

COGNITION LAB

What: Cognition Lab Fall 2013, 01:830:306:03
When: Wed. 2:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Where: Busch Psychology Room 105

Instructor: Lu Wang
E-mail: luwan@rci.rutgers.edu
Office: Department of Psychology, Room131
Office Hrs: Set up by appointment (after class regularly)

COURSE GOALS: 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 common in research in cognitive psychology. Most of the course will be devoted to running some simple in-class experiments, analyzing the data, interpreting the results, and sharpening your scientific writing skills. With the skills you develop in this class, you are well on your way to becoming a successful scientist, doctor, professor...

HOW WE WILL REACH THESE GOALS: For each lab, except the first one (Lab 0), you will be asked to write a section of a lab report (i.e. an abstract, an introduction, a methods and results section, or a discussion) depending on that week's assignment. These sections, as a whole, comprise a scientific journal article. For the final lab, you will be asked to complete a full lab report that will enable you to integrate the skills you've learned from each aforementioned section.

HOW TO ARRIVE PREPARED EACH WEEK: Please review the materials at the above URLs. The lab manual on Professor Feldman's web site contains most of the material you will need for this class. I will post additional class materials on the Sakai website, including my class lecture notes, relevant articles, and writing guides. Below, you will find the schedule for the topics we will cover in class and the associated assignments. There is a possibility that we might not follow the order of labs as listed, and may sometimes substitute the labs listed with an alternate lab. You will be fully informed of any changes in advance.

THE SCHEDULE: During the first part of each Unit, I will give some of the theoretical background and motivation of the week's experiment, and explain the experimental design. Students will then act as subjects in an experiment. During the second part of each unit, I will discuss the relevant statistical methods, both in general and as they apply to the results at hand. The class will analyze and interpret the results. We will also review how to write up the sections of a lab report so that you are prepared to complete your assignments.

The schedule of units is as follows, keep in mind that this schedule is subject to change:

DATE	TO DO IN CLASS	
9/11 Lab1a	Introduction & Numerical Estimation	
9/18 Lab1b	Perception: Numerical Estimation (plotting) Results Plotting How to write Method	Report 1: Method (10)
9/25 Lab2a	Memory: Working Memory	
10/2 Lab2b	Statistics How to report Results	Report 2: Results (10)
10/9 Lab*	Concepts: Conceptual Typicality	In-class practices
10/16 Lab3a	No meeting: Conference trip	
10/23 Lab3a	How to write Discussion	Report 3: Discussion (15)
10/30 Lab4	Automaticity: Stroop Effect How to write Abstract	Report 4: Abstract (5)
11/6 Lab5a	Decision: Linda task How to write Introduction Creating your own study materials	Materials (10)
11/13 Lab5b	Data collection	Data (10), submitted by 11/17
11/18 Lab5c	Data analysis Writing up the report for final	Methods & Results in class
11/27	Writing at home	Draft (optional)
12/4	DM Review/Qs (optional)	DM FINAL REPORT (30) Due: 12/8, midnight

GRADING: Your final grade will be comprised of three components.

1. Attendance	10%
2. Writing Assignments	40%
3. FinalProjects	50%

Writing assignments will be graded on a 5- to 15-point scale (see the schedule for details). Your final lab report will be graded on a 30-point scale (another 10points for generating materials and data collection, respectively). **A grade of “0” will be assigned to papers that are not turned in.** Writing assignments are usually completed in class; otherwise, it should be turned in by the midnight of the Sunday after the homework is assigned. Please upload your assignment into your dropbox on sakai.

If a writing assignment or final lab report is turned in late, the grade will be reduced by 0.5 point from the deserved grade per day (e.g. a paper which would have been graded as a 10 will be reduced to an 9 after 2 days late). Papers more than 10 days late will not be accepted.

FINAL LAB REPORT: Writing assignments for the final lab report should be in 12pt font, double-spaced, and with 1-inch margins unless specified differently. *At all times, adhere to the APA guidelines as they are set forth in the APA Publication Manual.*

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION: Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at each class. Although I understand that Rutgers’ transportation is often unreliable, and that traffic is a challenge, it is your responsibility to account for this ahead of time and arrive by 8:40 a.m. every week. I know you can do it!

If you miss a class, you must receive an official excuse from the Dean. Without official excuse, 2 points would be reduced for first time missing class, 5 for twice. This will not excuse you from that part of the assignment. You are going to make up the experiment the following week, by coming to the class 1 hour earlier or stay 1 hour late. Missed assignments will be given a “0.” You should note that if you miss the first part of a lab, you will not have data to analyze in the second part. If you miss the second part of a lab, you will not have results to write about. Therefore, come to class. Active participation is STRONGLY encouraged. It will be consistently noted and considered in your final grade.

HOW TO MAINTAIN ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: All academic work must be original (i.e. your own work) or properly referenced (APA format). This is partially why we spend an entire class discussing how to accurately cite other authors’ work. Plagiarism is unacceptable. If you are found to be guilty of plagiarism, you will receive a failing grade for the class, and face other academic consequences (e.g. expulsion, reporting to the University Judicial Affairs Office). Contact me if you have any questions as to what constitutes plagiarism. You can review Rutgers’ rules of academic integrity on this web site: <http://cat.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Any student who feels he or she needs accommodation for a physical or learning disability, please speak with me so that appropriate arrangements are made. You may also contact the Office of Disability Services (151 College Ave, Suite 123; phone 732-932-2848) and read more about Rutgers’ policy at <http://disability/services.rutgers.edu> .