Psychology 353: Laboratory in Cognition and Memory
Spring 2008: 20289
MW 1-2:50
Classroom: 2057 BSB

Instructor: Jennifer Wiley
Office: 1054B BSB Phone: (312) 355-2501 Email: jwiley@uic.edu
Office Hours: Monday 12-1 or by appointment

TA: Matthew Rac
Office: 2068 BSB email: matthewrac@gmail.com
Office Hours: 3-4 MW or by appointment

Purpose of Course
The purpose of this course is to give students first-hand experience with experimentation in cognition.

For the first part of the course, students will gain experience in running experiments in attention, memory, text comprehension and problem solving. For each experiment, students will act as participants and then take the role of researchers responsible for entering and interpreting data, and reporting experimental results in APA format. Students will learn the background for each experiment by reading original research articles, discussing the articles in terms of the ideas that they use to predict results, and examining how those predictions relate to our own results. Students will have hands-on experience with data collection, data entry in Excel, data analysis in SPSS and guided instruction on writing each section of the APA style report. At the end of the semester, students (either alone or in pairs) will be responsible for researching a topic of their choice, designing their own cognitive experiment, collecting data, analyzing data, writing a final APA style manuscript, and presenting results in the form of a poster at the end-of-semester poster fair.

This class is designed to be of interest to students who may be considering graduate school in psychology, but it will be useful to any student who enjoys the topics of human learning, memory and problem solving, and wants to better understand the nature of cognitive research. More generally, a background in cognitive experimentation is good experience for students who are considering a wide range of careers including cognitive science, education, law, business, medicine, and neuroscience.

Readings
Journal Articles:
Assigned readings will be original journal articles that will be assigned once students have participated in each experiment. They will available through UICCAT online journal subscriptions.

Strongly Recommended Text:
American Psychological Association. (2000). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

All of your assignments MUST conform to APA style. This publication manual is recommended but not required for purchase. If you are considering pursuing a graduate degree in psychology, you might as well buy it now. For others, this book is on reserve at the library. If you do decide to buy it, online merchants (e.g., Amazon.com, Borders.com) are usually cheaper than the UIC bookstore.

Grading
Grades will be determined by the following breakdown
- 20% Participation in Experiments (4 classic experiments and 3 data collection days)
- 20% Quizzes on Readings (4 quizzes)

5% Written Assignment 1
10% Written Assignment 2
10% Written Assignment 3
5% Reference Presentation
10% Written Assignment 4
20% Project Proposal and Final Report, Poster Presentation

No make-up quizzes will be given.
No late papers will be accepted.
In case of emergencies, contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Students with Disabilities: Reasonable accommodations will be made, but requests must be made **during the first week of class**. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Please contact ODS at 312/413-2103 or 312/413-0123.

Campus Policy on Observance of Religious Holidays
The faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago shall make every effort to avoid scheduling examinations or requiring that student projects be turned in or completed on religious holidays. Students who wish to observe their religious holidays shall notify the faculty member **by the tenth day of the semester** of the date when they will be absent unless the religious holiday is observed on or before the tenth day of the semester. In such cases, the student shall notify the faculty member at least five days in advance of the date when he/she will be absent. The faculty member shall make every reasonable effort to honor the request, not penalize the student for missing the class, and if an examination or project is due during the absence, give the student an exam or assignment equivalent to the one completed by those students in attendance. If the student feels aggrieved, he/she may request remedy through the campus grievance procedure.

Plagiarism/Cheating:
Plagiarism is defined as the use (or submission) of another's ideas, thoughts, or writing, without proper acknowledgment (quotation marks and citations). If you are ever unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, attend office hours and ask for guidance. When you are composing a new research paper and reading and discussing other research papers in it, be sure to use your own words to describe the gist of other studies or other author's explanations. Make sure that you discuss other papers in a way that supports the point you are making in your own paper. This is one good way to avoid reiterating someone else's words. If you must use a direct quote or wording from a paper you are reading, then use quotation marks. It is rare that you should have to do this in writing research papers, except for when you are describing exact instructions that were given in previous experiments. For the most part, you should be paraphrasing or summarizing other articles. Under these circumstances, do not use quotation marks, but when describing what was found in a previous study or suggested by a previous author, you must cite the source.

You may also discuss our readings, experiments and findings with other students in the course. But, be sure to write your own assignments. **Do not share your writing assignments with other students** or copy other student's assignments or tests.

Any form of plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated. Students who are found to have plagiarized work or cheat on any assignment may be subject to various disciplinary actions including a failing grade on the particular assignment, failure of the entire course, and possible expulsion from the University. For more information about the violation of Academic Integrity and its consequences please see the UIC Department of Student Judicial Affairs (http://www.uic.edu/depts /sja/integrit.htm).

