TA: Gwendolyn Rehrig
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Office: Psychology 121B (down the hall from class)
Office hours: Thursdays from 1:00-3:00pm and by arrangement

Syllabus

Objective: This class is intended to demonstrate what cognitive psychology research is like. In this class you will participate in experiments to collect data, analyze the data, and then complete writing assignments using the same methods that cognitive psychologists use when writing research papers. Although I will provide a brief review of the statistical analyses we will be using ahead of time, it is expected that you already have the statistics background necessary to perform them. You will become familiar with common measures and methods that cognitive psychologists use to study the mind, and you will learn to explain and interpret the work as you would if you were conducting the research from start to finish yourself.

Communication: The best way to contact me is by email. I check my email daily and I will respond to emails within 24 hours of receiving them. **I cannot guarantee a faster response**, so any issues that you need me to address should be presented with at least that much notice whenever possible.

Resources: All resources pertaining to the lab will be available on Sakai in .pdf format. This means the syllabus, slides, lab instructions, assignments, and any resources that I feel will be helpful for your assignments. Hard copies of the syllabus, instructions, and assignments will also be distributed in class. Slides will be posted after each class.

Assignments: This course is considered writing intensive by the university and therefore your grade will be entirely based on written assignments. All writing must follow APA format (see Sakai for details along with helpful resources on APA writing style). For every lab there will be a writing assignment. The assignment will be explained and discussed in class. Assignments will be due by electronic submission at 11:55pm on the due date, and a hard copy must be turned in during the next class meeting (see Schedule on Sakai for exact deadlines if this description is confusing). Late assignments will be penalized by 5% for each day that they are late.

Schedule: The labs follow a two-week cycle. During the first week of each unit, you will participate in an experiment as part of the class. I will give a brief lecture about 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. I will go over the relevant statistical methods, both in general and as they apply to the results at hand.

The schedule of labs and assignments is as follows:

> **Lab 1: Categorization and typicality**
> Data collection: 09/17/2013
> Analysis: 09/24/2013
> Assignment 1:   250 word [Abstract] due 09/30/2013 (10% of your grade)
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> **Lab 2: Mental rotation**
> Data collection: 10/01/2013
> Analysis: 10/08/2013
> Assignment 2:   [Introduction] & [References] due 10/14/2013 (20% of your grade)
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> **Lab 3: Numerical estimation**
> Data collection: 10/15/2013
> Analysis: 10/22/2013
> Assignment 3:   [Methods] due 10/28/2013 (15% of your grade)

Lab 4: Category learning
Data collection: 10/29/2013
Analysis: 11/05/2013
Assignment 4:   [Results] due 11/11/2013 (15% of your grade)

Lab 5: Decision making
Data collection: 11/12/2013
Analysis: 11/19/2013
Assignment 5:   [Discussion] due 11/25/2013 (15% of your grade)
                     (**note:** *11/26/2013 is a Thursday schedule due to Thanksgiving so please turn in a hard copy to my office!*)

Lab 6: Working memory
Data collection: 12/04/2013
Analysis: 12/11/2013
Assignment 6:   Full paper (Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, References) due 12/17/2013 (25% of your grade)

Academic Integrity: Cheating of any kind is prohibited (see Academic Integrity at Rutgers for more information). Turnitin will be used for all written work. Any assignment that is plagiarized will receive 0 points, no exceptions. There is nothing wrong with discussing your work with your classmates or running your work by a classmate for feedback, but all writing must be your own.

Classroom Conduct: Questions and discussion are encouraged! The more you participate, the better you and your classmates learn, and the better the sense I get for how well everyone grasps the material. Be on time for class. Lateness is distracting, disrespectful, and could mean missing crucial information that can hurt your grade later on. Cell phone use will not be permitted and cell phones should be turned off or at the very least set to silent. Similarly, do not use the lab computers to do anything that is not relevant to class (browsing the internet, social media, doing homework for another class, etc.).

Attendance: Because this course is hands on and assignments will be based on work done in class, attendance is mandatory. Absences will be excused when reasonable (illness, family emergency, religious observances, etc.) but you must contact me as soon as you know you will be missing a class and should have documentation whenever possible. Each unexcused absence will be penalized by 2% of your final grade.