

COGNITION LAB 01:830:306:91

Fall 2022

Main Canvas Page: <https://canvas.rutgers.edu/>

Weekly Class Time: Asynchronous.

Instructor: Elisabeth Black, 3rd Year PhD Student, Behavioral Systems Neuroscience

E-mail Address: meb349@psych.rutgers.edu

Office Location: Busch Campus, Psychology Building, Office 227

Please use your Rutgers University email address for all of your correspondence with me (@rutgers.edu or @scarletmail.rutgers.edu). I won't reply to emails sent from non-school email addresses. *Please give me 2 business days to respond to your emails.*

1-on-1 Office Hours: Mondays 11:30-1:00; Tuesdays 4:00-6:00 By Appointment. If you need to speak with me, please arrange to meet beforehand, I cannot guarantee I will be in my office.

Faculty Coordinator: Dr. Mimi Phan (mphan@scarletmail.rutgers.edu)

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Melchi Michel (melchi.michel@rutgers.edu)

Course Overview

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 firsthand, 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.

Required Books & Materials

Required readings will be provided on CANVAS throughout the semester.

Technology/Software Requirements

Software for Remote Learning: Rutgers Zoom Account: (<https://it.rutgers.edu/zoom/>)

Technology for Remote Learning:

Computer: Laptop or desktop computer. Lab exercises require computers that run either Windows or Macintosh operating systems. Lab software is not compatible with operating systems used on android tablets, Chromebook or iPads.

Internet Connectivity: Preferably a high-speed connection. You may also use a wireless hotspot through your mobile provider.

Microphone (optional): This may be built into your device, but an external microphone or headset will provide better sound.

Webcam (optional): Many computers have one built in, but you can easily connect an external USB camera.

Learning Goals



The aim of this course is to acquaint students with scientific research within the context of learning psychology. 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 firsthand, 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. Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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

This laboratory class is meant to serve as a companion to the lecture class PSYCH-305. The conceptual and theoretical basis for the exercises and demonstrations are developed in lecture. For this reason, concurrent or past registration in PSYCH-305 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:
Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision (WCR);
Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry (WCD);
Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly;
Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

The Division of Student Affairs Diversity & Inclusion Statement

Excerpted (<http://inclusion.rutgers.edu/>):

“The Division of Student Affairs works to create an environment of inclusion which respects and affirms the inherent dignity, value, and uniqueness of all individuals, communities and perspectives. Our practices reflect awareness and understanding of the complexity of identity and the increasing interconnectedness of our world. It is our responsibility to promote and maintain a community of compassion, embracing the rich dimensions of diversity, and facilitating opportunities for understanding and the expression of both individual and shared truths.”

Current Academic Integrity Policy and Honor Pledge

Overview: Rutgers University takes academic dishonesty very seriously. By enrolling in this course, you assume responsibility for familiarizing yourself with the Academic Integrity Policy and the possible penalties (including suspension and expulsion) for violating the policy. As per the policy, all suspected violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to):

Cheating

Plagiarism

Aiding others in committing a violation or allowing others to use your work

Failure to cite sources correctly

Fabrication

Using another person's ideas or words without attribution—re-using a previous assignment

Unauthorized collaboration

Sabotaging another student's work in doubt, please consult the instructor

Honor pledge: All students will need to sign the Rutgers Honor Pledge on every major exam, assignment, or other assessment as follows:

On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).

Summary:

<http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home-2/academic-integrity-policy/>

Resources for Students: <http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home-2/for-students/>

Course Structure and Requirements 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, etc.) is never permitted.

The criteria for grading your work will be:

1. Effort and class participation
2. Demonstration of progress in understanding and using software tools
3. Clarity of graphs
4. Clarity of writing
5. Demonstration of understanding basic perceptual concepts introduced in the labs

15 points	Lab Report 1 (Experiment 1) Intro, Methods, Citations only
15 points	Lab Report 2 (Experiment 2) Results, Discussion, Citations only 30 points
30 points	Lab Report 3 (Experiment 3) Full lab report
15 points	2-3 pages Experimental Critique and thought experiment
12 points	Take Home Reading Q's (3 points each)
13 points	Worksheets/Data Analyses
100 points total	

The following grade conversion chart will be used to calculate the final letter grades:

A = 89.5-100
B+ = 84.5-89.49
B = 79.5-84.49
C+ = 74.5-79.49
C = 69.5-74.49
D = 59.5-69.49
F = 0-59.49

Lab Reports

The 1st and 2nd lab will focus on specific parts of a scientific writing (e.g., only intro and methods for Lab Report 1). The 3rd lab report will be a full report consisting of all relevant aspects of a scientific writing piece.