Course Schedule

Jan 14 Introductory remarks, Review of Syllabus, Overview of Class
Discussion of Four Key Questions for each experiment we discuss (note: these are the questions for each quiz):

1. What is the main question?
2. How did they test it? What manipulation(IV) was done to what task(DV)?
3. What happened to the DV?
4. What does this mean? (Or what did the authors say it meant?)

Jan 16 Participate in Experiment 1
Reading Assignment 1: Yaxley & Zwaan

Jan 21 Holiday

Jan 23 Quiz on Reading Assignment 1 (see 4 key questions above)
How to read a journal article
Walk through article, background, and predictions for Experiment 1
Overview of APA Style, Manuscript Order, Example Title Page/Abstract
Short Lecture on APA Style for Title Page & Abstract

Jan 28 Intro to SPSS, Descriptive & Inferential Statistics, Worksheet
Analyze Data
Writing Assignment 1: Title Page and Abstract for Study 1
Grading Checklist for Writing Assignment 1

Jan 30 Writing Assignment 1 Due (Through Email directly to Matt matthewrac@gmail.com)
Please send as WORD document before class.
Participate in Experiment 2 Instructions
Stimuli: List 1 List 2
Lecture on APA Style for Method & Reference section
Example Method and References
Take notes on method from Experiment 2
Reading Assignment 2: Carmichael, Hogan & Walter, 1932

Carmichael, L., Hogan, H.P., & Walter, A.A (1932). An experimental study of the effect of language on the reproduction of visually perceived form. Journal of Experimental Psychology, 15, 73-86.

Feb 4 Quiz on reading (see 4 key questions above)
Walk through article, background, and predictions for study
Data from Experiment 2
Reliability Analysis Worksheet
Start data coding
Get Reliability to > .90 before leaving class

Feb 6 Enter/Analyze data from Study 2 with Worksheet

Feb 11 Participate in Experiment 3
How to run an experiment
Script
Materials
Experiment Assignment: Run three other people in this study
Writing Assignment 2 -- Abstract, Title, Method, References and Figure/Appendix
Grading Checklist for Writing Assignment 2
Reading Assignment: Bialystock. Also optional background reading

Feb 13 No class meeting -- run three other people in Experiment 3

Feb 18 Writing Assignment 2 Due (Through Blackboard)
Quiz on reading (see 4 key questions above)
Walk through article, background, predictions
Code Data
Enter Data/Analyze with worksheet

Feb 20 Lecture on APA Style Results section, Tables and Figures
How to make Graphs in Excel
Writing Assignment 3 -- Title, Abstract, Results, References, Table or Figure
Grading Checklist for Writing Assignment 3
Participate in Experiment 4
Reading Assignment 4: To be posted after class

Feb 25 Writing Assignment 3 Due (Through Blackboard)
Quiz on Reading (see 4 key questions above)
Walk through article, background, predictions
Analyze data with worksheet
How to write an Introduction and Discussion

Feb 27 How to find papers on PSYCINFO/ERIC/Google Scholar/Web of Science (with worksheet)
Find a related article for Experiment 4 to summarize for the class.

Mar 3 Reference Presentations: Summarize an article for the class
(5 minutes or less per student)
Writing Assignment 4: title, abstract, intro, discussion & reference section.
(Your paper must cite 3 journal articles in the introductory section)
Grading checklist for Writing Assignment 4

Mar 5 Finish Reference Presentations, if needed
How to pick a project - Project worksheet
How to write a proposal
Sample Proposal
Assignment: Decide on a project (you can either work alone or with a partner)
Complete one worksheet per project
When worksheet complete email to instructor and if acceptable, she will schedule meeting.

Mar 10,12 Writing Assignment 4 Due (Through Blackboard)
Meetings with Instructor on Proposed Projects

Mar 17,19 Meetings with TA to proof and finalize Experiment Materials and Running Procedure

Mar 21 Full written proposal due (Through Blackboard)
Proposal including FINAL and EXACT COPIES of running materials must be submitted.
Proposal Grading Sheet

Mar 31 Participate in Data Collection

Apr 2 Participate in Data Collection

Apr 7 Graded proposals returned
Discussion how to revise into Final Reports (Full APA Style Papers)
Data distributed
Begin to enter/code data with worksheets

Apr 9 2057 Available for computer use, statistical consulting

Apr 14 How to make a poster
How to present your poster
Poster and Presentation grading sheet

Apr 16 2057 available for poster preparation

Apr 21 Poster draft approval
Applying to Grad School and Letters of Recommendation; Sample Vita

Apr 28 Poster Fair -- Final presentations in 1076 BSB.
Final Papers due (through blackboard) BUT BE SURE TO HAND IN HARD COPY OF GRADED PROPOSAL
to recapture any lost points.
Final Report grading sheet

last updated 2.2.08