

PSYCHOLOGY 303: ADVANCED METHODS IN COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Spring 2014
Wednesdays 2:30 – 4:20

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Severance 103

Office hours: By appointment.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The primary goal of the course is to develop the skills necessary to design, implement, and write-up research in the field of cognitive psychology. A secondary goal of the course is to acquire state-of-art knowledge in an area of cognitive psychology by conducting your own original research. The course will begin with a literature search aimed at the development of your research question. You will give an oral presentation of the background research associated with your area of interest. A written research review providing background and justification for your research area is required. Working in teams, you will develop your research question, design your study, and construct your materials. During lab, you will conduct a pilot study of your research project on the lab group. The lab members will provide valuable feedback regarding the adequacy of your procedures. You must apply to the Institutional Research Board (IRB) at Oberlin College for permission to use human participants. After your research project has been approved by the IRB, you will begin collecting data. Upon completion of the data collection, you will enter and analyze your data. At the end of the lab, you will give an oral presentation of your research project. An APA-style research report is due when our final would have normally taken place. See schedule.

COURSE ACTIVITIES

Oral Report of Literature Review: Teams will lead a brief discussion of their research topic.
Research Question and Motivation: You will provide a paragraph detailing your research question and the justification for the question.
Functional Outline: Using the format provided, you will producing a functional outline of your introduction.
Method Section: APA-style. Written as a team.

Research Proposal for the IRB: Using the IRB forms you will obtain approval to use human participants in your study.

Results Section. APA style. Written as a team.

Oral Presentation of Project: Informal
Research Report: A full length APA-style report of your research project.

Participation: Attendance, preparation, and discussion of the topics.

Pilot Study: Conducted in lab.

Grading Summary

Research Question/Justification	5%	Results	5%
Outline	5%	Difficulty/Quality of Study	10%
IRB Proposal	5%	Research Report	40%
Method	5%	Participation/Attendance	25%

Important Points to Note

To accomplish the above requirements in \approx 13 weeks, strict adherence to the timetable provided is necessary. Do not fall behind. Adhering to the due dates for assignments is important for course success. All work is subject to the Oberlin College Honor Code. Please see me if you have any questions. In particular, if you are concerned about how to summarize other people's work while avoiding inadvertent plagiarism--see me. In addition, the members of the Psychology Department strictly adhere to the College Policy regarding the due date for written material.

Admittedly, the requirements for the course are demanding, however, unlike many other courses, much of the work for this course can be accomplished during class time. Hence, the work that takes place during class time is absolutely critical.