San José State University
Department of Psychology
PSYC 121B-11 (45581), Advanced Research Methods: Cognition/Perception (Laboratory), PSYC 121B-12 (50419), Advanced Research Methods: Cognition/Perception (Seminar), Fall 2012

Instructor: Dr. Martine Godfroy-Cooper
Office Location: DMH (Dudley Moorhead Hall), Room 324
Telephone: (408) 924-5661; (650) 604-1271
Email: martine.godfroy@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday 4:00pm-4:30pm. You are welcome to schedule an appointment with me for a different time, if these times don’t fit your schedule.
Class Days/Time: Wednesday 3:00pm-3:50pm (Seminar), 4:30pm-7:30pm (Lab). You must be registered both in the lecture (section 10) and in the lab (section 11).
Classroom: DMH 236
Prerequisites: Prerequisite: PSYC 1, STAT 95, PSYC 100W, plus any one of: PSYC 135, PSYC 155, or PSYC 158.
Pre/Corequisite: PSYC 120 must be taken either before, or concurrently with, this course.

Course Description
“The primary purpose of this class is to engage students in perception research. You will gain knowledge of the methodologies used to perform research in perception, and how to analyze and interpret the results. Course lectures will provide a background in the foundations of research design in perception. During laboratory sections, you will gain hands-on experience carrying out a variety of different common research methods in perception. You will also work in a group to develop an idea for an original perception study, design and conduct your study, analyze its results, and report the results in written and oral formats”.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
• **CLO1:** Understand the experimental methods that are used to study perception
• **CLO2:** Use experimental evidence as a tool for critically assessing theories about perception
• **CLO3:** Read and understand journal articles in perception
• **CLO4:** Synthesize several research studies and draw conclusions, in written format
• **CLO5:** Design and conduct an independent, original perception research study
• **CLO6:** Use statistics to interpret the results of research studies
• **CLO7:** Write reports of research findings according to APA style
• **CLO8:** Give a professional oral presentation of research findings

### Course Requirements

#### Lab Reports:
- There will be 3 lab reports over the course of the semester. Each student will turn in the lab reports individually. Each lab activity will include instructions about the product (calculations, graphing, write-up, etc.) that should be turned in. You will lose 10% of the point value of a lab report for each day it is late. If the assignment is returned to the class before you hand in your lab report, you will receive no credit.
- In class, you will perform research studies giving you hands-on experience with the type of research that is carried out in the field of perception. After performing each study, you will analyze the results of the study, and do a written assignment about it. Because each assignment requires participation in the lab activities, attendance is mandatory. If you are absent on the day that we perform the study or the days that we analyze the study, you cannot receive credit for the assigned work from that day. In some cases, you may also be responsible for completing some of the data collection outside of class time.

#### Quiz:
There will be one quiz, covering lecture material. The quiz will be mostly multiple-choice, but may also include short-answer and diagrams. The quiz is closed-book and closed-notes. A study guide will be given out before the quiz. The quiz date is TBD.

#### Project:
In small groups, you will conduct an original research study, of your choosing, from beginning to end. You will decide on a topic of investigation, conduct a literature review of the issue, design your study, conduct the study, write a paper, and give an oral presentation of your research to the class. The progression of your project will be divided into 6 Project Steps. The project schedule on page 5 of this syllabus gives the due dates for each step. Most of the steps of the project will be completed in groups, but writing
the paper will be done individually. For most of the steps, you will lose 10% of the point value of the step for each day that it is late. However, the oral presentation must be completed on time, and cannot be accepted late. Further information on the project will be provided later.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon successful completion of the psychology major requirements...

PLO1 – Knowledge Base of Psychology – Students will be able to identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

PLO2 – Research Methods in Psychology – Students will be able to design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.

PLO3 – Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology – Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.

PLO4 – Application of Psychology – Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.

PLO5 – Values in Psychology – Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook


Other equipment / material requirements

Desire2Learn (D2L):

Lecture slides, quiz grades, article readings, and other materials will be posted on the course D2L website (sjsu.desire2learn.com). Please email me at martine.godfroy@sjsu.edu rather than through the D2L – email.

Getting Help:

If you are having difficulties with any aspect of this course, please come to my office hours, and I will do my best to help you. If you are unable to come to my office hours, you can contact me to make an appointment for a different time. If you have just a short question, you also can send it to me by e-mail.
**Group Participation:**
Active participation in your lab group is required, and on many days students will be working in their groups on their projects. If you do not participate on group work days it may result in a reduction of your (individual) grade on your proposal and/or talk.

