

PSY 499 Syllabus
Psychology Department
Spring 2014

Supervising Faculty Member:

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PSYC 427
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Course Title: Human Performance Research

Research Area: Cognitive Psychology

Credit Hours: 1-3

Requirements: Students are expected to work an average of 3-9 hours per week (3 for each credit).

Grading: Grades will be assigned based on overall quality of lab work (see “Specific Duties”) and participation in research meetings. You are expected to be at the lab at the assigned times and to conduct the experimental sessions carefully and professionally. You are also expected to attend the lab meetings. You will also write a short research report, which is detailed below.

Research Experience:

We will be mainly running experiments to evaluate human performance with different mappings of stimuli to responses. Stimulus-response compatibility refers to the fact that people respond faster and more accurately to some mapping of stimuli to responses than to others. We will investigate performance with different mappings as well as when different tasks are mixed. We may also run experiments involving interaction with projected images and how movements reflect ongoing mental processes.

Specific Duties:

Your primary duty will be testing subjects. Most subjects will come from the PSY 100 subject pool and will be tested in the PSYC building. You will be responsible for completing all of the paperwork accurately (e.g., sign-up forms, consent forms), setting up the computers, instructing and debriefing the subjects, granting the subjects proper credits. One of the most critical parts of your job is to be on time to your scheduled research hours. Missing your scheduled research time or showing up late without first contacting your direct supervisor is not acceptable behavior – **you will receive a warning the first time this occurs and can expect to lose a full letter grade if it happens a second time.**

In addition, at the end of the semester, you will turn in a 5-10 page paper, double spaced, on some topic relevant to the research you are doing in the lab. The topic and style of this paper will be discussed with me during the semester. The quality of the paper can influence your grade as much as one letter grade.

Meetings with Faculty Member and other Research Assistants:

We will meet as a group several times during the semester. For each group lab meeting, there will be an assigned reading, and we will discuss the reading and results of specific experiments that we have been conducting. You will have regular contact with the graduate student supervisors each week, who will directly supervise the research you are conducting. I am glad to meet with you at other times, if desired, to answer questions about the research you are conducting, the psychology major, and graduate school in psychology.