

CLASS SYLLABUS

Sensation and Perception Lab

01:830:302:90 Fall 2022

Where: Online

Day and time: Asynchronous (weekly LiveStream Thursdays @ 4PM)

Instructor: Sten Knutsen

E-mail: sten.knutsen@rutgers.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

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

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

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.

List of Required Books &/or Materials

Required readings will be provided on CANVAS throughout the semester

Technology/Software Requirements:

Software for Remote Learning:

Rutgers Box account: (<https://box.rutgers.edu/> (Links to an external site.))

Rutgers Zoom Account: (<https://it.rutgers.edu/zoom/> (Links to an external site.))

Technology for Remote Learning:

Computer: Laptop or desktop computer.

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.

Computers:

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 I pads.

Note:

Learning remotely presents new challenges. For assistance with learning how to address these challenges, please consult the resources available here: https://rlc.rutgers.edu/remote_instruction (Links to an external site.)

Please visit the [Rutgers Student Tech Guide](#) (Links to an external site.)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#) (Links to an external site.)

page for resources available to all students. If you do not have the appropriate technology for financial reasons, please email Dean of Students deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu for assistance. If you are facing other financial hardships, please visit the Office of Financial Aid at <https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/> (Links to an external site.)

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 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. Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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.

The Division of Student Affairs Diversity & Inclusion Statement

Excerpted (<http://inclusion.rutgers.edu/> (Links to an external site.))

“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> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

Resources for Students:

<http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home-2/for-students/> (Links to an external site.)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Self-Reporting Absence Application:

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> (Links to an external site.)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#) (Links to an external site.)

to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Course Structure and Requirements

**Note that class meetings will not start until the @nd week of Rutgers NB scheduled classes*

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. **IMPORTANT: Collecting data from anyone else (roommates, friends, family members, etc.) is never permitted.**

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

Standardized Rubric Across LPL Sections

- 15% Lab Report 1 (Experiment 1) Intro, Methods, Citations only
- 15% Lab Report 2 (Experiment 2) Results, Discussion, Citations only
- 30% Lab Report 3 (Experiment 3) Full lab report
- 15% Take Home Quizzes (5 points each)
- 15% 2-3 pages Experimental Critique and thought experiment
- 10% Take Home Reading Q's/my discretion

Student-Wellness Services: All of these services are being provided remotely during Fall 2022.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

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

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#) [\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

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/> (Links to an external site.)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#) [\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Report a Concern: <http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/> (Links to an external site.)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#) [\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

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

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#) [\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

Please read the "What is a Disability?" question box I've copied from the Office of Disability services (ODS) website below. If you feel you have a physical or mental

impairment that will substantially affect your performance in this course, please contact the ODS immediately. Only they can recommend reasonable accommodations for students (e.g., extended time taking quizzes; flexibility with assignment due dates).

From the ODS website:

What is a Disability?

In our office, we value disability as yet another component of the incredible diversity found on this campus. Disability can take many different forms – some are apparent while others are not. We strive to promote an appreciation of every student and the unique strengths and attributes they bring along with them.

According to the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, a disability is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.

Some general examples of disabilities we accommodate include, but are not limited to, depression, anxiety, hearing/vision/mobility conditions, chronic illnesses, psychological diagnoses, learning disabilities, ADHD, traumatic brain injury, and Autism Spectrum Disorder [emphasis mine].

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines> (Links to an external site.)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#) [\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. (Links to an external site.)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#) [\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/> (Links to an external site.)

QUICKSTART GUIDE

This Quickstart guide will provide you with a few tips on how to proceed/succeed in this course (but please read the rest of the syllabus too!)

1) Watch weekly *LiveStreams* (recorded or live)

- This course is **asynchronous**. This means that we do not meet together on a weekly basis.
- However, I've decided to produce **weekly LiveStream videos** (via Zoom) to help guide you through the semester.
- I will record these LiveStream videos **live every Thursday starting at 4PM**. **Weekly LiveStream Zoom links will be provided in the class schedule above sometime before the LiveStream starts.**
- As this class is asynchronous, **attending the LiveStream is not required/mandatory.**
- **All LiveStream session recordings will be posted to Canvas shortly after they end (sometime Thursday evening).**
- If you can't attend the weekly LiveStream session, **please watch all recorded LiveStreams as they are posted.**
- **You are responsible for all information provided in the LiveStreams.**
- During these sessions, I will provide information/feedback about recent assignments and answer **student questions**.

There are **two ways** to ask questions about the course/assignments for the livestream:

1. You can ask a question by **emailing your question to sten.knutsen@rutgers.edu before 5 PM on Wednesdays**. Please include "Livestream question" and your section number in the subject line of your email. I will compile all emailed questions and answer them to the best of my ability during the LiveStream session.
2. You can attend the LiveStream Zoom session **live** on Thursdays and ask your question there.

The first LiveStream will be recorded on Thursday, September 15 @ 4PM.

If you want to attend the live recording, **always use your Rutgers Zoom account to access the Zoom session**. Information about setting up Zoom can be found here: <https://canvas.rutgers.edu/documentation/external-apps/zoom-getting-started-for-students> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

OFFICE HOURS: Office hours will be held *by appointment only*. If you want to meet for office hours, email me at sten.knutsen@rutgers.edu and **provide me with three**

possible days/times that you would be able to meet. If I am able to make one of your times, I will respond by emailing you a Zoom link for the office hours session.

