

TA: Gwendolyn Rehrig

Email: gwen.rehrig+coglab@rutgers.edu

Office: Psychology 121B (down the hall from class)

Office hour: Wednesdays from 11:00am-12:00pm and by arrangement

Syllabus

To be updated at any time! Notice of changes will be provided via email & Sakai announcements.

Objective: This class is intended to demonstrate what cognitive psychology research is like. In this class you will participate in experiments to collect data, analyze the data, and then complete writing assignments using the same methods that cognitive psychologists use when writing research papers. Although I will provide a brief review of the statistical analyses we will be using ahead of time, it is expected that you already have the statistics background necessary to perform them. You will become familiar with common measures and methods that cognitive psychologists use to study the mind, and you will learn to explain and interpret the work as you would if you were conducting the research from start to finish yourself.

Communication: In order to get important announcements and communications from the instructor, you must use your student email and check it regularly! Make sure your student email address is up to date. The best way to contact me is by email. I check my email daily and I will respond to emails within 24 hours of receiving them. **I cannot guarantee a faster response**, so any issues that you need me to address should be presented with at least that much notice whenever possible.

Resources: All resources pertaining to the lab will be available on Sakai in .pdf format. This means the syllabus, slides, lab instructions, assignments, and any resources that I feel will be helpful for your assignments. Slides will be posted after each class.

Assignments: This course is considered writing intensive by the university and therefore your grade will be entirely based on written assignments. All writing must follow APA format (see Sakai for details along with helpful resources on APA writing style). For every lab there will be a writing assignment. The assignment will be explained and discussed in class. Assignments will be due by electronic submission at 11:55pm on the due date (see Schedule on Sakai for exact deadlines). Assignments must be submitted in Word format (.doc or .docx) or .pdf format. No other file formats will be accepted. Late assignments will be penalized by 5% for each day that they are late. **Assignments that are not turned in by electronic submission by the due date will be penalized as late.**

Schedule: The labs follow a two-week cycle. During the first week of each unit, you will participate in an experiment as part of the class. I will give a brief lecture about the theoretical background and motivation of the week's experiment, and explain the experimental design. During the second week, the class will analyze and interpret the results. Analyses will be conducted in class using SPSS and/or Microsoft Excel. I will go over the relevant statistical methods, both in general and as they apply to the results at hand.

The schedule of labs and assignments is as follows:

Lab 1: Mental Rotation

Data collection: 01/28/2015

Analysis: 02/04/2015

Assignment 1: 250 word [Abstract] due 02/10/2015 (10% of your grade)

Lab 2: Categorization and Typicality

Data collection: 02/11/2015

Analysis: 02/18/2015

Assignment 2: [Introduction] & [References] due 02/24/2015 (20% of your grade)

Lab 3: Numerical estimation

Data collection: 02/25/2015
Analysis: 03/04/2015
Assignment 3: [Methods] due 03/10/2015 (15% of your grade)

Lab 4: Stroop interference

Data collection: 03/11/2015
Analysis: 03/25/2015
Assignment 4: [Results] due 03/31/2015 (15% of your grade)

Lab 5: Decision making

Data collection: 04/01/2015
Analysis: 04/08/2015
Assignment 5: [Discussion] due 04/14/2015 (15% of your grade)

Lab 6: Working memory

Data collection: 04/15/2015
Analysis: 04/22/2015
Assignment 6: Full paper (Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, References) due 05/01/2015 (25% of your grade)

Academic Integrity: Cheating of any kind is prohibited (see [Academic Integrity at Rutgers](#) for more information). Turnitin will be used for all written work. Any assignment that is plagiarized will receive 0 points, no exceptions. There is nothing wrong with discussing your work with your classmates or running your work by a classmate for feedback, but all writing must be your own.

Classroom Conduct: Questions and discussion are encouraged! The more you participate, the better you and your classmates learn, and the better the sense I get for how well everyone grasps the material. Be on time for class. Lateness is distracting, disrespectful, and could mean missing crucial information that can hurt your grade later on. If you are late to class and miss part of the lecture material, it is your responsibility to review the slides after class on Sakai and contact the instructor with questions. Cell phone use will not be permitted and cell phones should be turned off or at the very least set to silent. Similarly, do not use the lab computers to do anything that is not relevant to class (browsing the internet, social media, doing homework for another class, etc.).

Attendance: Because this course is hands on and assignments will be based on work done in class, attendance is mandatory. Absences will be excused when reasonable (illness, family emergency, religious observances, etc.) but you must contact me as soon as you know you will be missing a class and should have documentation whenever possible. Each unexcused absence will be penalized by 2% of your final grade. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to review the lecture slides from class and contact the instructor with any questions or concerns.

APA Resources: [The Purdue Owl](#) is a great condensed resource for APA formatting and style basics. It is also kept up-to-date, so what the Owl says about current formatting specifications should be used over the other resource I am posting. I will be posting relevant excerpts from [The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association](#) (5th Edition) under resources. Use this for reference if you need help understanding what should go where in an APA style experimental paper, or for general tips on scientific writing. I will upload all relevant excerpts in time for your assignments (by the third class).