

# PSYU612: COGNITION LABORATORY

Fall Semester, 2004

Wed 1:35-4:30 PM

274 Nightingale

Instructor: Prof. Neal Pearlmutter  
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TA: Rachel Theodore  
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Office Hours: Mon & Thurs 2-3, or by appointment

By appointment

## Readings

1. Required Readings. A packet of readings is available at Gnomon Copy, 325 Huntington Ave. The packet should be listed under my name (Pearlmutter). A copy of the packet will also be available on reserve in Snell Library.
2. Optional Readings. Additional optional readings will be available on reserve in Snell Library.

## Course Requirements

1. Class Attendance. Because this is a laboratory course, it is critical that you attend ALL class meetings. Much of the material will be covered only in class, and if you are absent, you will definitely miss material that you will need in order to write the research reports. If you cannot avoid missing class, you MUST discuss your absence with the instructor or the teaching assistant.
2. Participation in Experiments. During the course, you will participate in 4 cognitive psychology experiments (conducted primarily during class meetings). Your participation in the experiments is critical, because you will generate the data that we will analyze and report. When data are missing, the experiment is less likely to show clear or interesting results. Your individual data are due in class the session after they are collected.
3. Four Research Reports. You will write a research report for each of the 4 experiments, in the form of a journal article consistent with APA style (discussed in class and described in the packet). You will have the option to rewrite the first three reports, and the grade for each report will be the higher of the original and the rewrite. The fourth report cannot be rewritten.

Please note: You are encouraged to discuss the material with your classmates, but you MUST write your report ON YOUR OWN and IN YOUR OWN WORDS.

4. TA Meeting(s). You MUST meet with the TA before rewriting each of the first three research reports. The TA will help to clarify what parts of the report need to be improved, etc.

## Grading

Research Report 1: 15% of final grade  
Research Report 2: 25%  
Research Report 3: 30%  
Research Report 4: 30%

Late reports are penalized 3 points/day (reports are graded on a 100 point scale).

Borderline final grades are determined on the basis of participation in the experiments and in class.

All graded research reports will be available, with final grades, by 1 PM on Mon 12/20. Materials will be mailed to you if you include a self-addressed stamped envelope with Research Report 4.

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Date	Topic(s)	Readings
09/08	Course Mechanics & Overview	
09/15	RUN Experiment 1 (Natural Concepts)	Sheridan Ch1, Experimental Psychology...; Sheridan Ch3, Measurement and Observation...; APA Style handout; Snodgrass et al. Ch17, The Research Report; Miller Ch12, Communication
09/22	Exp 1 background Analyze Exp 1 results  BRING: Exp 1 raw data Exp 1 mean RTs by condition A calculator	Lab Manual Ch13, Natural Concepts; Snodgrass et al. Ch9, Semantic Memory; Reed Ch8, Categorization; Smith & Medin Ch3, The Classical View
09/29	Discuss Exp 1 results Discuss writing Research Report 1	Rosch & Mervis, Family Resemblances...
10/06	RUN Experiment 2 (Working Memory)  BRING: <b>Research Report 1</b>	
10/13	Return & discuss Research Report 1 Exp 2 background How to analyze Exp 2 results Schedule TA meeting to discuss Report 1  BRING: Exp 2 raw data Calendar to schedule appointment	Lab Manual Ch6, Retrieval from Working Memory; Snodgrass et al. Ch5, Mental Chronometry; Sternberg, High-Speed Scanning...
10/20	Discuss Exp 2 results Discuss writing Research Report 2  BRING: <b>Rewritten Research Report 1</b> (optional) Exp 2 data and slope/intercept computation homework	
10/27	RUN Experiment 3 (Feature Detection) Return rewrites of Research Report 1  BRING: <b>Research Report 2</b>	
11/03	Return & discuss Research Report 2 Exp 3 background How to analyze Exp 3 results  BRING: Exp 3 raw data Calendar to schedule appointment	Lab Manual Ch4, Feature Detection; Reed Ch2, Pattern Recognition; Neisser Ch3, Pattern Recognition
11/10	Discuss Exp 3 results Discuss writing Research Report 3  BRING: <b>Rewritten Research Report 2</b> (optional) Exp 3 data and ANOVA analysis homework	

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Readings</b>
11/17	Run Experiment 4 Return rewrites of Research Report 2  <b>BRING: Research Report 3</b>	
11/24	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)	
12/01	Return & discuss Research Report 3 Exp 4 background How to analyze Exp 4 results  <b>BRING:</b> Exp 4 raw data Calendar to schedule appointment	Lab Manual Ch7, Activation of Long-Term Memory; Anderson Ch6, Human Memory...; Meyer & Schvaneveldt, Facilitation in Recognizing...
12/08	Discuss Exp 4 results Discuss writing Research Report 4  <b>BRING: Rewritten Research Report 3</b> (optional) Exp 4 data and analysis homework	
12/13	(Mon) Rewrites of Research Report 3 available for pickup in Psychology office (125 NI)	
12/15	(FINALS WEEK) DROP OFF: <b>Research Report 4</b> in Psychology office (125 NI)	