

**Cognition Lab (306:07)**  
**Thursday 3:20pm-6:20pm, Spring, 2014**  
**Busch Psychology building, Room 105**  
**Tentative Syllabus**

**Instructor:**

Shuqi Yang

**Email:** [shuqi.yang@rutgers.edu](mailto:shuqi.yang@rutgers.edu)**When you email me, please add “cognition lab” in the title.****Office:** Psychology building Room 110.**Office Hours:** By appointment.

**Goal.** 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, and interpreting the results.

**Manual.** You can get it on Sakai website (in Resources section), or at the following website [ruccs.rutgers.edu/~jacob/Psych306/lab.htm](http://ruccs.rutgers.edu/~jacob/Psych306/lab.htm)

**Classroom Rules.** (1). Absolutely no food or drinks in the lab. (2). Cellphones should be turned off. (3)The printer is not for students to use. If you need to print something for class, ask my permission first. (4). You may not use programs like AIM, G-chat, Facebook, Twitter, games, and other distractions during class. (5). If we finish early, we will leave early. So allow me to do what I have to do, and all of us can leave early.

**Schedule.** The labs generally follow a two-week cycle. There are six labs altogether.

**During the first week of each unit:**

1. I will present some of the theoretical background and motivation for the week’s experiment: I also will explain the experimental design.
2. Students will act as subjects in an experiment.

**During the second week:**

1. The class will analyze and interpret the results. I will discuss the relevant statistical methods, both in general, and as they apply to the results at hand.
2. We will also review how to write up the sections of a lab report in order to prepare your to complete your assignments.

**Schedule (Tentative):**

The schedule of units is as follows—keep in mind that this schedule is subject to change.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Assignments Due: The following Wednesday 11:59PM</b>
Jan 30	Introduction & Lab 1a: Perception - Numerical estimation - data collecting, background review	In-class 1
Feb 6	Lab 1b: Perception - Numerical estimation - data analysis, report writing (Method section)	In-class 2+ Methods assignments
Feb 13	Lab 2a: Memory – Working Memory - data collecting, background review	In-class 3
Feb 20	Lab 2b: Memory – Working Memory - data analysis, report writing (Results section)	In-class 4+ Results assignments
Feb 27	Lab 3a: Image – Mental Rotation - data collecting, background review	In-class 5
Mar 6	Lab 3b: Image – Mental Rotation - data analysis, report writing (Introduction section)	In-class 6+ Introduction assignments
Mar 13	Lab 4a: Category – Category Typicality - data collecting, background review	In-class 7
Mar 20	Spring Break (No class)	
Mar 27	Lab 4b: Category – Category Typicality - data analysis, report writing (Discussion section)	In-class 8+ Discussion assignments
Apr 3	Lab 5a: Learning –Category Learning - data collecting, background review	In-class 9
Apr 10	Lab 5b: Learning –Category Learning - data analysis, report writing (Abstract section)	In-class 10+ Abstract assignments
Apr 17	Lab 6a: Final project - data collecting, background review	In-class 11+ Data
Apr 24	Lab 6b: Final project - data analysis, report writing (whole paper)	Methods & Results in class, Final Report Assignments.
May 1	Final Report Review/Q&A	

**Attendance.**

Attendance is **mandatory** because so much of the class depends on the hands-on experience of running in the experiments.

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. **You will fail the course if you are absent more than two times.**

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.

**Grading.** Your final scores will be comprised by the following components:

#Lab	Points
Lab 1	10+2
Lab 2	10+2
Lab 3	10+2
Lab 4	10+2
Lab 5	10+2
Final	40
Total	100

**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 **11:59P.M. of the Wednesday** after the homework is assigned. Please upload your assignment through “**assignment 2**”, and only **use the attachment option** to upload to **SAKAI**. Pasted text or other forms, e.g., statistical results, are not accepted.

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 a 9 after 2 days late). Papers more than 5 days late will not be accepted and will get “0” for the assignment.

**Format of the assignments and final report:** Writing assignments and the final lab report should be in Times New Roman, 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.*

**Academic Integrity.** Read <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>. I have no tolerance for plagiarism. All work that students turn in must be their own work. Student should not work collaboratively on lab report assignments without prior approval from me. Any outside sources (including help from other people) must be appropriately referenced in all written work. Turning in someone else’s work as your own is completely unacceptable. I will use Turnitin to check plagiarize; any **student who plagiarizes will, at the very least, receive a failing grade** for the course.