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Laboratory in Memory and Cognition
Psychology 313
Haverford College
Spring 2014

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Course Description:
This laboratory correlate to Psy 213 will focus on the methods used to investigate the nature of perception, memory, and other cognitive behaviors. These various methodologies will be employed within a set of empirical studies designed to investigate particular topic areas within the field of cognition. Pre-requisites: Psychology 100 and 200, and either prior or concurrent enrollment in Psy 213.

Activities and Grading:

The purpose of this course is to not only familiarize you with some different methodological techniques used in the study of memory and cognition but, more generally, the various phases involved in conducting a psychological research project. Accordingly, each of you will first be asked to develop an idea for a laboratory study that you will orally present to the rest of us. This idea should, in some way, be related to the processing of visual or auditory information. This is a very broad topic that can include: the perception or memory of faces and/or voices; advertising; cognitive maps; the cognitive processing of film or other forms of art; music cognition; environmental sounds (and there are probably other relevant topics as well).

You should describe your research design in a 1-2 page paper (due **Feb. 5**.) that briefly outlines the rationale of the study as well as an overall outline of how one might do the experiment. There are three constraints on the research idea you develop: first, it must be one that can actually be done at Haverford given our equipment and subject population; second, this study, to the best of your knowledge, is one that has not been previously conducted within the past literature; and third, your proposed study should have at least two independent variables (i.e.. is a factorial design).   From these, the class will select approximately 3 projects that we will actually do together, in small groups, over the course of the semester. In addition to data collection and statistical analyses of the results, you will be required to write a final research paper that describes all aspects of the study. This includes an: Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Reference sections as well as any accompanying tables or figures, and appendices. This paper should be written in a format that conforms to APA style and is due on **April 30**.

The second activity is one that will not require any actual data collection or statistical analyses. Instead, you will be asked to develop an original research project that addresses some aspect of cognition. The topic can be anything you desire but should represent a novel study that has not yet been reported in the previous literature.   This final paper should contain the following sections: an Introduction that reviews the relevant literature and the particular question(s) you are posing; a Methods section (along with its appropriate sub-sections) that describes *how* you would do the study; a section relating the predicted pattern of results; and, of course, a Reference section. Your proposal is due on **March 19**.

The evaluation of these different activities will be weighted as follows:

Proposal for Lab Experiment	10%
Write-up of Lab Experiment	40%
Research Proposal	40%
Lab Participation	10%

LAB SCHEDULE
Spring 2014

Wednesday – Jan. 22   Introduction
Wednesday – Jan. 29   Presentation of Research Ideas
Wednesday - Feb. 5   Presentation of Research Ideas **- Write-up of Research Design Idea Due**
Wednesday – Feb. 12   Selection of Studies and Refinements
Wednesday – Feb. 19   Set-up of Studies
Wednesday – Feb. 26   Set-up of Studies
Wednesday – March 5   Data Collection
Wednesday – March 12   **Fall Break – No Class**
Wednesday – March 19   **Research Proposal Due -** Review of APA Style
Wednesday – March 26   Data Collection
Wednesday – April 2   Data Collection
Wednesday – April 9   Data Collection/Data Analysis and Interpretation
Wednesday – April 16   Data Analysis and Interpretation
Wednesday – April 23   Data Analysis and Interpretation
Wednesday – April 30   **Write-up of Lab Project Due**