

Cognition Lab

01:830:306:B2 Summer 2013
MTWTh 10:10 AM – 12:05 PM
Busch Psychology Building, Room 105

Instructor:

John Wilder

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Office Hours: By appointment.

Goal: The aim of this course is to provide hands-on experience and training in the experimental designs and analytical methods that are common in research in cognitive psychology. The course will be devoted to running in-class experiments, analyzing the data, interpreting the results, and writing lab reports.

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: The lab class follows a two-period cycle.

- The first period of each cycle
 - The theoretical background and motivation of the week's experiment are explained.
 - Students act as subjects in the experiment.
- The second period
 - The analysis methods for the experiment, including statistical methods, are explained.
 - Students analyze and interpret their results from the experiment of the first week.
 - Students complete the lab write-up.

The schedule of topics and assignment is as follows (amendments will be made as necessary).

Date	Lab	Assignment
5/28	Introduction and Statistics	
5/29	Categorization and Typicality 1	

5/30	Categorization and Typicality 2	Abstract
6/3	TBA	
6/4	Mental Rotation 1	
6/5	Mental Rotation 2	Introduction
6/6	Numerical Estimation 1	
6/10	Numerical Estimation 2	Methods
6/11	Category Learning 1	
6/12	Category Learning 2	Discussion
6/13	Decision Making 1	
6/17	Decision Making 2	Results
6/18	Decision Making 3/ Working Memory 0	
6/19	Working Memory 1	
6/20	Working Memory 2	Complete Report
6/24	Working Memory 3	Finish Complete Report
6/25	Plan Final Project	
6/26	Prepare Final Experiment	
6/27	Collect Final Experiment Data	
7/1	Analyze Final Experiment	
7/2	Write Final Paper	Complete Report
7/3	Present Final Papers	

Assignment:

- After each lab cycle, a partial section of a lab report (i.e. and abstract, an introduction, a methods sections, etc.) will be completed. For the last lab, students are asked to write a complete lab report that enables students to integrate the skills learned in previous labs.
- Assignments should be typed in 12 pt font and double spaced.
- Assignments should be turned in on Sakai. Students will complete the assignment in class; they are required to stay in class until the lab session ends or until the assignment is completed or attendance points will be lost. If a student is unable to complete a lab assignment during class time, they will have until the beginning of class two periods later. After this time one point will be lost, and an additional point will be lost each day until the assignment is completed.
- All written assignments that students turn in must be done on their own. Students should not work collaboratively on the written assignments. Copied assignments result in failing the course. Any outside sources must be appropriately referenced. Plagiarism is NOT tolerated. See Rutgers' policy on Academic Integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Grading:

Introduction	12 pts
Methods	12 pts
Results	12 pts
Discussion	12 pts

Abstract	12 pts
Complete Lab Report	40 pts
Final Lab Report	50 pts
Total	150 pts

Turning in a complete lab report that correctly follows APA style will earn you 10 pts on that assignment, so if you receive a 10, know that this is the standard passing grade. To receive more than 10 points 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 readers attention and have a good flow between paragraphs. Do not send me complaints about receiving a low assignment grade if you received 10 points!

Final Grade:

Percent	Letter Grade
90%	A
80%	B
70%	C
60%	D
Below 60	F

Plus grades (B+, C+, ...) will be determined by the distribution of scores.

Classroom Decorum: 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.