

PSYC260 Lab (Term 2, January - April 2010)
2:30 - 4:30, Buchanan B307 (Section 1)
4:30 - 6:30, Buchanan B312 (Section 2)

TA Contact Information & Office Hours: (*Location: Kenny 3020*)

Matt Dixon	mattdixon@psych.ubc.ca	Thursdays 3:00 - 4:00
Melissa Ellamil	melissa@psych.ubc.ca	Thursdays 1:30 - 2:30
Heather Mann	hmann@psych.ubc.ca	Thursdays 12:30 - 1:30

Lab Structure:

There will be four types of lab sessions for each section of material covered in the lectures (*see schedule and topics below*). During the **brainstorming** sessions, you will discuss, in your groups, what you would like to do an experiment on. Based on the material covered in the lectures, what research question(s) would you like to pursue and how will you investigate them? This is when you will develop your ideas in close contact with the teaching assistants.

During the **proposal presentations**, one or more members from the group will give a 5-minute presentation on what you propose to do as an experiment, followed by a 5-minute question and answer period. You will summarize your motivation for doing the experiment (1-2 background articles), research question(s), hypotheses, design, and method. You will also address how you plan to deal with the potential confounds and limitations of your experiment.

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 basic materials that you can supply yourselves.

During the **presentation** sessions, one member of the group will give an 8- to 10-minute presentation on your experiment, followed by a 5-minute question and answer period. In the presentation, you should discuss the background of your research question(s) and hypotheses, your design and method, your results, and some implications, similar to your papers. The other group members not presenting will hand in a 4-5 page paper during class.

Lab Schedule:

Perception & Motor Systems

January 12	Design basics and examples; Brainstorming; Presentations sign-up
January 19	Proposal presentation; Statistical analysis guide
January 26	Writing & presenting guide; Data collection
February 2	Presentation and papers

Attention & Language

February 9	Design issues and discussion; Brainstorming
February 15-26	Reading Week
March 2	Proposal presentation
March 9	Data collection
March 16	Presentation and papers

Memory and Executive Function

March 23	Design issues and discussion; Brainstorming
March 30	Proposal presentation
April 6	Data collection
April 13	Presentation and papers

Marking Breakdown:

8%	1 lab presentation
16%	2 lab papers (8% each)
12%	3 lab proposal presentations (4% each)
6%	Group participation (3% evaluations at the middle and end of the term)

Marking Criteria:

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.

Late submissions: 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

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.

Proposal Presentations

Any member(s) can present the group's experiment proposal. A mark out of 4 points will be given by other students in the class based on the quality of the proposed design. However, the teaching assistants may override marks given in class if they do not appear to be representative of the work done.

Participation

Participation will be marked at the middle and at the end of the term. Each is worth 3% of your mark. The teaching assistants will give these marks based on your participation in the group brainstorming and the presentation discussions in class.