

## Fall 2015: General Information and Syllabus

### Psychology 306: Cognition Lab

We will be doing various lab exercises that will give you hands on experience with the research methods and important findings in Cognition and in Sensation and Perception. These exercises will give you opportunity to experience some phenomena first hand, as well as the opportunity to generate and test some hypotheses of your own. You'll also be able to improve some basic skills in using software, analyzing data and communicating scientific findings.

#### Learning Goals:

1. Develop scientific thinking skills, including how to form and test hypotheses and how to draw sound conclusions from results.
2. Demonstrate some well-known cognitive and perceptual phenomena by running lab exercises.
3. Learn-by-doing the main research methods of the field.
4. Learn how to analyze data and evaluate hypotheses.
5. Learn research communication skills.
6. Improve computer literacy.

#### Materials

*Course Website:* on Sakai

*Office hours:* To be posted on Sakai.

*Instructors:*

306:01: Shuqi Yang. [shuqi.yang@rutgers.edu](mailto:shuqi.yang@rutgers.edu)

306:02: Christina Boyce-Jacino: [christina.boycejacino@rutgers.edu](mailto:christina.boycejacino@rutgers.edu)

302:01: Bruno Sauce Silva: [sauce.bruno@rutgers.edu](mailto:sauce.bruno@rutgers.edu)

302:02: Nathan Destler: [nathan.destler@rutgers.edu](mailto:nathan.destler@rutgers.edu)

#### Class requirements

*Weekly activity and assignments:* Each week students will learn some new material, participate in a lab exercise, and complete a written assignment. Assignments will be graded such that there will be opportunity for revisions and improvements. Your instructor will announce the due dates of weekly assignments.

*Attendance:* Attendance is required. You are responsible for all material, as well as completion of all assignments.

*Getting help:* Most questions can be addressed during class. Additional options for getting help include the instructors' office hours or the chat room for the week's lab. Instructors will monitor the chat room and reply according to a schedule to be announced. The chat room is a good forum for students to answer each other's questions. Doing so will help your own understanding of the material.

*Final Project:* There will be a final capstone project which will be based on an original lab exercise. The project, including the experimental design, collection and analyses of data and the written report (written in the style of journal articles in the field) gives you the opportunity to use the skills you have learned during the semester. Details of the project assignment will be described later in the semester.

*Grades:* 50% weekly assignments. 50% final project.

Some important rules: No electronic recording (audio, video, photos) of class materials is allowed. No online posting of class material is allowed other than as approved by the instructor. The computers in the lab classroom are to be used only for classwork: no emails, or web surfing, or anything other than approved coursework. No cell phone use during class. Points will be deducted from grades for those who violate these policies. No eating or drinking in the lab classroom.

Data Collection: In this course we are doing lab exercises, not original research. All data for weekly exercises as well as the final project will be collected with either you or your classmates serving as the participants. Collecting data from anyone else (roommates, friends, family members) is never permitted.

Academic Integrity: Rutgers University's Academic Integrity policy (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers/>) states, among other things, that "every Rutgers University student...make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of unsanctioned materials or unsanctioned collaboration." This includes having someone else run your experiment, having someone else read the material for you, and having someone else run the analysis for you. If the instructors believe that someone else is doing the work for you, this will be investigated in accordance with the university's procedures and policies.