Sensation & Perception online Lab

Fall 2016 302:91
Busch Psychology Building, Room 105
Wednesday 10:20-11:00 AM

Instructor: Xiaoli He
Email: xiaoli.he@rutgers.edu (Please contact me only by email from your Rutgers University e-mail account, and put something like [Sensation & Perception Lab] in the title). I'll respond within 24 hs, and last minute email will not be guaranteed to get replied timely.

Office hours: TBD. Busch Psychology Building, room 162.

Chat room hours: required weekly. Wednesday 10:20-11:00 AM in the Chat Room on SAKAI. However, you can ask general questions there at any time and I will respond within two days. You are also encouraged to respond to one another. I will check the Chat Room for new messages daily (on weekdays).

In-class meetings: There will be two in-class meetings in weeks 2 (Sep. 14th) and 9 (Nov. 2nd) of the semester during these hours in Room 105, Busch Psychology building.

Course description

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. The schedule of each lab exercises and assignments will be announced as the semester progresses.

Learning goals

- 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 course has been certified as satisfying four of the Writing and Communication Learning Outcome Goals (including WCR and WCD) of the SAS Core Curriculum. Among other things, you will learn how 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.

This laboratory class is meant to serve as a companion to the lecture class PSYCH-302. The conceptual and theoretical basis for the exercises and demonstrations are developed in lecture. For this reason, concurrent or past registration in PSYCH-302 is required.

Materials

All the materials are on our course website:

- **Announcements**: all the announcements including assignments requirements will be posted here. It's your responsibility to check announcements promptly. (Normally SAKAI will send you emails when the announcements are posted.)
- **Resources**: Experiment files, PowerPoint slides, Instructional videos and other materials.
- **Assignments 2**: weekly assignments as well as revisions, final project.
- **Gradebook 2**: grade of assignments and course grade.
- **Chatroom**: We will have our weekly discussion, Q&A in the Chat room.

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.

Course requirements

Online Participation:

We'll have weekly online class meetings on Wednesday 10:20-11:00 AM. **These chat meetings are mandatory.** During that time, you can ask questions, make any comments about the materials or assignments, help your classmates, develop ideas, and get engaged with the course. **Signing in and participating counts towards your grade**. So you need to make comments during that time. Furthermore, read the PowerPoint presentation and assignment instructions before the weekly meeting in case you have any questions about the assignment, technical or conceptual. If you are unsure about something, please ask a question in the chat room! Chances are others may share your confusion and will appreciate someone speaking up.

Weekly assignments:
Each week students will learn some new materials, participate in a lab exercise, and have a written assignment.
Grading rules: These assignments will be graded in general on demonstrated effort, clarity, and understanding of the introduced concepts. Based on the above, you will receive one of the following grades:

- P+ (3): You did well on the assignment. No revision is required.
- P (2): You did okay. Revision is optional.
- P- (1): You did poorly. Revision is required.
- F (0): You didn't submit the assignment. No chance for revision.

Revisions: Assignments will be graded such that there will be opportunity for revisions and improvements (The higher grade is not guaranteed). The assignment is usually due **in one week** after it has been posted. After the initial grade and feedback is released, you will have **another week** to revise the assignment.
Lateness rules: if you don't submit the assignment in time, you will not have a chance for revisions. However, you can receive partial credit by submitting your assignment as the revision (in the appropriate assignment page on Sakai). In this case, the highest grade you can receive will be a P (2), but if you do not submit this by the revision due date, you will receive an unchangeable F (0). In general, please do your best to submit assignments on time as to not incur any penalties.
***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. These reports will be given a letter grade (A, B+, B, C+, C, D, F). Details of the project assignment will be described later in the semester. Project proposals must be approved by the instructor before beginning data collection.
***Timetable and deadlines*:**
Completion of work and uploading to Sakai according to the instructor specified timetable is required. You are responsible for all materials, 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 a good forum for students to answer each other's questions. Doing so will help your own understanding of the material.

Grading calculation

The course grades will be based on the following 3 aspects:

- Online Participation
- Weekly assignments
- Final Project

The course grade will be based on your final project report, and adjusted by the weekly assignments, as well as online participation.
The detailed calculation:

- Every 3 P+ will add ½ letter grade to your final project;
- P means no adjustments;
- Every 3 P- will deduct ½ letter grade to your final project;
- Each F will deduct ½ letter grade to your final project;
- Missing more than 3 online meetings (with no reason) will deduct ½ letter grade to your final project.

Other rules

Materials:
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 from Cognition Lab serving as the participants. Collecting data from anyone else (roommates, classmates from other courses, friends, family members) is never permitted.
* If you want to collect data from other sections of Cognition lab (especially for the final project), please let me know in advance.

***Academic Integrity*:**
All laboratory assignments and reports must be completed by individual student. Collaborative reports will be given an F grade. The university policy does not allow re-using your own material from classes taken previously or concurrently. Please see Rutgers University's Academic Integrity policy below. In addition, your assignments will be checked using **Turnitin**, a software that checks originality of your assignments by comparing it to content on the Web, articles, books, and assignments of previous students of this class.
Rutgers University's Academic Integrity policy (http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers/):
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 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.

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.