

Sensation and Perception Online Lab

01:830:302:92 Spring 2017
Busch Psychology Building, Rm 105
Thursday 12:00 PM – 1:40 PM
In-Class Meetings: 1/26 and 3/22

Instructor: Nicholas Kleene

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Online Discussion/Chat Session: Thursdays, 12:00-1:40 PM (MANDATORY)

Office Hours: By appointment, Busch Psychology Building, Rm 123.

We will be doing various lab exercises that will give you hands on experience with the research methods and important findings 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.

This laboratory class is meant to serve as a companion to the lecture class PSYCH-301. The conceptual and theoretical basis for the exercises and demonstrations are developed in lecture. For this reason, concurrent or past registration in PSYCH-301 is required.



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.

Class website:

- All relevant course information will be posted on the Sakai website, including experiment files, powerpoints, instructional videos, and journal articles.
- The class website also has this syllabus and the lab assignments.
- Assignment due dates and submission will all be in the assignment tab.
- All uploaded assignments must be .doc, .docx or .pdf. All uploaded data must be in excel or google sheets.
- Grades will be posted in the gradebook on the website.

Time Management:

Note that Rutgers University expects the **median** student to spend 3 hours per week on lab classes. (If you don't remember what "median" is, please ask!) Therefore, you should plan to spend 3 hours per week on this class. You should also be aware that any given week may take you more time if you find the material difficult, or less if you've covered it in previous classes. The great thing about online classes is that these three hours do not have to be all at the same time, or even the same time every week! (There is one exception to the "same time every week": see the section below called "Weekly Sakai Chats")

Please also note that the Lab Coordinator has very carefully chosen assignments such that they will take the median student approximately 3 hours. If the list of assignments one week seems like a lot of individual assignments, that is because most of them will take a

short time. If the list of assignments one week seems like short, that is because you are expected to spend more time on each assignment.

Computers:

Lab exercises require computers that run either Windows or Macintosh operating systems. Lab software is not compatible with operating systems used on notebooks, tablets, or ipads. 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.

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.

Grading:

In order to pass this class, you must do the weekly assignments on time. In addition, you must do the final project. **If you do not complete both of these aspects of the course, you will automatically fail the course.**

Your final grade will be based on three things:

1. Attendance (see Attendance Policy below)
2. Weekly lab assignments (REQUIRED: see above)
3. An original project report completed during the last several weeks (REQUIRED: see above)

Every assignment will count towards your grade. There are no tests or quizzes. *Grades for this course will not be curved or scaled.*

The criteria for grading your work will be:

- Effort and class participation
- Demonstration of progress in understanding and using software tools
- Clarity of graphs

- Clarity of writing
- Demonstration of understanding basic perceptual concepts introduced in the labs

Final Project:

The final project is the writing of a full laboratory report based on an original experiment carried out in class during the final weeks of the semester. These reports will be given a letter grade (A, B+, B, C+, C, D, F). This project will account for a large percentage of your grade.

Weekly Assignments:

We will be working on labs at each class meeting. After each lab is completed (data collection and analysis), you will be assigned a write-up of the lab that is due roughly one week later. Write-ups will often consist of brief (1-2 page) reports on methods, raw data, data analysis (graphs, charts, statistical tests, etc.), results and conclusions.

Students who hand in the assignment on time and receive a grade lower than P+ will be given the option of handing in one revised version within one week of receipt of the graded assignment. The revised report will then be graded. Revising an assignment DOES NOT guarantee you a higher grade, you must still follow the assignment and make the necessary corrections. No revisions of a failed assignment will be accepted after this one-week time period, and no subsequent revisions will be accepted after the first revision, although I will be available to meet with you to discuss the material and your performance.

The weekly assignments will be graded on the "P" scale:

P+:Excellent work

P:Good, pass

P-:Minor problems, needs improvement

F:Fail, requires redo

Scores on these weekly assignments will be used to adjust the grade given on the final project. A half letter grade will be added for 3 P+'s accumulated during the semester. A half letter grade will be subtracted for 3 P-'s accumulated during the semester. If an F is not redone, it will also cause a half letter grade deduction.

3 P+'s: Add one-half letter grade

P: No points added or deducted

3 P-'s: Deduct one-half letter grade

F: Deduct one-half letter grade if left uncorrected

Example: Student A has 3 P+'s, while student B has 3 P-'s and 1 F. If student A receives a B+ for their final paper, they receive +5 for having 3 P+'s, making their final paper

grade an A. If student B receives a B+ for their final paper, they receive -10 for having 3 P-'s and an F, making their final paper grade a C+.

All laboratory assignments and reports must be completed by the individual student. Collaborative reports will be given an F grade. Please see Academic Dishonesty Policy below.

Late Assignments:

If you do not turn in an assignment on time, you will lose the option to revise it, however you will get an opportunity to receive partial credit. When the revision assignment has been posted in the Assignments tab on Sakai, late assignments must be submitted there, and the maximum grade you can receive will be a P. If your late assignment is not submitted by the revision due date it will become an F and there will be no further opportunities to receive credit for it.

Weekly Sakai Chats:

Each week, we will have a weekly chat meeting in the chatroom on the class Sakai site. This meeting gives you an opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the experiment/assignment for the week. This is MANDATORY, and will determine your participation grade in the course. To receive credit, you must be in the chat room on time, for the entire time, and you must contribute meaningfully to the discussion. A “meaningful contribution” includes comments such as a question about the material that is not answered in the power-point or the movies assigned, or answering someone else’s question with a reasonable answer. Contributions that will not be counted include comments such as “I understood everything,” or “What did everyone do this weekend?” Each student is required to remain and participate in the chatroom for the full scheduled time. Note: this chat time is included as part of your time-management allotment.

Attendance Policy:

If you miss a chat meeting for a legitimate reason (e.g. illness, religious holiday) you must send an official excuse note (e.g. doctor's note). Missed chats that are not excused will negatively impact your participation grade. ***You must attend the weekly chat meetings on Sakai.*** Not attending prevents you from learning about the goals and content of the lab projects. If you are more than 20 minutes late you will be marked down as having an unexcused absence.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

In science, there is absolutely no room for fraud or untruth. Our job as scientists is to search out facts, not just for ourselves but for society as a whole. Consequently, you should be very clear that, just as I expect you to learn about the topic matter, I also expect you to learn about scientific honesty. In the work that you present to me, falsifying,

plagiarism, or copying without attribution will not be tolerated. Additionally, re-use of assignments from other classes will not be permitted. Intentional ethical violations will be handled in accordance with the university's academic integrity policy. All assignments will be submitted to the Turn-it-in system, where its originality will be verified. Please check the school guidelines for further clarification of violations.

All course materials can be found on <http://sakai.rutgers.edu> after you log in. It is expected that you have reviewed all relevant materials to the week's assignment prior to our schedule online chat.

If you decide to stay enrolled in this class after receiving this syllabus, I will assume you have read the entire syllabus and have agreed to all the policies outlined.