

Psychology 353
Laboratory in Cognition and Memory
CRN # 35527/35528
Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 – 12:50pm
Behavioral Sciences Building (BSB) 2064

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Office Hours: Tuesday 10am – 11am
Wednesday 2pm – 3pm
or by appointment

Please include “353” in the subject line of any course-related emails to the instructor

Course Description

The goal of this course is to introduce you to empirical techniques in cognitive psychology with a specific focus on four major areas of cognition including memory, attention, problem solving, and text comprehension. To do this, you will be involved in several experiments both as a participant and as an experimenter. Initially, experiments will be performed in class as a group, however, later in the course you will run your own experiment. In class, you will complete four lab experiments and write lab reports based on the findings of those studies. 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. You will also formulate a research question of your own, propose an experiment to test a related hypothesis, perform the proposed experiment, analyze the resulting data, and present the findings in an APA empirical report and a scientific poster session. Each experiment that we perform will involve some or all of the following parts: (1) Introduction to the topic; (2) Discussion of hypotheses, research design, and methodology; (3) Collection and analysis of data; (4) Presentation of results; (5) Discussion and interpretation of results in light of the hypotheses and other research; and (6) Conclusions, including implications for future research.

This class is designed to be of interest to students who are considering graduate school in experimental 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 in areas including cognitive science, education, learning sciences, law, business, medicine, and neuroscience. This course fulfills the Writing-in-the-Discipline (WITD) requirement in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. 3 credit hours.

Prerequisite(s): You must have taken PSCH 242 and PSCH 343. Also you must have taken or be concurrently enrolled in PSCH 352. For psychology or neuroscience majors only.

Registration: This is a 3-credit course. You must register for both the lecture section and the lab section.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Search for, locate, and critically read empirical research reports
- Perform and understand basic experiments in cognition & memory
- Formulate a hypothesis that builds on previous literature in cognition & memory
- Propose an experiment to test that hypothesis in the form of a research proposal that includes specific aims, objective & significance, background & hypothesis, proposed method, and ethical considerations
- Implement the proposed experiment
- Summarize and analyze data (using SPSS)
- Write a complete APA-style empirical research report (including title, abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, references, tables and figures)

Journal Articles:

Readings will be original journal articles that will be assigned once students have participated in each experiment. They are available through UICCAT online journal subscriptions.

Required Textbook

Beins, B. C., & Beins, A. M. (2012). *Effective writing in psychology: Papers, posters, and presentations* (2nd ed.). Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN: 978-0-470-67244-0

Note: All of your assignments MUST conform to APA style. This textbook will be very useful in helping you with the writing of your lab reports and poster. It can also serve as a reference in the future for other writing projects and creating presentations. Cheaper e-book versions are available at the following link: <http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-111824222X.html>

Recommended Text:

American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (2nd printing of 6th Ed.) Washington D.C. ISBN: 978-1-4338-0561-5

Note: 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 are usually cheaper than the UIC bookstore.

Expectations

- Show up on time to every lab session
- If you MUST miss a lab session, email the instructor ahead of time and make arrangements to make up what you missed (not including quizzes)
- Submit all assignments on time (late papers will not be accepted)
- Do not have side conversations during lecture
- Do not use your phone or computer for non-course-related activities during lecture
- All writing submitted will be clearly written, grammatically correct, and follow APA format and style
- Know the basics of experimental design and statistical analysis
- Be respectful to your classmates and instructor

Grading

Grades will be determined by the following breakdown

- 20% Participation in in-class experiments (4)
- 20% Quizzes on readings (4)
 - 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 or late papers will be accepted unless there are emergency situations. In cases of emergency, documentation will be required for late work or make-up quizzes to be allowed.

The University recognizes a student's responsibility for attending classes as constant.

In case of emergencies, contact the instructor as soon as possible.

This is a fast-paced laboratory course, therefore it is not recommended to register late for this course. Students joining the class at the end of the second week will have already missed 20% of available points.

Students with Disabilities: Reasonable accommodations will be made, but requests must be made **as soon as possible**. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course are welcome, but 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: 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, use quotation marks. It is rare that you should have to do this, 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 discuss our readings, experiments and findings with other students in the course. But, be sure to write your own assignments. **Do not copy other student's assignments or tests. This is cheating. Do not share your writing assignments with other students. You will also be considered at fault if another student uses your work.**

Any form of plagiarism/cheating will not be tolerated. Students found to have plagiarized work or cheat on any assignment will 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 info about the violation of Academic Integrity and its consequences see UIC Department of Student Judicial Affairs (<http://www.uic.edu/depts/sja/integrit.htm>).

UIC RESOURCES

If you find yourself having difficulty with the course material or any other difficulties in your student life, don't hesitate to ask for help! Come to me, or if it is about an issue beyond this class, please contact your college advisors, or get help from any number of other support services on campus. You can get a referral to the right place, or help on the spot, from concerned advisor in the Undergraduate Success Center (USC) at usc@uic.edu.

See also:

The Writing Center, located in Grant Hall 105, offers one-on-one consultation with student writers who need help developing ideas, or need advice, guidance or additional instruction on any aspects of writing in any class. Tutors are prepared to spend fifty minutes per appointment, and there is no limit to the number of tutoring sessions you can have each semester. Make an appointment and be on time! Bring the paper on which you're working, as well as any related drafts or notes, and information about the assignment. For an appointment, call the Writing Center at (312) 413-2206, or stop by room 105 of Grant Hall. Visit the Writing Center website at www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing for more information.