Experimental Critique & Thought Experiment

You'll pick 1 of the 4 experiments that we will discuss throughout the course. In this 2-3 page assignment, you need to provide your critical reaction to the experiment and elaborate on it by proposing a 'hypothetical' experiment which would remedy the missing point(s) you have discussed in your reaction/critique. You should briefly discuss what kind of results you would expect from this thought experiment. The main aim of the class is to equip students with the ability to understand and critique scientific work. This assignment allows students to work on those critiquing skills.

Take Home Reading Q's

You will be asked to answer 2-3 questions related to the background reading for the experiments. They will require very brief responses and aims as a guide to better read the scientific articles.

Worksheets/Data Analyses

After you have run the experiments, you'll do simple data manipulations.

Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments will be accepted up to 1 week from the original due date for a penalty. The penalty will be 10% of the maximum possible grade for the assignment. For example, if an assignment is worth 15 points the maximum score for a late assignment will be 13.5. Late assignments will not be accepted after the 1-week late period past the original due date – the assignment grade will be 0. For the 3rd Lab Report, late submission is not possible, unless the proof of extraordinary circumstances is provided.

Student-Wellness Services

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/>

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professionals within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community, and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Crisis Intervention : <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/crisis-intervention/>

Report a Concern: <http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/>

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

Tentative Schedule:

All Assignments are due Friday night at 11:59 pm.

Week #	Date	Material & Assignments	Assignment Due
1	9-Sep	Class Starts Second Week	
2	16-Sep	Intro to course, Syllabus, PsychoPy, Basics of the scientific method Psychophysical methods Review of statistics: Mean and Standard Deviation Expt. 0. Line Length	
3	23-Sep	Basics on scientific writing: Style, Intro, and Methods, citations Complete Expt.01. Divided Attention	Take Home Reading Qs on Expt.01 Due 9/23/22 11:59 pm
4	30-Sep	Basics on scientific writing: Style, Intro, and Methods, citations Expt.01. Divided Attention	Take Home Questions on Intro & Methods Due 9/30/22 11:59 pm
5	7-Oct	Basics on scientific writing: Results and Discussion Complete Expt. 02. Mental Rotation	Lab Report 1-Intro, Methods, Citations only – 15 points (on Expt1) Due 10/07/22 11:59 pm
6	14-Oct	Background for experiment “Mental Rotation”. Expt. 02. Mental Rotation	Take Home Reading Qs on Expt.02 Due 10/14/22 11:59 pm
7	21-Oct	Background for experiment “Attentional Blink” Complete Expt. 03. Attentional Blink	Take Home Questions on Results & Discussion Due 10/21/22 11:59 pm
8	28-Oct	Expt. 03. Attentional Blink	Take Home Reading Qs on Expt.03 Lab Report 2 – Results, Discussion, Citations only –15 points (on Expt2) Due 10/28/22 11:59 pm
9	4-Nov	Background for experiment “Stroop Effect” Complete Expt. 04 Stroop Effect Expt. 04 Stroop Effect	Take Home Reading Qs on Expt.04 Due 11/04/22 11:59 pm
10	11-Nov	Writing Workshop for Lab Report 3 (Lab Report 3 Intro, Citations, et al.)	
11	18-Nov	Recap/data analysis & review. (Lab Report 3 Methods & Results)	Assignment Due: 2-3 pages Experimental Critique and thought experiment Due 11/18/22 11:59 pm
12	23-Nov	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING	
13	2-Dec	Integration & Overview (Lab Report 3 Discussion)	
14	9-Dec		Lab report 3 (on Expt3) – Full lab report due by 12/9/22 at 11:59 pm