Instructor: Sharon Akimoto
Office: 131 Olin
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Office Hours:
Wed 12:30-1:30, Friday 1-2
or by appointment

The purpose of this course is to give you first-hand experience in designing, conducting, analyzing and interpreting social psychological research. During the term, the class will conduct several experiments. We will design, plan, prepare stimulus materials etc. during one class period then analyze and discuss the results of the experiment during the next class period. Since social psychological research involves the use of human subjects, it will be necessary for everyone to solicit research participation from the campus community, and to collect data from these subjects between class periods. You will also be required to obtain related research articles and be prepared to discuss them during class and finally, you will write 3 team reports in and create one poster.

In sum, the requirements for this course are:
1) attendance and participation in lab, which includes: reading of assigned articles prior to class, completion of assignments (e.g. finding, selecting and sharing related articles during class), contribution to design, data collection and analysis: 30% of grade.
2) completion of three laboratory reports and one poster. Reports are weighted in the following manner: 1st: 10%, 2nd: 20%, 3rd: 20%. The poster is worth 10%. A final 10% of your grade will be based on group participation and will be determined, in part, by peer evaluations.

Because you will be working quite extensively in groups and/or pairs, you will all be asked to provide me with confidential evaluations of each other's performance. Your group participation grade will be affected by these evaluations as noted above, so please be an active and conscientious member of your research team. Finally, please know that during certain weeks the lab work can be rather time consuming. But with good pacing, and planning, it will be quite manageable, and enjoyable. Please note that the schedule below may be adjusted depending on need.

All reading assignments are available on Moodle. Please read before lab.
Tentative Schedule (updates posted to Moodle)

Week 1 (Jan 3)  Brief meeting for Wed lab at 2pm.

Week 2 (Jan 9,10) Introduction to social research methods


Review: Hinsz and Tomhave article from class. Bring data from Smile/Frown experiment from class.

Week 3 (Jan 16,17)

**Module I: Laboratory on Social Influence**


Assignments:
1) Prior to lab: Answer questions on the “guide to reading research articles” handout regarding the target article.
2) In lab: Design a partial replication of the study. Create stimulus materials, research protocol,
3) By next lab: conduct study, i.e. collect data.

Week 4 (Jan 23,24)


Assignments:
1) Prior to lab: collect data, note the design of your study (use Dunn, Ch. 4: compare your study to the figures/graphs of experimental designs).
2) During lab: combine data, compute means, discuss implications of your results, design, approach, etc. We will also consider alternative approaches to test the same hypothesis (see Dunn, Ch. 5 for ideas). Also, how have other researchers studied this topic?

Guest: Charlie Priore, Librarian

→ Lab Report on Social Influence DUE this Friday, January 26 on Moodle*
Week 5 (Jan 30-31)

**Module II: Laboratory on Helping**


**Assignments:**
1) Preparation for lab today (do prior to lab):
   a. **Read target article**, note down hypotheses and summarize findings in light of its support for hypotheses (briefly critique the article). Why did the authors conduct multiple studies? In other words, what additional information did they gain by doing additional studies?
   b. **Find a related research article—bring to lab.** What other questions have researchers addressed regarding this phenomenon? What new questions or ideas do you have? What variations of these studies (e.g. change in hypothesis, method etc.) would be interesting to explore-why?
2) During lab: Discuss/share your related articles. Design a systematic replication with a conceptual variation of target article. Create stimulus materials, plan data collection.
3) For next lab: conduct study, i.e. collect data.

Week 6 (Feb 6-7)

**Assignments:**
1) Prior to lab: Collect data (if needed, we may use first hour to finish collecting data)
2) During lab: Bring data to class, analyze, discuss results and plan writing.

→ Lab Report on Helping, DUE this Friday, Feb. 9 on Moodle*

Week 7 (Feb 13-14)

**Module III: Laboratory on Social Facilitation (or alternate choice)**


Note: this article is assigned for class. Be prepared to share your results!

**Assignments:**
1) Preparation for lab today (do prior to lab):
   a. **Read target article**, note down hypotheses and summarize findings in light of its support for hypotheses (briefly critique the article). Why did the authors conduct multiple studies? In other words, what additional information did they gain by doing additional studies?
   b. **Find a related research article—bring to lab.** What other questions have researchers addressed regarding this phenomenon? What new questions or ideas do you have? What variations of these studies (e.g. change in hypothesis, method etc.) would be interesting to explore-why?
2) During lab: Discuss/share your related articles. Design a systematic replication with a conceptual variation of target article. Create stimulus materials, plan data collection.
3) For next lab: conduct study, i.e. collect data. NOTE: you will have two weeks to collect data!
Week 8 (Feb 20,21)

   NO LAB meeting--continue to collect data!

Week 9 (Feb 27,28)  Wrap up Module III and Posters

   **Assignments:**
   1) Prior to lab: Collect data
   2) During lab: Bring data to class, analyze, discuss results and plan writing.
      Poster creation tutorial; choose one study to represent on Poster, plan for next week.

   ➔ [Lab Report on Social Facilitation](#) DUE this Friday, March 2, on Moodle*

Week 10 (Mar 6,7)

   Create posters during lab.