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# PERCEPTION & COGNITION LAB

## HYBRID

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**01:830:302:03 Fall 2013**  
**01:830:302:03 F13 (2013:9:01:830:302:03:)**  
**Busch Psychology Building, Room 105**  
**Wednesday 1020AM - 1140AM**

**Instructor:** Mimi Phan

**E-mail:** [mphan@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:mphan@rci.rutgers.edu)

**Office Hours:** By appointment @ Busch Psychology Building, Room 331.

### **Course Requirements:**

The hybrid nature of this course requires you to have access to a computer system with Java installed. You can test whether Java is properly installed by visiting <http://www.java.com/en/download/testjava.jsp>. You must also have access to a computer with SPSS installed. You can find SPSS on computer systems in the LSM library and the ARC computer labs. It's also available at <http://apps.rutgers.edu> (you can sign in using your Rutgers netid and password -- the same one you use for <http://my.rutgers.edu>).

**Not having access to Java-enabled web browsers or SPSS is not a valid excuse for not completing assignments and the final paper.**

### **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.

The aim of this course is to acquaint students with scientific research within the context of sensation & perception and cognitive psychology. To facilitate this aim, this course provides hands-on experience and training in the experimental designs and analytical methods that are common in research in sensation & perception and cognitive psychology. The course will be devoted to running in-class experiments, analyzing the data, interpreting the results, and writing lab reports. Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- (a) Have a basic understanding of the methods and techniques related to research design;
- (b) Be able to use basic statistics and statistical software to analyze data;
- (c) Be able to interpret the results of the statistical analyses;
- (d) Produce an APA-style empirical paper.

This laboratory class is meant to serve as a companion to lecture classes PSYCH-301 and 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-301 and/or PSYCH-305 is required.

**Text:** There is no text book. Students will have access to handouts each week on the course Sakai page in the resources section.

**Exams:** There are no exams.

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory because the class depends on the hands-on experience of running the experiments. Attendance is taken at the start of each class. If you miss a class, you must return appropriate documents (i.e. an official excuse

note from the Dean's office to authenticate an absence) to be excused. There are NO make-ups.

**Schedule of Labs:**

There are a total of 6 lab sessions that will be run over the semester. The labs will follow a two-week cycle. After meeting twice for the first lab, we will only meet on alternate weeks, wherein you will work on the assignment for the lab. The meetings are **not optional**. The following is a rough schedule of the course. Changes and amendments may be made as the course progresses.

**Bold cells** correspond to weeks when we will meet in class.

Date	Lab
<b>9/11/2013</b>	<b>Introduction to the course</b> <b>Lab 1: Decision Making</b>
<b>9/18/2013</b>	<b>Lab 1: Decision Making</b> <b>Assignment due - Title &amp; Abstract</b>
9/25/2013	Lab 2: Object Stability
<b>10/02/2013</b>	<b>Lab 2: Object Stability</b> <b>Assignment due - Introduction</b>
10/09/2013	Lab 3: Tone Discrimination
<b>10/16/2013</b>	<b>Lab 3: Tone Discrimination</b> <b>Assignment due - Methods</b>
10/23/2013	Lab 4: Stroop
<b>10/30/2013</b>	<b>Lab 4: Stroop</b> <b>Assignment due - Result</b>
11/06/2013	Lab 5: Category Learning
<b>11/13/2013</b>	<b>Lab 5: Category Learning</b> <b>Assignment due - Discussion</b>
11/20/2013	Lab 6: Motion Extrapolation
<b>11/27/2013</b>	<b>No class scheduled. Available for office hours.</b>
<b>12/04/2013</b>	<b>Lab 6: Motion Extrapolation; Extra credit</b>
12/11/2013	Final paper due

**Grading:**

Your final grade will be based on three things:

1. Attendance
2. Weekly lab assignments
3. An original project report 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 progress in understanding and using software tools
- Clarity of graphs
- Clarity of writing
- Demonstration of understanding basic perceptual/cognitive concepts introduced in the labs
- Grading breakdown:

Title & Abstract	12 points
Introduction	12 points
Methods	12 points
Results	12 points
Discussion	12 points
Final Lab Report	55 points
Extra credit	5 points

Turning in a complete assignment that correctly follows APA style will earn you 10 pts (50 points for the final lab report) on that assignment, so if you receive a 10 (50 points for the final lab report), know that this is the standard passing grade. To receive more than 10 points (50 points for the final lab report) you will need to perform exceptionally well, and have excellent, clear writing, with no grammar or spelling errors, and with no misuse of words (affect/effect, their/there, your/you're, ensure/insure). In addition to being written properly it must hold the reader's attention and have a good flow between paragraphs.

### **Weekly Assignments:**

For each lab, there would be an assignment that would need to be submitted before the next lab begins. These assignments will be worth 50% of the course grade.

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

### **Final Paper:**

The last assignment would be the final paper where you will have to turn in a complete report. These reports will be worth 50% of the course grade.

### **Attendance Policy and Classroom Decorum:**

***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 20 minutes late you will not be allowed to enter and participate that day and your absence will be counted as an unexcused absence. *Note:* Arriving late will result in losing points from that week's assignment. Cell phones should be turned off. The computers should not be used to surf the internet; if other instructors walk by the classroom and they see you using the internet for sites unrelated to the course they will enter the lab and ask you to stop. Food is not allowed in the lab.

### **Academic Dishonesty Policy:**

In science, there is absolutely no room for fraud or untruth. Our job as scientists is to search out facts, not just for ourselves but for society as a whole. Consequently, you should be very clear that, just as I expect you to learn about the topic matter, I also expect you to learn about scientific honesty. In the work that you present to me, falsifying, plagiarism, or copying without attribution will not be tolerated. Intentional ethical violations will result in failure for the material in question. Please check the school guidelines for further clarification of violations.

**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. The printer in the classroom is for printing out SPSS output and data-related materials ONLY.**

**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.**