**Course Reserves:**
The following books are available on Course Reserves at King Library, and may be helpful for reinforcing material:

**Definition of a Credit Hour**
Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.
As an example, the expectation of work for a 3-credit course is 150-minutes of direct faculty instruction and six hours of out-of-class student work each week.

**Classroom Protocol**

**Attendance:**
Class content is not to consider as a “remake” of the textbook and I greatly encourage you to attend it, although attendance per se will not be used as a criterion for grading according to Academic Policy F-69-24.
*Missed Classes.* If you are absent, you should consult a classmate to get the lecture notes and to find out about any announcements made in class.
*Missed Exams.* No make-up exam will be given unless the student presents a valid excuse. I reserve the right to decide if the excuse is valid.

**Note:**
The procedures and schedule in this course syllabus are subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. I will announce any changes of project step due dates or quiz dates in class and by email.

**Additional Points:**
Please be certain to turn off all cell phones, pagers, and any other devices that produce distraction prior to entering the classroom. Computer use is restricted to activity pertinent to the classroom.

If you must arrive late or leave early, please do so quietly and with a minimum of distraction.

You are responsible for understanding the dates, policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, fee payment, withdrawal and so forth. These are listed under: http://info.sjsu.edu/home/schedules.html (see Dropping and Adding section below).

Assignments and Grading Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab Reports (total)</th>
<th>90 points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 x 30 points each</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quiz</th>
<th>30 points</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project (total)</th>
<th>180 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Step 1 (idea summary)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Step 2 (proposal worksheet)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Step 3 (IRB protocol) [final draft]</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Step 4 (experiment data)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Step 5 (final paper)</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Step 6 (oral presentation)</td>
<td>25</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>300 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Final course grades will be based on the scale below:

- A+ ≥ 97%
- A  93-96%
- A-  90-92%
- B+ 87-89%
- B  83-86%
- B-  80-82%
- C+ 77-79%
- C  73-76%
- C-  70-72%
- D+ 67-69%
- D  63-66%
- D-  60-62%
- F  < 60%

Recording of Class Lectures

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictates that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. This permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor-generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.
Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University’s Academic Integrity policy, located at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/ to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.
A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and
Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

**Learning Assistance Resource Center**

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. The Center's tutors are trained and nationally certified by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). They provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring are available. Please visit the LARC website for more information at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/.

**SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/.

**Peer Mentor Center**

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop-in basis, no reservation required. The Peer Mentor Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/

**Student Success and Wellness**

Attending to your wellness is critical to your success at SJSU. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the workshops and programs offered through various Student Affairs Departments on campus such as Counseling Services, the SJSU Student Health Center/Wellness & Health Promotion Dept., and Career Center. See http://www.sjsu.edu/wellness or http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling/Workshops/ for workshop/events schedule and links to many other services on campus that support your wellness! You may go to http://events.sjsu.edu to register for any one of the workshops.
Project Schedule

Note: This project schedule is subject to change.
Quiz date and lab report due dates are not listed here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Project progress</th>
<th>Project Steps due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>08/22/2012</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>08/29/2012</td>
<td>Generalities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>09/05/2012</td>
<td>Begin IRB training, Form</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>09/12/2012</td>
<td>Discuss ideas for project</td>
<td>Completed IRB training</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>09/19/2012</td>
<td>Discuss ideas for project</td>
<td>Each student bring 1 idea for project</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>09/26/2012</td>
<td>Design experiment</td>
<td>Idea summary (PS 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/03/2012</td>
<td>Design experiment</td>
<td>Proposal worksheet (PS 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/10/2012</td>
<td>Work on IRB protocol</td>
<td>Draft of IRB protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/17/2012</td>
<td>Work on IRB protocol</td>
<td>Final IRB protocol (PS 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/24/2012</td>
<td>Prepare experiment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>10/31/2012</td>
<td>Prepare experiment</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/07/2012</td>
<td>Run your studies!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/14/2012</td>
<td>Run your studies!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/21/2012</td>
<td>Analyze project data</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>11/28/2012</td>
<td>Analyze project data</td>
<td>Experiment data (PS 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12/05/2012</td>
<td>Work on oral presentation</td>
<td>Final paper (PS 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>12/14/2012</td>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
<td>Oral presentations (PS 6)</td>
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</table>