Syllabus for Social Behavior Laboratory
Spring 2015

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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 noted in italics and are available on e-reserve. Please read before class.
Tentative Schedule (updates posted to Moodle)

Week 1 (March 30, 31) Introduction to social research methods


Week 2 (April 6,7)

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 replication of the study. Create stimulus materials, research protocol,
3) By next lab: collect data.

Week 3 (April 13, 14)


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) In lab: combine data, compute means, discuss implications of your results, design, approach, etc. Then, discuss other approaches one could use to test the same hypothesis. Design a new study using alternatives to experimental design, see Dunn, Ch. 5.
3) By next lab: Collect data.
Week 4 (April 20, 21)

Target Article: Schmitt, B.H., Gilovich, T., Goore, N., & Joseph, L. (1986). Mere presence and social facilitation: One more time, Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 22, 242-248. Note: the class will also read this article at the end of the term. Be prepared to share your results!

Part I: Wrap up Module I
Assignments:
1) Prior to lab: collect data, note the design of your new study (use Dunn, Ch. 5).
2) In lab: Combine data, analyze results. Discuss strengths and limitations of different approaches.
3) DUE: lab report due next lab period. Note: for this first paper, you will simply answer questions on the “Guide to reading research articles”

Part II: Review Target article (begin prep for social facilitation lab):
Assignments:
1) Prior to lab: 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?
2) During lab/by next lab: Psych Lit tutorial during lab (location TBA). Find related research articles (at least one — bring to class next week). What other questions have been tested regarding this phenomenon? What questions have not been answered? Think of variations to these studies (e.g. change in hypothesis, method etc.) What do you wish to vary for your study?

Week 5 (April 27, 28)

Assignments:
1) Prior to lab: Review target article, and find/summarize related article
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) By next lab: Collect data. Note: you will have 2 weeks to collect data!

DUE: Report of Study I

Week 6 (May 4, 5)

Midterm break NO LAB all week (continue collecting data).
Module III: Laboratory on Helping


**Part I: Wrap up Module II.**

**Assignments:**
1) In lab: Bring data from social facilitation study to class and analyze, discuss/plan writing.

**Part II: Target article (begin prep for helping lab):**

**Assignments:**
1) Prior to lab: 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? What additional information did they gain by doing additional studies?
2) During lab: Think of variations of these studies (e.g. change in hypothesis, method etc.) What do you wish to vary for your study? Begin brainstorming ideas.
3) By next lab: *Find a related research article* (be prepared to report how it relates to the assigned article. What is still unknown about this topic? How does your variation ideas stack up to the existing literature? Does it fill a need? Does it add to the existing literature? How so? Refine your ideas for variation and come to the next lab with justifications. Prepare to argue for them!

**Week 8 (May 18, 19)**

**Assignments:**
1) Prior to lab: Review target article, *and* related article that you have found and have brought to class today (remember to bring this article to class with you today and plan to share your critique of it). Plan to defend your variation idea.
2) During lab: Design a systematic replication with a conceptual variation of target article. Create stimulus materials, plan data collection.
3) By next lab: Collect data.

→**DUE:** report of Study II ←

**Week 9 (May 25, 26) Wrap up Module III and Posters**

**Assignments:**
1) Analyze data, discuss/plan writing.
2) Poster creation tutorial
3) Choose one study to display on poster

**Week 10 (June 1, 2)**

Create posters during lab.

→**DUE:** report of Study III ←