
PERCEPTION & COGNITION LAB

01:830:302:07 & 01:830:306:10 Spring 2013
Busch Psychology Building, Room 105
Wednesday 06:40 - 08:00 PM

Instructor: Gaurav Kharkwal

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Office Hours: By appointment @ Busch Psychology Building, Room 115.

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. 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.

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
01/30	Introduction to the course Lab 1: Decision Making
02/06	Lab 1: Decision Making Assignment due - Title & Abstract
02/13	Lab 2: Object Stability
02/20	Lab 2: Object Stability Assignment due - Introduction
02/27	Lab 3: Tone Discrimination
03/06	Lab 3: Tone Discrimination Assignment due - Methods
03/13	Lab 4: Stroop
03/27	Lab 4: Stroop Assignment due - Result
04/03	Lab 5: Category Learning
04/10	Lab 5: Category Learning Assignment due - Discussion
04/17	Lab 6: Motion Extrapolation
04/24	Lab 6: Motion Extrapolation
05/01	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

Weekly Assignments:

For each lab, there would be an assignment that would need to be submitted before the next lab begins. Each of the 5 assignments would carry 10% 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:

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.

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.