Read First!

This syllabus was last changed on **01/22/2016**.

Note: <u>If you decide to stay enrolled in this class after reading the syllabus, I will assume that you agree to all of the policies described here</u>. **This syllabus is subject to change at any time! Changes will be announced via Sakai.**

Instructor

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> **Only contact me by email from a Rutgers University email address (@rutgers.edu, @scarletmail.rutgers.edu)**!
>
> Give me **at least 24 hours** to respond to your emails.

Chat room: There is a Chat Room on Sakai for this section, which will be used for our **required** weekly online class meetings on Friday from 10:20-11:00 AM.

> You can ask general questions there at any time and I will respond within 36 hours. You are also encouraged to respond to one another. I will check the Chat Room for new messages daily (on weekdays).

Office hours: Mondays 10:30-11:30 AM in Psychology Room 115.

> If that time does not work for you, email me about alternative arrangements.

Course Description

Course Number: 830:306:92

We will be doing various lab exercises that will give you hands on experience with the research methods and important findings in cognitive psychology. 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. As a writing intensive course, one of the major course goals is to improve your ability to write scientifically. This includes the ability to write clearly and concisely, and the ability to improve your writing in response to feedback.

With the exception of the first week, and the final project, we will spend two weeks on each lab topic. The first week will be devoted to learning the background material for the lab, collecting data, and analyzing that data. The second week will focus on writing portions of a scientific report based on that lab. The full schedule of labs and assignments will be announced as the semester progresses.

Learning Goals

Course 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

SAS Goals

This course has been certified as satisfying four of the Writing and Communication Learning Outcome Goals (including WCR and WCD) of the SAS Core Curriculum.

Specifically, students will be able to:

a) Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision (WCR);

b) Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry (WCD);

c) Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly;

d) Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

Materials

Course materials are all available on the course Sakai website (here). Because this is an online course, there will be assigned videos in lieu of lectures.

Class Requirements

Weekly activity and assignments: Each week students will learn some new material, participate in a lab exercise, and have 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.

Timetable and deadlines: Completion of work and uploading to Sakai according to the instructor specified timetable is required. You are responsible for all material, as well as completion of all assignments.

Getting help: 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 also 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: The grade you earn will be based on the final project (out of 100 points).

I. Course Grade

The course grade is determined by your performance on the final project (out of 100 pts) combined with your performance on the weekly assignments as follows (see item *II* for more detail on weekly assignments):

- You will **gain** half a letter grade if you do **well** overall on the weekly assignments
- Your final grade will be **unaffected** if your performance was **passable** overall on weekly assignments
- You will **lose** half a letter grade if you did **poorly** overall on the weekly assignments
- You will **lose** half a letter grade for **each** missed assignment

II. Weekly Assignments

Each week there will be assignments (data collection and analysis, written work, etc.) and these assignments will be graded as follows:

- **3:** You did well on the assignment.
- **2:** Your assignment was passable. You can revise it based on my feedback to get a better grade
- **1:** You did poorly on the assignment. You should revise it based on my feedback to improve your grade.
- **0:** You did not submit the assignment. You do not have the opportunity to revise it for a better grade.

   For some weeks you will have multiple assignments due for the week, and your weekly grade will reflect your performance on all of the assignments for that week. In determining your final grade, the weekly assignment grade is what matters more than the grade for individual assignments. That said, you should care about your grade for **each** assignment in order to earn good weekly assignment grades and improve your course grade.

   Late Assignments will be penalized as follows: if you submit an assignment late, your assignment grade will be bumped down one grade category and the best you can get is a 2 (passable), even after revision. You will have **one week** from the assignment due date to submit an assignment late. After that I will not be able to accept the assignment and you will receive a 0 for it. Exceptions will be made only for documented emergencies (e.g., illness or family emergency). In the event that you experience an emergency that interferes with classwork, notify me by email as soon as possible and contact the Dean of Students.

III. Attendance and Participation

Each week you will be required to attend class, either in person during weeks 2 and 9 of the semester or online. **You are required to attend all classes, whether they take place in-class or online.** Attendance will be taken based on chat room logs, so you will need to make comments, ask questions, and/or respond to questions each week to get credit. Absences will result in a penalty on your final grade. Read the PowerPoint presentation and assignment instructions for the week **before** the weekly meeting. Active participation is required and will be taken into account in the final grade. This includes, but is not limited to, asking questions about the PowerPoint and/or the assignment for the week, as well as any technical questions you may have. Don't hold back on asking questions in the chat room! If you have a question, chances are someone else has that same question.

Computers: **Lab exercises require computers that run either Windows or Macintosh operating systems**.
Lab software is not compatible with operating systems used on devices that use iOS, Android, or other mobile operating systems (notebooks, tablets, or iPads). Contact the instructor if you aren't sure whether your computer meets the requirements. You will need to install software on whatever computer you use, so make sure to use either a device you own personally or that you have permission from the owner to install software. If you do not have a compatible computer, lab exercises may be run on computers in a university computer lab (see https://oit-nb.rutgers.edu/service/computer-labs-0 for a list of university computer lab locations). If you choose to run the exercises in a computer lab, be sure to bring a thumb-drive so that you can keep copies of your work. In addition, some of the exercises may require use of headphones.

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.

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

Academic Integrity: Everything submitted must be your own work and original work written **for this class**. No re-use of assignments from other classes is permitted. 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 and/or watch the lectures 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. Turnitin will be used to check the originality of all written assignments.