

COGNITION LAB

What: Cognition Lab Fall 2014, 01:830:306:05
When: Wednesday 3:45PM – 6:20PM
Where: Busch Psychology Room 105

Instructor: Michelle Cheng
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Office: Department of Psychology, Room133a
Office Hrs: Set up by appointment

READINGS: Lab manual: <http://rucss.rutgers.edu/~jacob/Psych306/labman.html>

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.

HOW WE WILL REACH THESE GOALS: For each lab, you will be asked to write a section of a lab report (an abstract, an introduction, a method, results, or a discussion section). 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 have learned from each aforementioned section.

PREPARATION: Please review the lab manual written by Professor Feldman. We will be working closely to this manual with some modifications. In addition, I will post class materials on the Sakai website, including relevant articles and writing guides. My lecture presentations will be posted AFTER class. 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 it 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.

GROUND RULES: 1) No food or drinks. 2) No Candy Crushing/other mobile gaming or texting in class, so turn off your cellphones. 3) No surfing the web, Facebook, Gmail, G-chat, etc. on the computers. Use the computers as they are intended. 4) Do not use the printer as your own. If you want to print a document, ask me first. 5) If we finish early, we leave early. Let me to do what I have to do, and all of us can leave early.

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

DATE	TO DO IN CLASS	WRITING ASSIGNMENTS DUE, the following Sunday 5:00PM (points)
9/10 Lab0	Introduction	
9/17 Lab1	Perception: Numerical Estimation (plotting) Plotting How to write a Method Section	Method (10)
9/24 Lab2a	Representation: Mental Rotation t-test and ANOVA	
10/1 Lab2b	How to write a Results Section	Results (10)
10/8 Lab3a	Memory: Working Memory t-test and ANOVA	
10/15 Lab3b	How to write an Introduction Section	Introduction (10)
10/22 Lab4a	Moral Cognition: The Trolley Problem	
10/29 Lab4b	t-tests How to write a Discussion Section	Discussion (10)
11/5 Lab5	Automaticity: Stroop Effect t-test How to write an Abstract Section	Abstract (5)
11/12 Lab6a	Decision Making: Linda task	Materials (5) + Data Collecting (10)
11/19 Lab6b	Results analysis: t-tests Final Report review	Draft (optional)
11/26 Lab6c	Thanksgiving Swing-a-roo -- NO CLASS	
12/3 Lab6c	DM Review/Qs & Grad. School Qs (optional)	DM FINAL REPORT (30) Due: 11:55PM on 12/14
12/10	NO CLASS	

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

1. Attendance & Participation	10%
2. Writing Assignments	45%
3. Final Project	45%

Writing assignments will be graded on a 10-point scale (except the 5th one, 5 points). Your final lab report will be graded on a 30-point scale (another 15 for the final project is for generating materials and data collection). **A grade of “0” will be assigned to papers that are not turned in.** Writing assignments are to be turned in by 5:00 P.M. of the Sunday after the homework is assigned. Please upload your assignment to Assignments 2 on Sakai. If a writing assignment or final lab report is turned in late, the grade will be reduced by 1 point from the deserved grade per day (e.g. a paper which would have been graded as a 10 will be reduced to an 8 after 2 days late). Papers more than 4 days late will not be accepted and would be considered a “0” with no exceptions. All writing assignments for the final lab report should be in 12pt Times New Roman 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.*

Up to 1 point of extra credit will be available for each writing assignment (Abstract, Introduction, Method, Results, and Discussion; 5 total) during the course of the semester and added to your final grade. Questions are meant to be easy and a check for your understanding of the material. You will only receive these points if the question is answered correctly and your assignment is on time. If you choose not to answer, there is no penalty. Given this built-in “curve,” do not request for extra credit/work to boost your grade at the end of the semester.

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION: Attendance is mandatory and will be taken in 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 3:20PM every week. I know you can do it! If you miss a class, you must receive an official excused letter from the Dean. Without an official excused letter from the Dean, 2 points would be reduced for first time missing class, 5 for twice. **Beyond two will result in a failure in the class.** In addition, an excused letter does not excuse you from the assigned work. You will have to make up the experiment the following week by coming to the class 1 hour earlier. 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.

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). You can review Rutgers’ academic integrity policy 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>