Lab Syllabus
Psychology 260, January-April 2009
2:30-4:30 (Section 1), 4:30-6:30 (Section 2)
MSRC 1

Contact information:

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Office hours held by appointment

There will be three types of lab sessions for each section of material covered, in the following order:

Week 1: Brainstorming (Jan. 13, Feb. 10, Mar. 10)
Weeks 2 and 3: Data Collection  (Jan. 20, 27; Feb. 24, Mar. 3; Mar. 24, 31)
Week 4: Presentations    (Feb. 3, Mar. 10, Apr. 7)

During the Brainstorming sessions, you will discuss, in your groups, what you would like to do during the Data collection weeks. Based on that section of material, what research question would you like to pursue? This is where you will develop your idea in close contact with the teaching assistants.

During the Data Collection sessions, you will collect data from the other members of the class. Your experiments should be able to be conducted in class, using very basic materials.

During the Presentation sessions, one member of the group will give a presentation on what the group did in the previous two weeks. What was your research question? What did you do to answer it? Other group members will hand in a 4-5 page paper during class.

Marking Criteria:

Your lab mark will be based on two papers, one presentation, and participation.

Papers: 7.5% each
Lab Presentation: 7.5% (Note that you will also make a presentation in class for another 7.5% of your final grade)
Participation: 5% total, with evaluations at the middle and end of the term

Papers

Papers will be marked by the teaching assistants on a 15-point scale. Extensive feedback will be given on each paper. Papers should be between 4 and 5 pages in length (double-spaced), including Introduction, Method, Results, and Discussion
sections, and follow APA format. You will primarily be marked on the content of the paper. An abstract is NOT required. You should have at least 5 references in your paper. This will be discussed further in class.

Late submission: 10% will be docked from your final mark on the paper per day that it is late, including weekends. The first day, 10% is lost if it is handed in after class, and an automatic 10% is docked per day. For example, if you hand in your paper the day after class, you will lose 20%; if you hand it in after class, you lose 10%.

Presentations

You should aim to present your experiment in 8-10 minutes, with 5 minutes afterwards for discussion. In the presentation, you should discuss the background of your research question, your method, your results, and some implications, similar to your papers. The week you present, you will NOT hand in a paper. Every group member has to make one presentation.

You will be marked out of 15 points, as follows:
- Organization: out of 5 points
- Clarity: out of 5 points
- Visuals: out of 5 points

You will mark each other, in class, based on these criteria. However, the teaching assistants may override marks given in class if they do not appear to be representative of the work done. For instance, if you give a perfect score to each person presenting in class that day, those marks will be discarded, as they are not a meaningful evaluation. Alternatively, if a student does an outstanding job, but the marks do not reflect that, we may raise the mark.

If you cannot come to class due to illness on the day of your presentation, you must notify one of the teaching assistants for your section 24 hours before class. A doctor’s note must be brought in to the teaching assistant within 7 days. You will make the presentation at the next presentation session.

Participation

Participation will be marked at the middle and at the end of the term. Each is worth 2.5% of your mark. The teaching assistants will give these marks based on your participation in the group brainstorming sessions and the presentation discussions in class.