2) Complete weekly assignments

Although this course is asynchronous **it is *not* work-at-your-own-pace.** There will be weekly assignments, and **they must be completed and submitted on time.**

- **All weekly assignments will be due on Fridays @11:59 PM.** You will be given at least a week to complete assignments. For example, an assignment released on Thursday, September 15 will be due the following Friday, September 23 @11:59PM
- Assignments will be graded on a 0-3 point scale:
 - **0 points:** no assignment submitted, blank assignment, or assignment submitted with little to nothing complete.
 - **1 point:** assignment submitted on time but incomplete or very poor quality. Should resubmit.
 - **2 points:** assignment submitted on time and complete, but there are some problems. Can resubmit if you wish, but not necessary
 - **3 points:** assignment submitted on time and very few or no correction needed. Do not resubmit!
- **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS! Turn in assignments on time!**
- Note on Quizzes: there will be a few quizzes scattered throughout the semester. They will be short and easy to complete (I hope!). I will announce when quizzes are released and you will have several days to access and complete the quiz. **All quizzes must be completed on time -- there are no makeups for quizzes.**

3) Keep me informed

Yes, these are still very strange times we live in, unfortunately. Local and world events seem to change by the minute. **Please, keep me informed if your personal situation changes in a way that might affect your performance in this course.**

EMAIL: Please email me with all questions/comments/updates at sten.knutsen@rutgers.edu. Please be sure to include your section number somewhere in your email (preferably the title, e.g., "Question about PsychoPy -- section 04").

During weekdays I answer emails within 24 hours, so please wait at least that long before re-emailing.

I typically do not answer emails within 24 hrs during weekends. For example, if you email me at any time on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday, you may not receive a response until sometime on Monday.

Week	LiveStream Date	Activities and Assignments	Assignments Due
0	September 8	None/No LiveStream. Class starts next week.	None
1	September 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to course, syllabus • Basics of the scientific method • PsychoPy installation • Assignment: Line Length Experiment data collection • Assignment: Excel-lent Exercise LiveStream link: will appear here before class	No assignments due but first LiveStream on Thursday, September 15@4 PM
2	September 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychophysical methods; • Review of statistics: Mean and Standard Deviation; • Assignment: Line Length/Psychophysics Quiz • Assignment: Scientific Methods Quiz • Assignment: Line Length Experiment: Statistics • Assignment: Tone Discrimination Data Collection LiveStream link: will appear here before class	Line Length Experiment data collection and Excel-lent Exercise due Friday, 9/23 @11:59PM
3	September 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment: Citation Practice • Assignment: Pitch Perception Reading Worksheet • Assignment: Tone Discrimination Data Analysis LiveStream link: will appear here before class	Line Length/Psychophysics Quiz, Scientific Methods Quiz, Line Length Experiment: Statistics and Tone Discrimination Data Collection (4 assignments total) due Friday, 9/30 @11:59PM
4	October 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basics on scientific writing • Quiz 3: Results and Discussion • Assignment: Lab Report 1 (Tone Discrimination Introduction and Methods) 15% of class grade • Assignment: Stroop Data Collection LiveStream link: will appear here before class	Assignment: Citation Practice, Pitch Perception Reading Worksheet, Tone Discrimination Data Analysis due Friday, 10/7 @11:59PM
5	October 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 5: Stroop • Assignment: Stroop Data Analysis LiveStream link: will appear here before class	Quiz 3: Results and discussion, Stroop Data Collection and Lab Report 1 (15% class grade!) due Friday, 10/14 @11:59PM
6	October 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment: VSTM Data Collection LiveStream link: will appear here before class	Quiz 5: Stroop and Assignment: Stroop Data Analysis due Friday, 10/21 @11:59PM
7	October 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment: Lab Report 2 (Stroop Experiment Results and Discussion) 15% of class grade LiveStream link: will appear here before class	Assignment: VSTM Data Collection due Friday, 10/28 @11:59 PM
8	November 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment: VSTM Data Analysis • Assignment: Motion Data Collection LiveStream link: will appear here before class	Lab Report 2 (15% class grade) due Friday, November 4 @11:59 PM

9	November 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment: Lab Report 3 (VSTM -- final paper) 30% class grade • Assignment: Experimental Critique and Thought Experiment 15% class grade • Writing Workshop for Lab Report 3 (VSTM): Introduction and Citations LiveStream link: will appear here before class	Assignment: VSTM Data Analysis and Motion Data collection due Friday, November 11 @11:59 PM
10	November 17	Writing Workshop for for Lab Report 3 (VSTM): Methods LiveStream link: will appear here before class	Work on Lab Report 3 (VSTM) and Experimental Critique and Thought Experiment papers
11	November 24	THANKSGIVING BREAK!!!!!!	NO ASSIGNMENTS DUE!! THANKSGIVING BREAK!!!! However, feel free to work on your Lab Report 3 (VSTM) and Experimental Critique and Thought Experiment papers if you so desire
12	December 1	Writing Workshop for for Lab Report 3 (VSTM): Results and Discussion LiveStream link: will appear here before class	Work on Lab Report 3 (VSTM) and Experimental Critique and Thought Experiment papers
13	December 8	FINAL LIVESTREAM OF THE SEMESTER!!! LiveStream link: will appear here before class	Work on Lab Report 3 (VSTM) and Experimental Critique and Thought Experiment papers
14	Wednesday, December 14	FINAL PAPER AND EXPERIMENTAL CRITIQUE DUE!!!	Final Draft of paper and Experimental Critique and thought experiment due Wednesday, December 14 @11:59 PM