PSYCHOLOGY 303: LABORATORY IN COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY
Spring, 2013
T 2:30-4:20
Severance 128

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Course Overview:
This course is an introduction to conducting research in cognitive psychology, including theoretical, methodological, and ethical issues. The goals of this course are for you to:
1) develop the skills necessary to design, implement, and write-up a research project;
2) acquire up-to-the-moment knowledge in an area of cognitive psychology by conducting your own original research in that area;
3) develop the ability to work as a collaborative member of a research group; and
4) build on your confidence as a researcher.

Course Requirements:
This course includes a number of related requirements that build on each other. An outline is provided below, and where necessary more detailed information will be provided in class.

Literature Review
The course will begin with a literature search to help you develop your research question. You will divide into groups based on interest. In groups, you will find 3-5 articles that are the most current and relevant to your area/question of interest. You will give a 15 minute oral presentation of the background research. You will then submit cooperatively written 5-10 page literature reviews. The purpose of this review is to situate and justify your research question with respect to the work that has already been done. (It will also provide you with a partial rough draft of the introduction for your final research project.)

Research Proposal and Pilot Study
You will then begin developing your research question, designing your study, and constructing your materials. You will cooperatively write a 1 page research proposal. This will be based on your literature review and proposed method. (It will also provide you with another section of the introduction for your final research report.) During class, you will conduct a pilot study of your research project. The lab members will be your pilot participants and will provide feedback to help you refine your methods.

Research Proposal for the Institutional Review Board (IRB)
You then must apply to the IRB at Oberlin College for permission to use human subjects. Rough drafts of your IRB proposal will be distributed to the entire class for feedback.

Data Collection, Entry, and Analyses
After your research project has been approved by the IRB, you may begin collecting data. Upon completion of data collection, you will begin data entry and analyses.

Research Report
The course will end with a report of your research project. In groups, you will give a conference-style oral presentation of your project in class. An individually written, full-length APA-style research report is due on the last day of classes (Friday, December 14th) at 5:00 pm.

Class Participation
This course is not a lecture course. In order to accomplish the goals for this course, you will need to actively think about, discuss, and implement research ideas. The classroom setting should provide a space for everyone, together as a research group, to present and critically examine ideas in order to improve the quality of the work. Please keep in mind

that a critical examination is best served by respecting and cooperating with each other, and being constructive in your commentary.

In addition, please note that while the requirements for this course are demanding, much of the work can and will be accomplished during class time. Therefore, it is essential that you attend class.

Course Grading:

Literature Review	
Oral Presentation	10%
Written Review	10%
Pilot Study	10%
Research Proposal	15%
Research Proposal for the IRB	10%
Research Report	
Oral Presentation	15%
Written Report	20%
Class Participation/Attendance	10%

Course Policies:
All work is subject to the Oberlin College Honor Code. If you have any questions about my expectations for how the Honor Code applies to collaborative and individual work, or about how to write a summary of someone else's work without plagiarizing, please see me.

You and your group-member(s) should consider yourselves co-authors for many portions of the work submitted for this class: the written literature review, oral presentations, pilot study, written research proposal, and written IRB proposal. Most researchers do not conduct their work in isolation but rather have one or more collaborators. Collaborators bring their own unique strengths and ideas to the table, but take equal responsibility for the project as a whole. Thus, affirmation of the Honor Code for these class assignments indicates that you have contributed an equal share in the work necessary for their completion. The exception to this policy of collaborative work is the final Research Report: you may discuss this report as much as you like with your group member(s), but the final report should be individually written.

This course involves research with human participants, and your role in this course is partly that of an investigator. As a result, you will need to be aware of, and conform to, the accepted practices with regard to research with human participants. Details and discussion about these issues will be provided in class. In particular, though, I'd like to call your attention to the requirement that all information obtained from research participants must be kept confidential at all times, even after the semester has ended. Failure to protect a participant's confidentiality is not only unethical, it is also a violation of the Oberlin College Honor Code.

Course Schedule:
The schedule presented below has to be strictly followed in order to accomplish the requirements for this course in the semester. All assignments handed in past the due date are subject to a penalty of 5 points per day.

Week 1: February 5	• Course Introduction
	• Choosing a topic
	• Literature search

Week 2: February 12	• Literature search
	• Approval of articles
	• Discuss presentations, literature review

Week 3: February 19	• Approval of articles
	• Discuss defining a research question
	• Discuss designing an experiment

DUE: Literature Review, Friday, February 22nd, 5:00 pm

| Week 4: February 26 | • **Presentations of literature search** |

| Week 5: March 5 | • Discuss research proposal, IRB proposal |
| | • Discuss ethical issues, human participants |

| Week 6: March 12 | • Work on IRB proposals |
| | • Work on experiment materials/procedures/pilot study plans |

DUE: Research proposal; Draft research proposal to IRB, Friday, March 15th, 5:00 pm

| Week 7: March 19 | • **Conduct pilot study in class** |

DUE: Final research proposal to IRB, Thursday, March 21st, 5:00 pm

Spring Break

| Week 8: April 2 | • Run participants (with IRB approval) |

| Week 9: April 9 | • Run participants |

| Week 10: April 16 | • Run participants |
| | • Begin data entry and analyses |

| Week 11: April 23 | • Run participants |
| | • Continue data entry and analyses |

Week 12: April 30	• Run participants
	• Continue data entry and analyses
	• Discuss research presentations
	• Discuss research reports

| Week 13: May 7 | • **Research presentations** |

DUE: Saturday, May 18th, 9:00 pm, Research Report