment will be explained in the handouts and discussed in class. Grades will be based on these assignments.

Assignments must be turned in through Sakai. No hard copy or emailed versions will be accepted